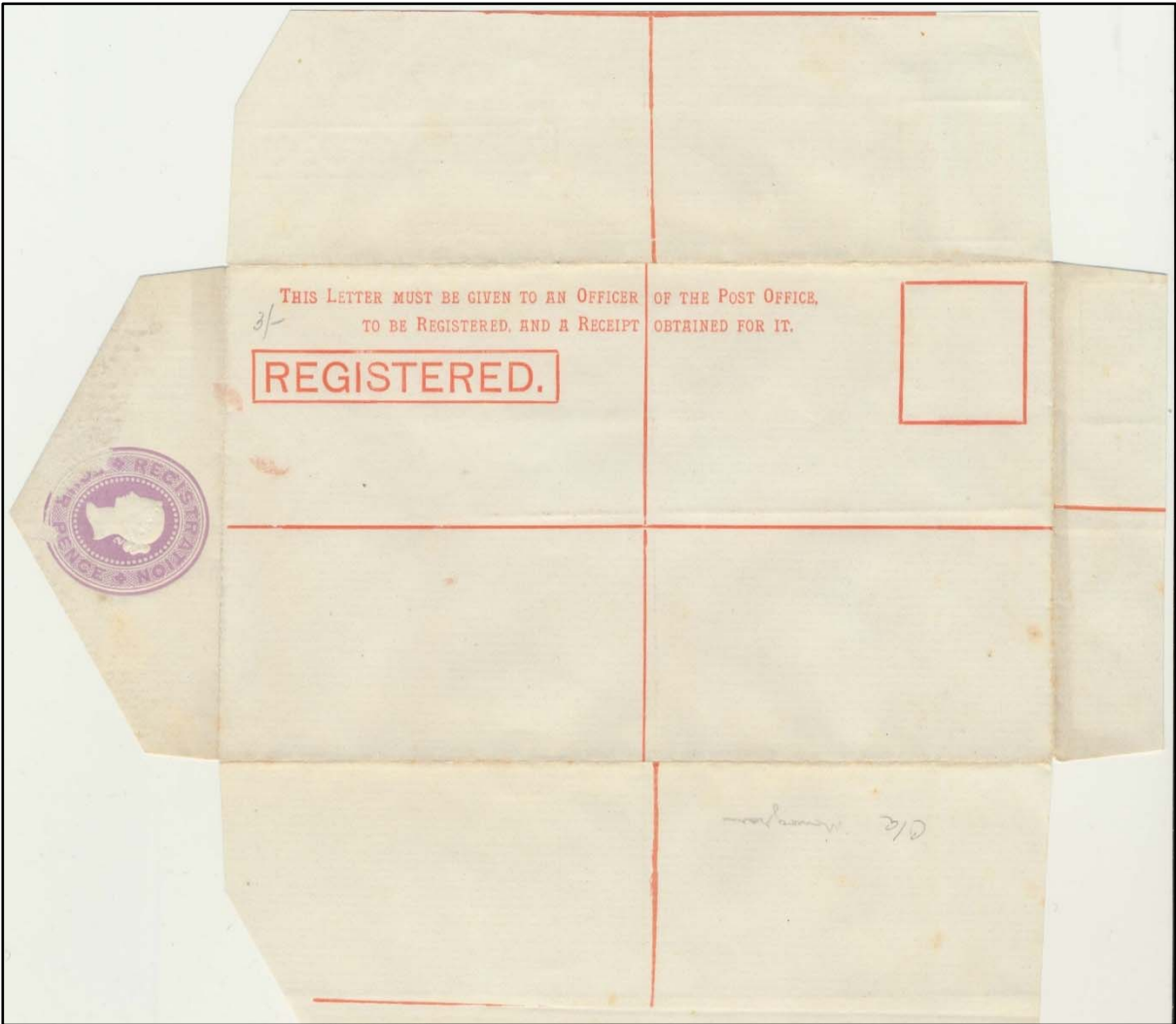


The Registration Envelopes of Victoria

by Mark Diserio



June 2024



Example of the first registration envelope, size b (opened out).

The Registration Envelopes of Victoria

Registration Envelopes in the Colonial Period (1881 – 1900)

Introduction

This article should be seen as a companion to Carl Stieg's section on 'Registered Envelopes 1881 – 1913' in his *magnum opus*, *Victoria Postal Stationery 1869 – 1917* (2000).

When Carl was undertaking research for his catalogue, one could only take paper and pencil into the archives and libraries and often, photocopies would not be provided. There were no mobile phones with which to photograph documents and examples. There was no digitization of documents and searching on the Web for them.

With these advantages, I have been able to find information that Carl worked hard to discover but didn't. Also, since his time, several notable collections have appeared (including his own).

Catalogue references are to those listed by Stieg. References to specimen handstamps, are to those listed in *The Specimen Stamps of Victoria* by Geoff Kellow, Russell Turner and Bill McCredie (2013).

Issue of 29 June 1881 (Stieg C1) – in lilac

Circular No. 8/12, dated 29 June 1881, informed Postmasters that "*The enclosed Envelopes, with the Fourpenny Stamp Embossed, for the registration Fee, on the flap, may be sold in packets of one dozen for 4s. 3d., or, if required, two Envelopes for 8½d.*"

The issue was just before the reduction in the registration fee from 6d to 4d, on 1 July. The postal authorities also may have been anticipating an increase in the registration of letters from this date. In fact, the number of registered letters in Victoria increased 23.25% between 1880 and 1882¹ and 13% between 1881 and 1882². Despite these increases, I estimate sales of the registration envelopes amounted to about 0.2% of letters registered during 1882³. The issue of the envelopes was also likely to have been prompted by the issue in 1880, of registration envelopes in New South Wales⁴.

The 4d die was engraved by Arthur Williams, an employee of Sands & McDougall⁵. Interestingly, it does not incorporate 'Victoria' into the design. The engraving is of such

¹ The number of letters registered in Victoria in 1880 was 241,248 and in 1881 was 297,299 according to the *Report upon the Affairs of the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the Year 1881*, p4.

² The number of letters registered in Victoria in 1881 was 297,299 and in 1882 335,696 according to the *Report upon the Affairs of the Post Office and Telegraph Department for the Year 1882*, p4.

³ Based on the 704 envelopes issued in 1882 and the 335,696 other letters registered in that year. The actual percentage may be higher, as envelopes issued in 1881 may have been sold to customers in 1882.

⁴ There is an earlier precedent for this. It was the issue of postal cards by NSW in October 1875 that prompted Victoria to issue postal cards in April 1876.

⁵ Arthur Williams had earlier engraved the 1d die, used (in green), for embossing envelopes to order from January 1881. While the reticulation in the 4d design differs from Williams' 1d design, the cameo and rest of the design is like the 1d design and is the same size.

quality, that according to Richard Breckon (see quote below), Stanley Gibbons initially included it in their catalogue as an issue of Great Britain.

One or more proofs of the 4d embossing exist for this issue. According to a report in *Philately from Australia*⁶, a die proof was shown by JWR Purves to a meeting of the RPSV⁷. Its current whereabouts are not known.

A cutout with a specimen handstamp is also recorded and shown below. The pencil annotations on each example, are those of David Hill.



Figure 1 'Cut out' of 1d embossing (from Jan 1881) engraved by Arthur Williams, mounted on a page of an 'official album'. Williams was requested to afterwards engrave the registration die.



Figure 2 'Cut out' mounted on a page of an 'official album'. Handstamped with Type PS2 Specimen (in italic lower case and capital 'S' without stop, 15.5x 1.5mm).

Why the embossing is in lilac when the current adhesive stamp was red, is not referred to in the available records. Perhaps, it was not thought necessary for the 4d registration fee to be in the same colour as the 4d postage stamp.

From the initial issue of registration envelopes in June 1881, until about 1897, two sizes of envelope were available. Size a – 5³/₈ x 3¹/₈ inches (133-140 x 76-80mm) and size b – 5³/₄ x 3¹/₂ inches (145-148 x 88-90mm). The reason for more than one size is not known but seems to follow the British practice and the policy of the Victorian Post Office, which at the time, was selling 2d ordinary envelopes in four sizes⁸. No distinction was made in the available records about envelope size. Each size sold for 3d a dozen above its face value, or 4¹/₄d each. As no farthing circulated in Victoria, customers were advised to buy two envelopes for 8¹/₂d, rather than paying 4¹/₂d for one. This inconvenience and the perceived insecure paper used in the manufacture of the envelopes, is likely to have affected their sales. The 1882 Annual Report⁹ advised that “Registered letter envelopes (strong envelopes with a fourpenny stamp embossed thereon) have also proved a failure, scarcely any having been sold since their introduction in June 1881.”

Richard Breckon¹⁰ wrote:

Victoria issued its first registration envelope in 1881, the year after New South Wales issued the first registration envelope in Australia. There were only four basic issues of registration envelopes in

⁶ PFA, December 1977, p.100.

⁷ 1st September meeting in 1977 (15 September).

⁸ These were: No1. 4 ³/₄ x 2³/₄ inches, No2. 5¹/₂ x 3 inches, No3. 5³/₄ x 3¹/₂ inches and No4. 8³/₄ x 3³/₄ inches (F'cap).

⁹ Page 28.

¹⁰ Geoff Kellow *The Stamps of Victoria*, Chapter 19 'Postal Stationery' written by Richard Breckon, pp369-371.

Victoria, but the subject is complex, since there is considerable variation in the type of envelopes used for printing the registration designs.

There were two sizes of registration envelopes - size "a" ranging from 133-140mm x 76-80mm, and size "b" 145-148mm x 88-90mm. At some stage in the 1890s, size "a" envelopes were discontinued and thereafter only size "b" envelopes were provided. Throughout the period of use, the basic format of the registration envelope remained unchanged. The stamp impression printed on the side flap on the reverse paid the registration fee. On the front of the envelope is a printed square to accommodate the stamp to pay letter postage; "REGISTERED" in a box and instructions concerning the posting, and (on the reverse as well) crossed registration lines. The linear printing was done in a separate operation to the printing of the stamp impression, so that differences in colour often exist between the two areas. The stamp impression was embossed except for the period 1885-87, when the 4d "Naish" electro was used. A similar arrangement applied to the 1d and 2d envelopes and it appears to have been necessary to do this until "STAMP DUTY" was added to the embossing dies.

Registration envelopes were sold at a cost, additional to the stamps' face value, of 3d per dozen or ½d if sold singly. These were never popular products and the Post Office Annual Report for 1881 described registration envelopes as a "failure". Nevertheless, registration envelopes were retained, but the number issued to post offices in any year was often less than 2,000. Of course, collectors secured mint copies of these, but the surviving number of postally-used examples is very low for all issues. Indeed, for two issues of registration envelopes (the 1885 4d and c.1905 3d) only one and two postally used examples of each, respectively, have been recorded.

There is no example known of a stamped-to-order registration envelope for Victoria.

The final issue of Victorian registration envelopes to post offices was in April 1913, after which Commonwealth registration envelopes were in general use.

The first registration envelopes in sizes "a" and "b" were issued on about 29 June 1881, just prior to the reduction of the registration fee from 6d to 4d on 1 July. The embossed die for the 4d stamp was engraved by Arthur Williams of Sands & MacDougall and is similar to the 1d embossed die, but the reticulated pattern is different. Curiously, there was no mention of "VICTORIA" in the stamp embossing or the envelope's inscriptions and, as a result, Stanley Gibbons in London initially listed Victoria's first registration envelope under "Great Britain" in their catalogue.

The stamp embossing is in lilac and the inscriptions and linear printing are carmine-rose on the size "a" envelope and in vermilion on the size "b" envelope. The envelopes exist with two types of watermarks - "T.H. SAUNDERS SUPERFINE" (size "a") or the monogram "THS" and a post horn motif (size "b"). The envelopes are also found without watermark. An additional albino embossing has been reported on a size "a" envelope.

David Hill wrote¹¹ of the first issue:

The stamp is very similar in design to Issue III [ie 1d embossed in green], but the reticulated pattern is different. Round the upper portion is "Registration", and below "Four Pence", a small ornament on each side separating the two. Die supplied by Messrs. Sands and McDougall, the engraver being Mr. Arthur Williams. The face or address side of the envelope contains two inscriptions:—1st, in two lines, "This letter must be given to an officer of the Post Office, to be Registered, and a Receipt obtained for it." The type is Latin, brevier for the capitals, and the rest Latin, nonpareil. 2nd, enframed below is the word "Registered" in two-line brevier, sans-serif. The envelope is crossed on each side by two lines at right angles to each other, but the flap is without line, having the registration stamp embossed on it. In the right upper corner is a rectangular-lined space for the stamp for postage; the flap is at the opposite or left hand end. Envelopes of white laid paper, flaps pointed.

Two Official Sizes.

No. 1. 5³/₈ x 3¹/₈ inches.

No. 2. 5³/₄ x 3¹/₂ inches

Stamp 4d. (oval) mauve.

In the smaller size the lettering and linear printing are in carmine rose, but in the larger the colour is vermilion.

¹¹ David Hill "The Envelopes of Victoria", *The Federal Australian Philatelist*, April 1890, p46.

Watermarked paper

As Stieg (and others) have noted, the paper used for the manufacture of the C1 group, is watermarked. Depending on the way each sheet was cut for manufacture, a full or partial watermark may be found, or no watermark (eg C1c). It is highly likely that the envelopes were produced by Sands & McDougall in Melbourne, although no record of this has been discovered. The steps involved made the manufacture of these envelopes highly labour-intensive and no doubt contributed to their cost.

The watermarks noted are 'TH SAUNDERS/SUPERFINE' on some size a and size b envelopes and a Heraldic emblem and 'THS' on some size b envelopes. Examples are illustrated below.

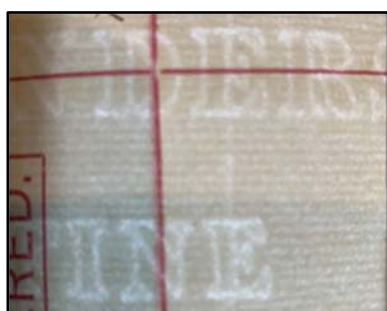


Figure 3 (above) and Figure 4 - C1 (size a), each with TH SAUNDERS WMK, found on some envelopes.

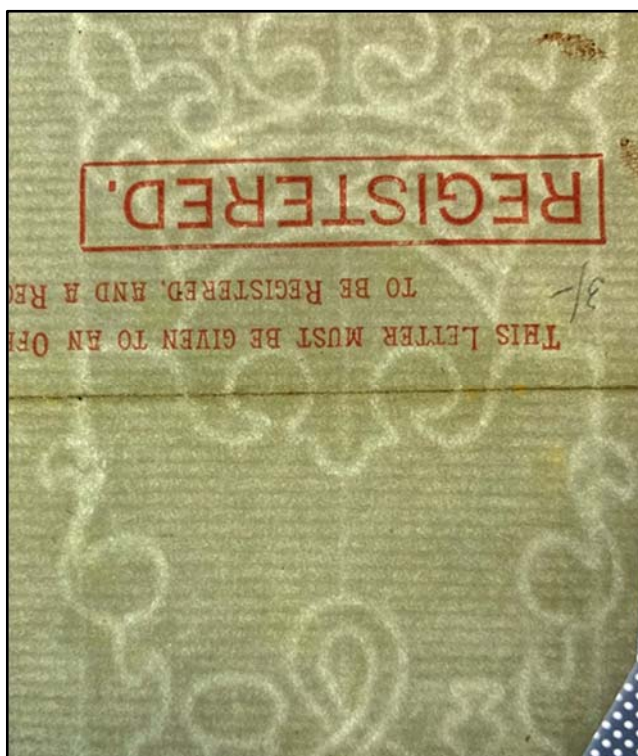


Figure 5 - C1b (size b), with heraldic posthorn, found on some envelopes.



Figure 6 - C1a (size b), with TH SAUNDERS WMK.



Figure 7 - C1a (size b), with TH SAUNDERS WMK.

The following numbers for 'manufacture' and 'issued' have been taken from the respective Post Office Reports.

Year	No manufactured	No issued	Balance in stock
1881	8,872	4,228	4,644
1882	0	704	3,940
1883	0	428	3,512
1884	0	604	2,908

Rundell noted that on 16 November 1881, the Department had forwarded 44½ doz (534) registration envelopes to Stanley Gibbons. No doubt examples were also forwarded to C-B Moens (and possibly others), although records of this have not been found.

A 'bundle band' is recorded for this issue.

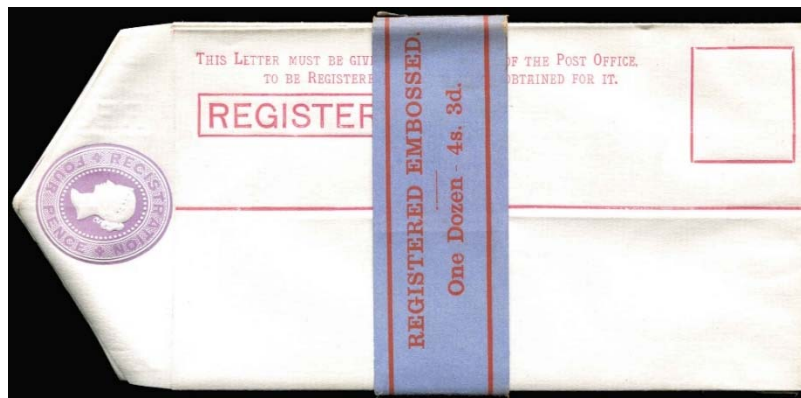


Figure 8 – C1 (size a), 'bundle band'. Ex Ronnie Winchester.



Figure 9 – C1 (size a). Earliest recorded use of a registration envelope on 1 August 1881. From David Hill to (then) Capt E B Evans. 1d adhesive added to pay the re-direction from Ireland to England. Also with additional colourless embossing. Ex Ronnie Winchester.

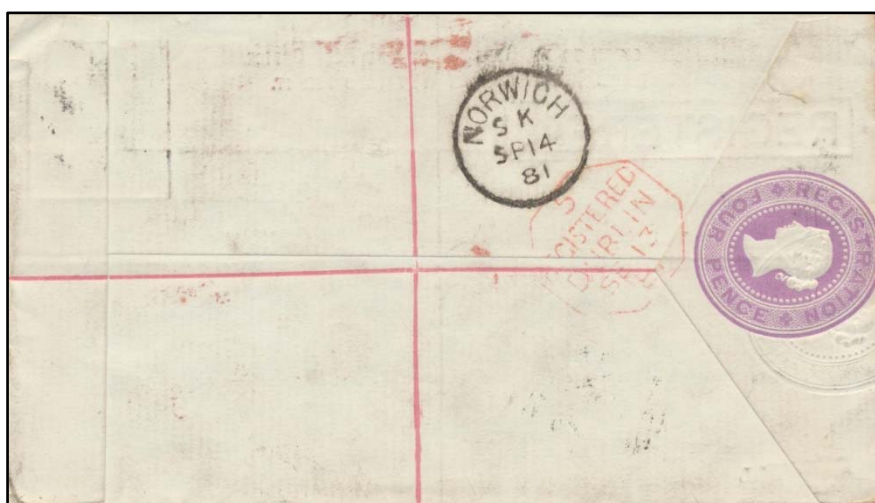


Figure 10 – Back of Figure 9, with additional colourless impression on the flap.



Figure 11 – C1a (size b), used 25 July 1884. Ex 'Edgar' and Ronnie Winchester.



Figure 12 – Back of Figure 11.

Specimen examples

There are several examples of this issue that have been handstamped 'specimen' in various forms.



Figure 13 – C1 (size a), with specimen handstamp Type PS2.



Figure 14 – C1a (size b), with specimen handstamp Type PS2.



Figure 15 - C1 (size a), with specimen handstamp Type 12c.



Figure 16 - C1a (size b), with specimen handstamp 12c.



Figure 17 - C1 (size a), with specimen handstamp Type 12a.



Figure 18 - C1 (size a), with specimen handstamp Type 14.



Figure 19 - C1a (size b), specimen handstamp Type 20b, with P and E widely spaced.

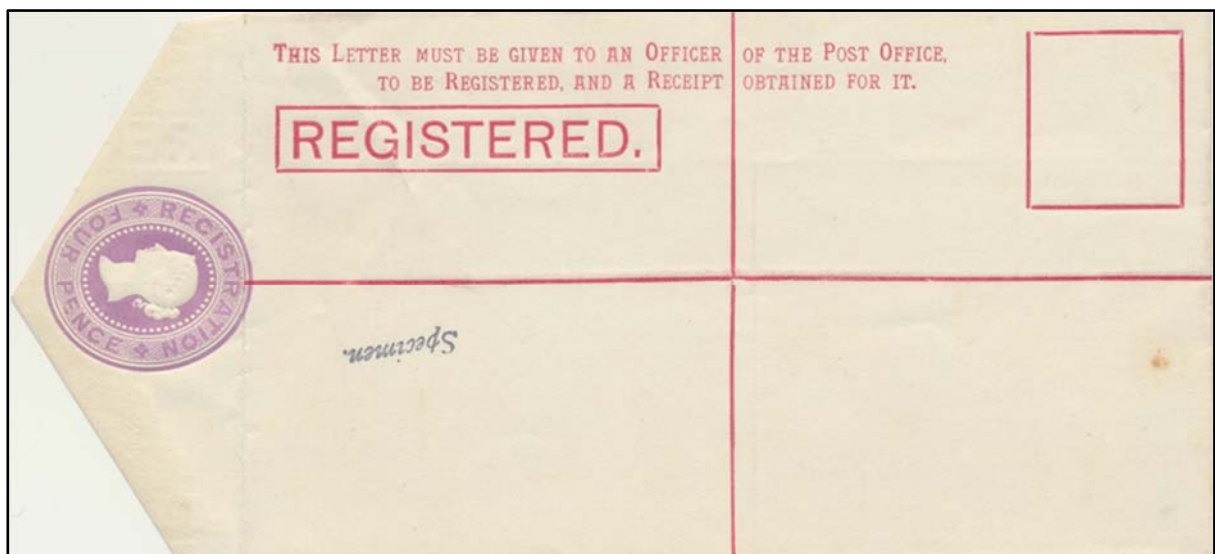


Figure 20 - C1 (size a), with specimen handstamp Type 24b.

UPU examples

Although Victoria did not join the UPU until 1891 (as part of the Australasian Colonies), it was sending unused examples of its postal stationery, from at least 1886 (and perhaps even earlier), as the illustrations following show.

The fact that C1 registration envelopes were distributed to the UPU in 1886 is consistent with the use of the envelopes even after distribution of the 4d 'Naish' envelopes in 1885. Examples of the C1 group are noted used in 1886 and later. It is evident that distributed supplies of stamps and postal stationery might be on sale for many years at post offices where there was little demand for them and in some instances even after they were 'discontinued' or supposedly 'recalled'. This is consistent with the parsimonious nature of Victoria's Post Office Department in the 19th Century. Destruction of postal stationery stock was usually avoided and it is presumed that unless damaged, postal stationery was made available until supply ran out. It also seems to have been the usual practice for the old stock to be sold before issuing the newer items.

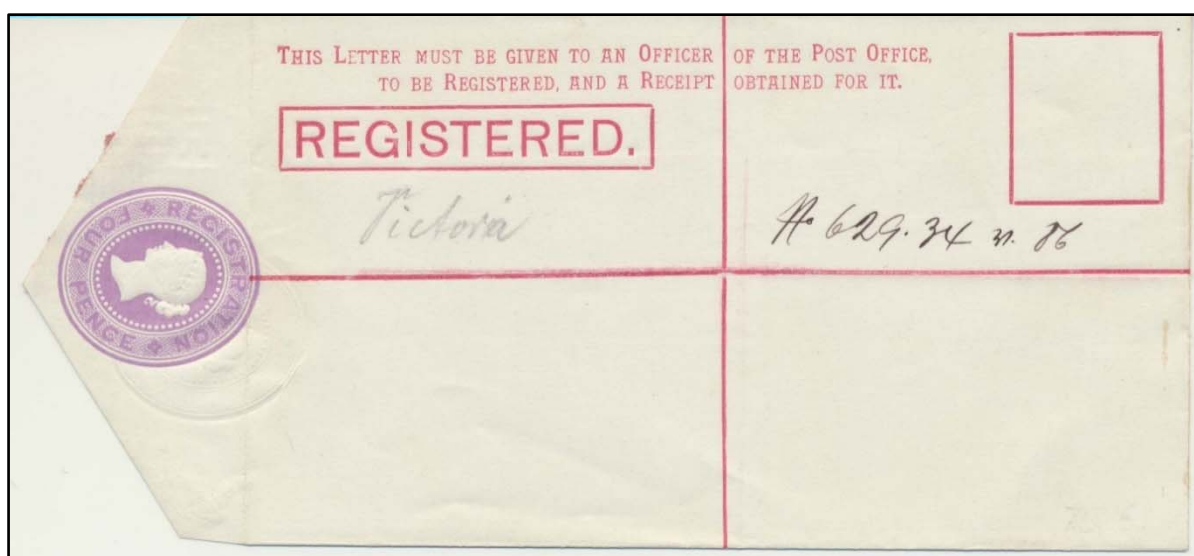


Figure 21 – C1 (size a), with additional colourless embossing inscribed with the UPU file reference and year (1886). Also, inscribed 'Victoria' as this is not identified in the indicium.

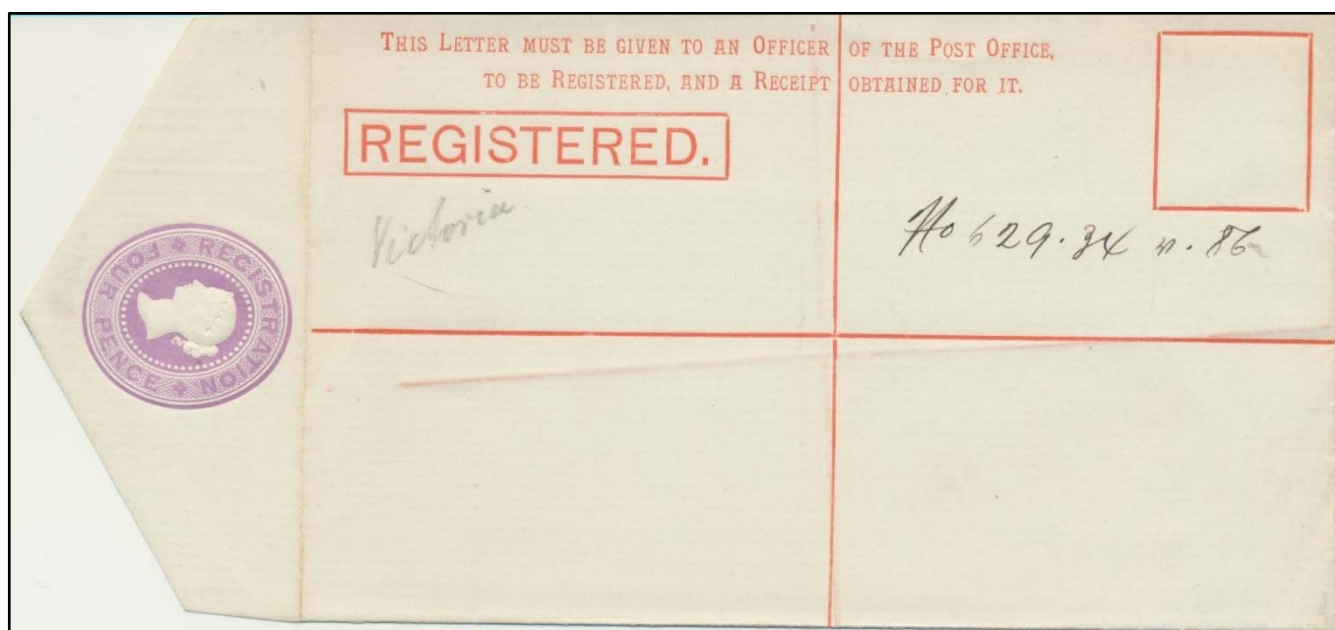


Figure 22 – C1a (size b). Also, inscribed with the UPU file reference and year (1886) and 'Victoria'.



Figure 23 – C1a (size b) used 28 December 1887, at the pre-UPU letter rate of 8½d, to Germany, indicating C1 group envelopes continued to be used after exhaustion of the stock of C2 group envelopes, indicating a supply of C1 group envelopes was still available.

Issue of 1 April 1885 (Stieg C2)

The Department found it necessary to change the indicium on the registration envelope to incorporate 'STAMP DUTY' – even though at this time at least 2,908 4d embossed envelopes remained in stock – because of the legislative requirement to issue interchangeable stamps for postage and revenue purposes¹². The Printer impressed the next issue with the 4d 'Naish' typographic design which incorporated the required words. Only a small number were produced, suggesting it was an interim measure pending the required words being added to the 4d steel embossing die. This was accomplished by Samuel Reading in September 1886.

It remains unclear why the Naish 4d registered envelope was issued, or why the 4d embossed die was modified in 1886, by adding 'STAMP DUTY'. Several versions of the *Post Office Guide* (for example, July 1888¹³) contain the following:

Postage, fee, or duty stamps may be used indiscriminately to pay charges under "*The Post Office Act 1883*", "*The Stamp Statute 1869*," or "*The Stamp Duties Act 1879*"; thus, a postage stamp may be used for payment of postage or fees, or duties, and a fee or duty stamp may likewise be used to pay fees or duties, or postage. Impressed or embossed duty stamps can only be used in connexion with or on the papers or documents on which they are impressed. **Impressed or embossed postage stamps are only available for payment of postage.**" (Bolding added).

It remains unclear if the embossed registration indicium was even regarded as an embossed postage stamp. I am not aware of any used as cut outs. Unobliterated embossed stamps cut from envelopes were permitted to be used in payment of postage from, at least, April 1883¹⁴, and perhaps earlier.

¹² As part of the reforms brought about by the *Post Office Act 1883*.

¹³ Page 71.

¹⁴ See *Post Office Guide*, April 1883, p57.

The envelopes for this issue differ markedly in shape and being on unwatermarked paper, compared with those of the C1 group, suggesting a change of supplier. The Department had moved away from requiring its ordinary envelopes to have watermarks, from about 1880.

David Hill wrote¹⁵ of this issue

Registration Envelope.—Stamp type of the fourpence duty adhesive of January, 1885. The inscriptions and the rectangular space for postage are placed considerably nearer to the horizontal line crossing the envelope than they are in issue IV [ie 4d lilac envelope]. The wording of the inscriptions is not altered, but in the smaller size the lettering of the two lines beginning “This letter must be given,” etc., is decreased, making the inscription much shorter. The type employed is Nonpareil elongated, sans-serif. The style of the lettering in the larger size is not altered. The flap is at the end near the rectangular space for postage, and the stamp is impressed across the flap, showing the head of the Queen turned to the fold. Envelopes of white laid paper, stouter than the previous registration issue; flaps rounded.

Two Official Sizes.

No. 1. 5¼ x 3¼ inches.

No. 2. 5¾ x 3½ inches.

Stamp 4d. (rect) magenta.

In both sizes the lettering and linear printing are in vermilion.

Breckon wrote¹⁶

On 1 April 1885, new registration envelopes in sizes “a” and “b” were issued featuring the 4d “Naish” 1884-95 design. The stamp was printed in red-mauve and (on both envelopes) the text and linear printing is in vermilion. The envelopes are similar to the 1881 issue, except that stouter paper was used and the text is repositioned further away from the top of the envelope. Also, the flap bearing the stamp imprint is on the right side of the envelope, compared with the left side on the 1881 issue. All envelopes are unwatermarked.

Only one used example of this issue has been recorded.

Since that time, a couple more used examples have been discovered.

Year	No manufactured	No issued
1885	2004	4008
1886	488	488

The number of the ‘Naish’ registration envelopes produced in 1885 was far less than the number issued in that year. The additional 2004 envelopes issued must have been taken from the stock of 4d embossed envelopes still on hand, which in 1884, was 2,908. This would have left 904 4d embossed lilac envelopes in stock.

The manufacture and issue of 488 registration envelopes in 1886 is perplexing. The number appears to be close to numbers forwarded to the UPU in Berne for distribution to members. If the 488 envelopes were of the ‘Naish’ design, one would have thought that an example with the UPU file notation would have been recorded by now. If the envelopes forwarded to Berne were of the previous issue, then none would have had to be manufactured for this purpose, as 904 remained on hand¹⁷. The number may have been examples of the new 4d STAMP DUTY in red, but this would have been well before the issue was made to the public in 1887. Thus, the more likely view is that the 488 envelopes were the 4d ‘Naish’ design.

¹⁵ David Hill “The Envelopes of Victoria”, *The Federal Australian Philatelist*, April 1890, p48.

¹⁶ *The Stamps of Victoria*, p370.

¹⁷ 2,908–2004=904.



Figure 24 – die proof in the final state in black on wove paper (only example according to Kellow).



Figure 25 – die proof in the final state in violet on deep blue surfaced card (one of two according to Kellow)¹⁸.

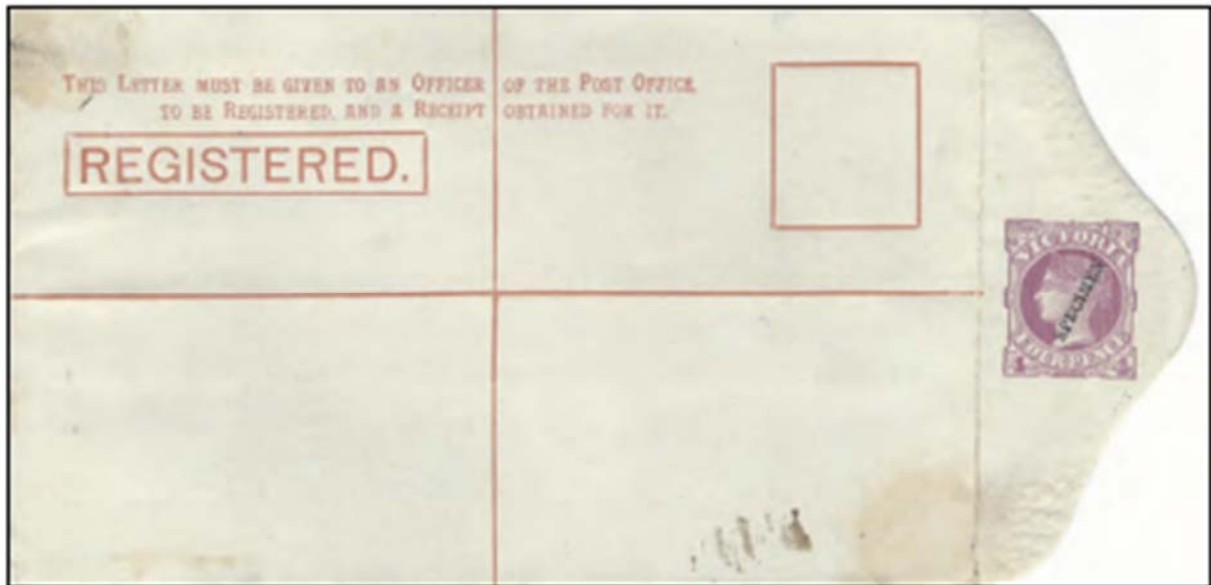


Figure 26 – Stieg C2a (size b), with specimen handstamp Type 12 (illustrated by Dingle Smith in the Postal Stationery Collector, August 2016, p78), not listed by Stieg.

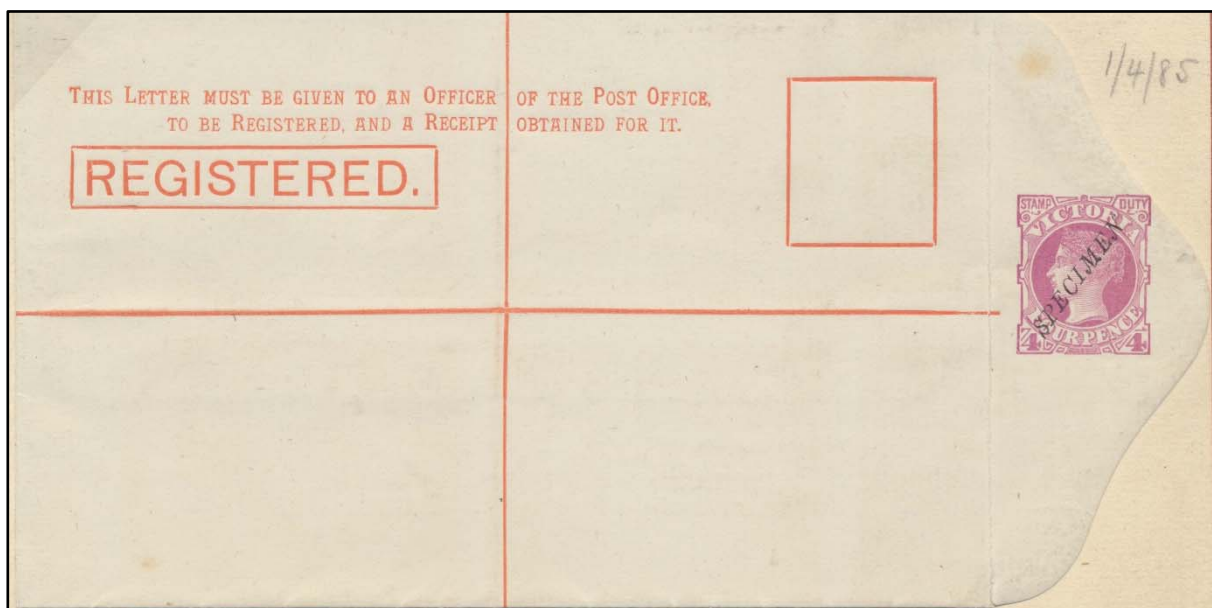


Figure 27 – C2a (size b), with specimen handstamp Type 18. This example was removed from a Departmental album. The pencil notation '1/4/85' is in David Hill's hand.

¹⁸ The second example was lot 10417 in the Corinphila 'Dubois' Sale of November 2022.



Figure 28 – C2 (size a), specimen handstamp Type 20a, with handstamp N, with P and E narrowly spaced. This setting also exists in size b.



Figure 29 – C2a (size b), specimen handstamp Type 20b, with P and E widely spaced. This setting also exists in size a.



Figure 30 – C2a, (size b), used 13 January 1888 from Ballarat and cancelled English Mail TPO (en route to Adelaide). The stamps do not belong to this cover, the correct rate being 8½d during this period. Ex Ronnie Winchester.



Figure 31 - Back of Figure 30.

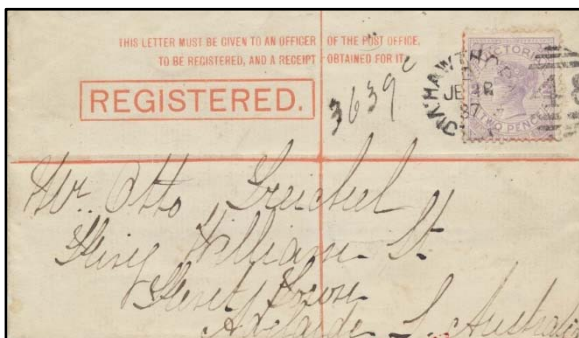


Figure 32 – C2 (size a), used 18 June 1887. Ex Guy Linfield and Ronnie Winchester.

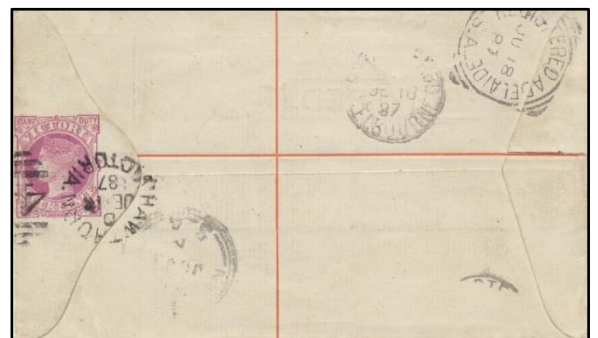


Figure 33 – Back of Figure 32.

Issue of 1 June 1887 (Stieg C3) – Embossed 4d with ‘STAMP DUTY’ added to the die – in red (shades)

As stated earlier, by September 1886, ‘STAMP DUTY’ had been added to the 4d steel embossing die. This allowed the Department to return to issuing embossed registration envelopes, which was its preferred method of production.

Breckon wrote¹⁹

On 1 June 1887, new registration envelopes were issued featuring the 1881 4d embossed die with “STAMP DUTY” added. The alteration to the die was done by Samuel Reading. The size “a” envelope of this issue has identical text to the 1885 issue, but subsequently the text was reset in different typeface (using both upper and lower case letters) on the size “a” and the first size “b” envelope of the 1887 issue. Further varieties involve the use of either rounded end-flaps or pointed end-flaps on envelopes. The stamp embossing is either in vermilion or pale rose, the same colour being used for the text and linear printing.

David Hill wrote²⁰ the following about these:

Registration Envelope.—The stamp of June, 1881 (issue IV) [ie 4d lilac of 1881] , but colour changed, and the words “Stamp Duty” added, as in issue IX [ie 1d green with STAMP DUTY of 9 September 1886]. The addition was made by Mr. J [S]. Reading. The wording of the inscriptions and linear printing are similar to the preceding registration issue, and the flap is similarly placed. The smallest size envelope is found with the inscriptions in the lettering of size No. 1, issue VI [ie C1]. ,and all the sizes exist with the inscriptions in a new type. In the two lines beginning, “This Letter must be given,” etc., the type is Long Primer Antique, and there is no comma after “Post Office.” The letters of the word “Registered” are rather smaller than before, the type being Two-line Minion, sans-serif. The frame enclosing the word is also slightly reduced in size. Envelopes of white laid paper. Three official sizes.

Envelope with inscriptions in the type of size No. 1., Issue VI [ie C1].

Size No. 1. 5¼ x 3⅞ inches. Flap rounded.

Envelopes with inscriptions in the type described above.

Size No. 1. 5¼ x 3⅞ inches. Flap rounded.

Size No. 2. 5½ x 3⅞ inches. Flap pointed.

Size No. 3. 5¾ x 3½ inches. Flap rounded.

Stamp 4d. (oval), vermilion red, pale rose.

Stieg questioned the issue date and states that a used copy (not properly described) is known dated 17 March 1887²¹. It is theoretically possible that the envelope might have been able to have been issued from as early as September 1886, as this was the date that ‘STAMP DUTY’ had been added to the 1d die by Samuel Reading²². However, the Post Office had a practice of using up old stock where possible. In fact, as noted earlier, several C1 and C1a envelopes are known used in the period *after* the Naish issues. Also, as noted earlier, two examples that were provided to the UPU, have distribution dates of 1886.

There are several observations to make about the 4d red issue/s.

1. There is no official information available about why the colour of the stamp was changed from lilac to red, although red was the colour of the 4d adhesive stamp then on issue.
2. Two types of envelopes are used; the first being residual envelopes (sizes a and b) that were used for the 4d ‘Naish’ issue of 1885 but remained unstamped (C3 and

¹⁹ *The Stamps of Victoria*, p370.

²⁰ David Hill “The Envelopes of Victoria”, *The Federal Australian Philatelist*, July 1890, p60.

²¹ At p104.

²² David Hill “The Envelopes of Victoria”, *The Federal Australian Philatelist*, July 1890, p60. Hill refers to the words added by a “Mr J. Reading of Melbourne”, but this is a mistake for S [Samuel] Reading.

3. C3a) and an unknown number (of both size envelopes) that had no printing on them and on which a new style of admonition was printed (C4 and C4a); the second envelope type being a new type with (pointed flap) in size a only and with the new style of admonition (C5) that was printed on the C4 and C4a. envelopes.
4. Hill did not report the issue of a size b envelope with the earlier ('Naish') admonitions (C3a), only a size a envelope (C3) - which might mean that only a small number of this envelope remained on hand and were used²³.
5. This issue were the first registered envelopes produced by the Victorian Government Printer, since the Stamp Printing Branch had been transferred there from the GPO, in December 1885.
6. It is possible that all five types of 4d 'STAMP DUTY' red envelopes were printed at the same time and later issued as required. A C5 example used September 1887 is known and C3 and C4 examples are known used into 1891.
7. The possible maximum total issue of 4d 'STAMP DUTY' red envelopes during their period of issue is 7,160. The total of envelopes issued in 1887 to 1890 is 8,064. This total includes 904 of 4d lilac envelopes²⁴ that had remained in stock in 1884.

The 8,064 total is calculated from the information contained in the Post Office Annual Reports for the following years.

Year	No manufactured	No issued
1887	3,240	2,400
1888 ²⁵		1,344
1889		1,680
1890		2,640
	3,920 ²⁶	
Totals	7,160	8,064

In my view, used C3 group and C4 group envelopes are scarcer than used C1 group envelopes. This might be due to the slightly lesser number of them issued over a shorter period than for C1 group envelopes.

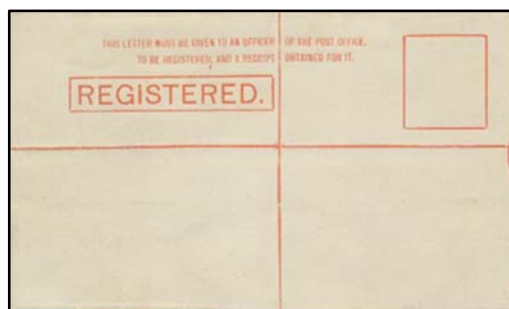


Figure 34 – C3 (size a).

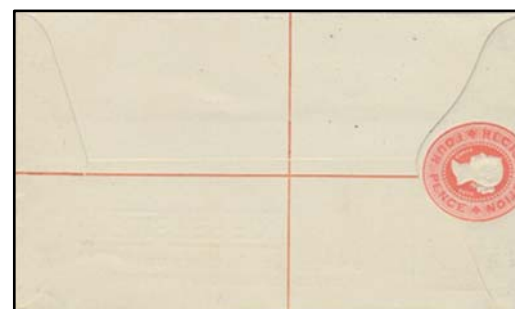


Figure 35 – Back of Figure 34.

²³ Stieg catalogues the C3a as most valuable of the series (apart from the 'error of colour' (C6)).

²⁴ There would have been 904 unissued but stamped envelopes still in stock in 1886 from calculations I have made of numbers manufactured and issued until then. That is: 2,908 (on hand in 1884) + 2004 (no manufactured in 1885) = 4,912 – 4008 (no issued in 1885) = 904. All 488 envelopes manufactured in 1886 were issued in 1886, so this number does not affect the calculation.

²⁵ From 1888, the Post Office Reports no longer include numbers manufactured, only numbers issued.

²⁶ If a total of 8,064 4d registration envelopes were issued from 1887 to 1890, and 904 4d lilac envelopes remained in stock from 1884, then 3,920 additional 4d red envelopes had to have been manufactured after 1887. That is, 8,064 - 960 = 7,160 - 3,240 = 3,920. Stieg estimated 8,500 for C3, C4 and C5 envelopes, compared to my estimate of 7,160.

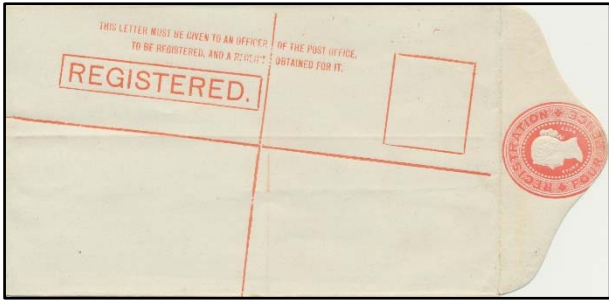


Figure 36 – C3 (size a), with misprinted printing.

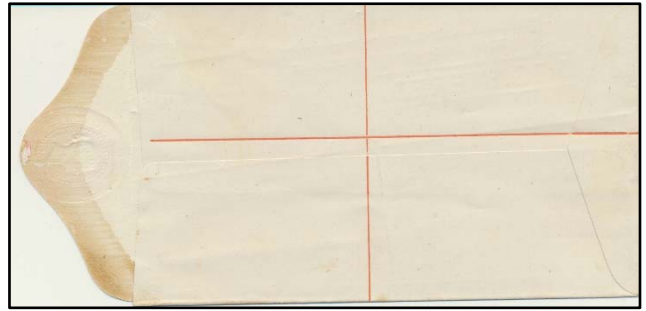


Figure 37 – Back of Figure 36.

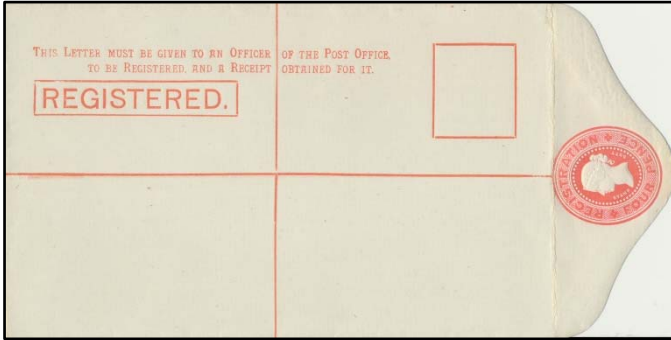


Figure 38 – C3a (size b).

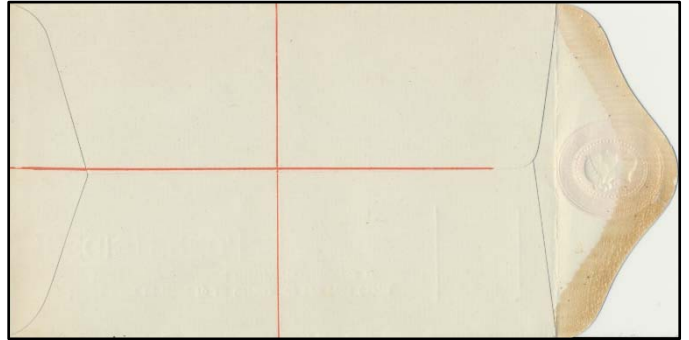


Figure 39 – Back of Figure 38.

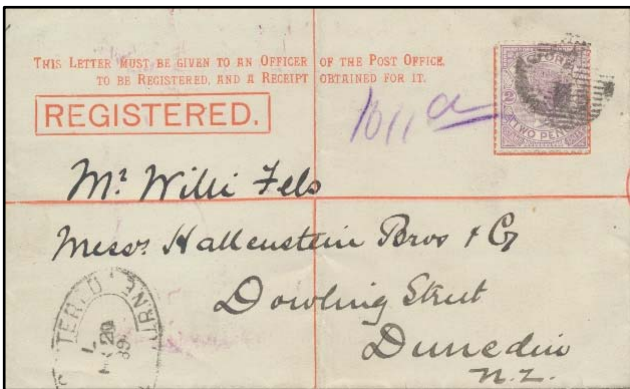


Figure 40 – C3a (size b), rare usage on 20 March 1889.

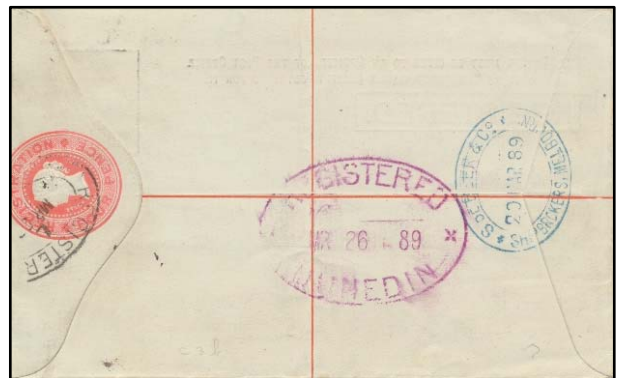


Figure 41 – Back of Figure 40

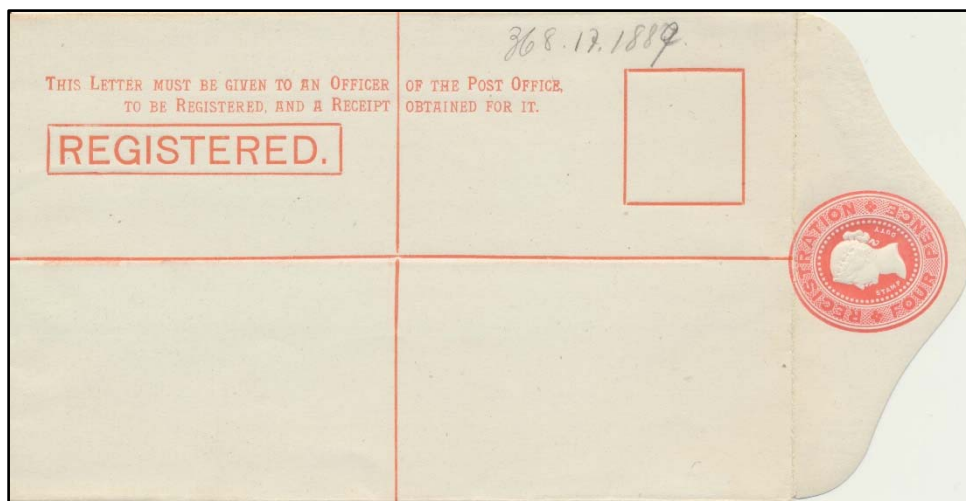


Figure 42 – C3a (size b), with UPU file notation in pencil. 1887 has been overwritten to 1889, thus compounding the question of when this envelope was issued. However, as this issue was on the same printed envelope as for C2a, it seems logical for this to be the first type issued – in 1887. The Post Office may have delayed sending examples to the UPU.

Date of issue not known but likely 1887 - New set up of the lineal printing on remaining 'Naish' envelopes - C4 group

The indicia is in a paler red (rose) than the C3 group issues.

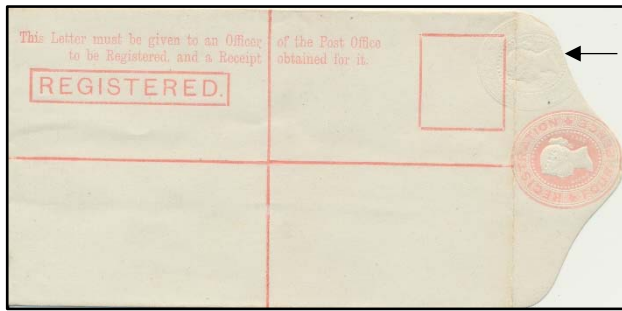


Figure 43 – C4 (size a), with additional albino embossing.

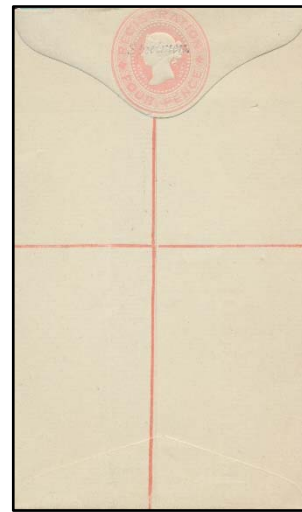


Figure 44 – C4 (size a), with specimen handstamp Type 24b. This is recorded by Stieg.

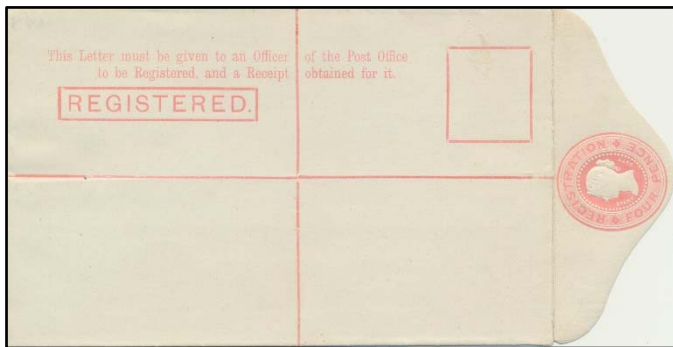


Figure 45 – C4a (size b).

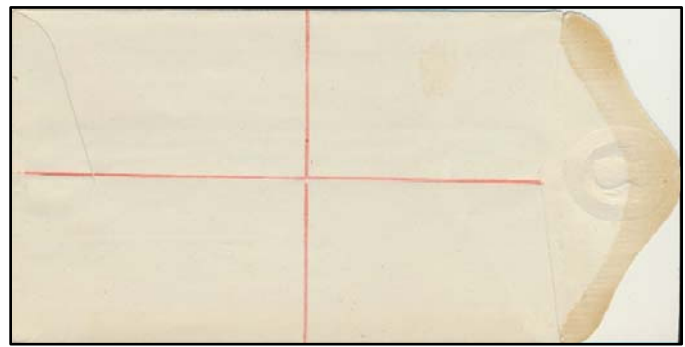


Figure 46 – Back of Figure 45.

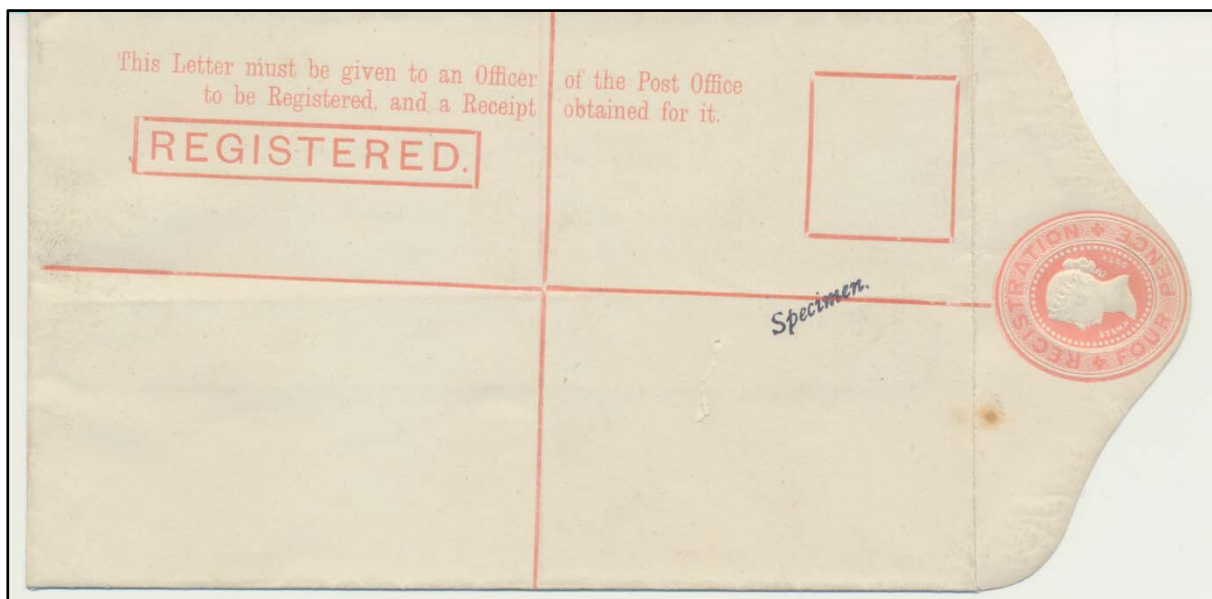


Figure 47 - C4a (size b), with specimen handstamp Type 24b. Stieg does not record this handstamp on a C4a envelope.

Issue of September 1887, or earlier – New envelope shape – (Stieg C5, size a only)

This envelope is believed to have been issued by at least September 1887. The supply of earlier C3 and C4 (size a) envelopes must have been exhausted by this time. Supply of C3a and C4a (size b) envelopes must have remained adequate, as none were issued in the format of C5.

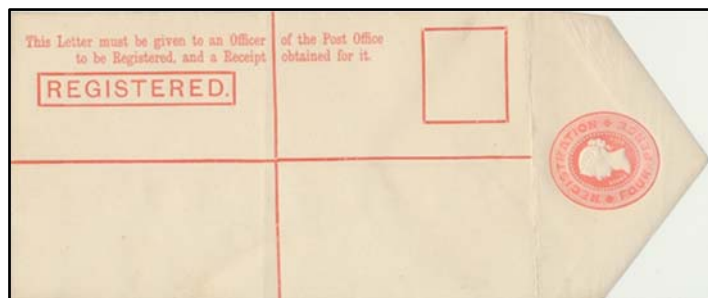


Figure 48 – C5.

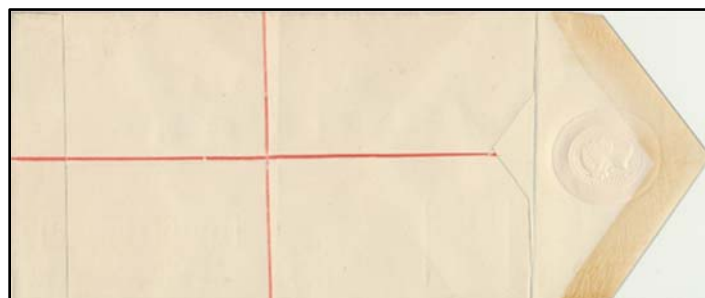


Figure 49 – Back of Figure 48.



Figure 50 - C5, used 5 September 1887.



Figure 51 – Back of Figure 50.

The Threepence Period

From 1 January 1891²⁷ the registration fee to all places became 3d in addition to the ordinary rate of postage. This was notified in *The Daily Post and Telegraph Guide* (Daily Guide) on Friday, 2 January 1891 (No 155 at p2).

While David Hill states that the new registration envelopes were issued on 27 May 1891²⁸, the availability of the new 'Threepenny Registration Envelope' (at 3¼d each or 3/3d per dozen) was first notified in the *Daily Guide* on Wednesday, 3 June 1891²⁹. Hill's earlier date may have referred to the envelopes being available from or on sale at the GPO.

²⁷ Not 1 October 1891 (when Victoria as part of the Australasian Colonies joined the UPU), as many collectors assume.

²⁸ *The Federal Australasian Philatelist*, July 1891, p74.

²⁹ No 279 at p1.

An earlier notice to postmasters in the *Daily Guide*³⁰ stated that “All obsolete postage, duty, or fee stamps, cards, envelopes, or newspaper wrappers, should be returned to the Comptroller of Stamps at once, when the value will be forwarded in stamps of the current issue.”

Some philatelists took the opportunity of using the superseded 4d registration envelopes in the period from 1 January 1891 until the issue of the 3d envelopes in 1893. It is not clear from these examples if the 1d difference between the new registration fee and the 4d fee already paid for the envelope could be applied towards the 2d letter rate (that was reintroduced from 12 September 1892).

One prolific user was Mr JNO Mason³¹. Many of his envelopes have the ordinary postage paid by way of postal card cut outs. This was a practice regularised by the Postal Department from at least May 1891 (and most probably earlier), when the *Daily Guide*³² notified that “If an unobliterated stamp be cut from a Post Card that has not been transmitted through the Post, it can be used in payment of postage to the value of 1d., on a letter, packet or newspaper.” It is not clear when the same largesse was applied to cut outs from newspaper wrappers.



Figure 52 – C4 (size a), as the Inland letter rate was 1d until 12 September 1892, the envelope would appear to have been overpaid, unless its contents weighed more than 2oz, or no credit was given to the 1d difference in the new registration fee from 1 January 1891. Unlike NSW, the Post Office did not revalue and re-issue the 4d envelopes by way of an overprint.

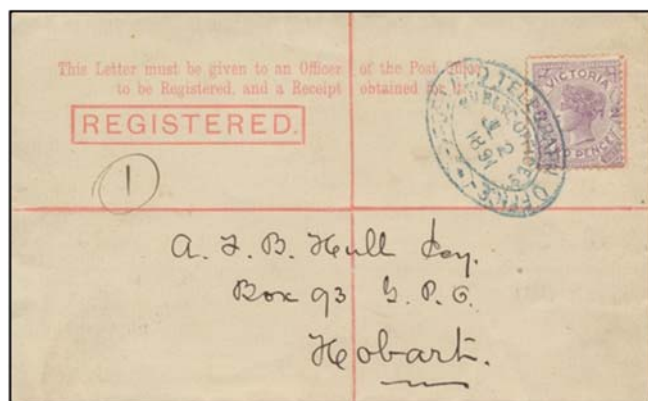


Figure 53 - Use of an C4a (size b) envelope on 2 July 1891, from Hill to Bassett Hull, again appearing to show no credit was given to the user for the reduction in the registration fee from 4d to 3d. The postage to Tasmania was 2d per oz at this time.

³⁰ No 252, Saturday, 2 May 1891.

³¹ A banker and regular correspondent with the German adventurer Hermann Burchardt.

³² No 276, Saturday, 30 May 1891, p3.

Issue of May 1891 (Stieg C7 group)

This issue utilises a new 3d steel die manufactured by Bridgland & King. The actual engraver's name is not known. The colour of the indicium was carmine. The colour of the indicium was changed to shades of orange-red in 1893 (C8 group).

Size a and size b envelopes continued to be sold, although the records continue to make no distinction of quantities by size. The envelopes were manufactured from paper that was horizontally or vertically laid, in white and cream colours.

Stieg estimated an issue of 13,000 envelopes. Because the registration rate had been reduced from 4d to 3d and no existing 4d envelopes were revalued and reissued, there would have been a requirement to distribute the new 3d registration envelopes to all post offices. This would involve a quantity larger than what might ordinarily have been sold.

Year	Quantity issued
1891	13,272 ³³
1892	Not available

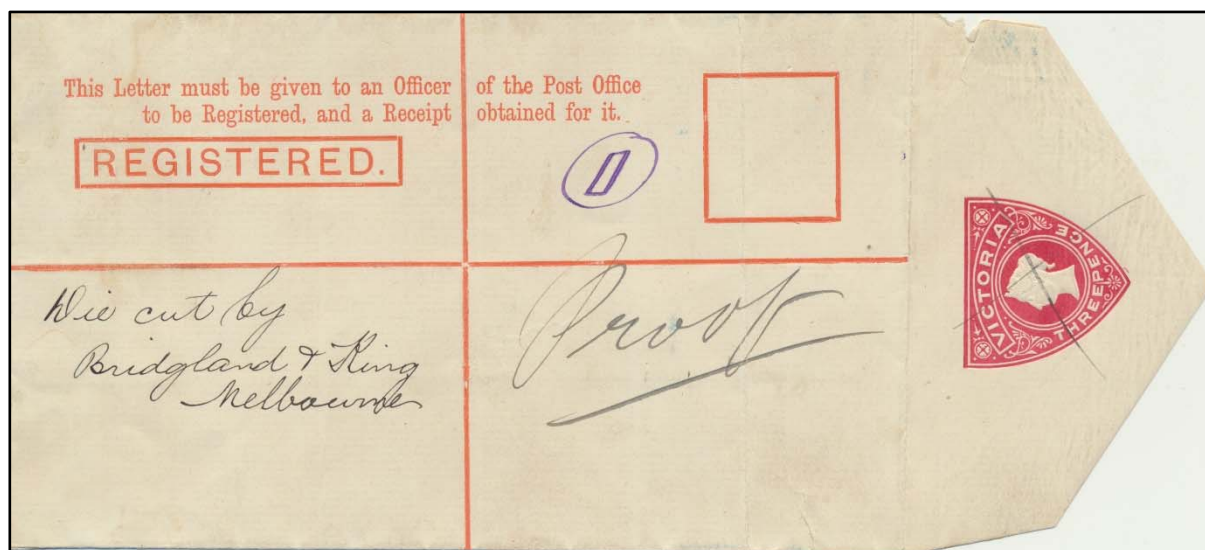


Figure 54 - Proof of the new 3d issue, size b.

The background to this design is not known. The 'shield' design more neatly fits the envelope flap than the previous oval design. And while the opportunity was taken to add 'Victoria' to the design, curiously the words 'STAMP DUTY' and 'registration' have been omitted.

This issue utilises the same printing for the admonition and features a pointed flap like the previous C5 issue, but in sizes a, and b. Sometime around 1897, the small size envelope was discontinued.

This is a complex period because of the variety in envelope papers used, the way they are folded, and the types of gum used and how it was applied, as well as in the setup of the

³³ In the Post Office Report this is described as "*Fourpenny farthing stamped envelopes*". This is likely an error for threepenny farthing stamped envelopes, referring to the issue in 1891 of 3d registration envelopes to meet the new registration fee of 3d not 4d. As all post offices would have needed to be supplied with the new value, this gives us the number of registered envelopes at post offices in 1891, not how many were sold and used in that year. As the issued number for 1890 was 2,640 and for 1895 was 2,013, it might be assumed that **sales** were about 2,000 a year.

printing on the envelopes (mainly to the size of the registration 'box'). Readers are referred to Stieg for more detail of these varieties.

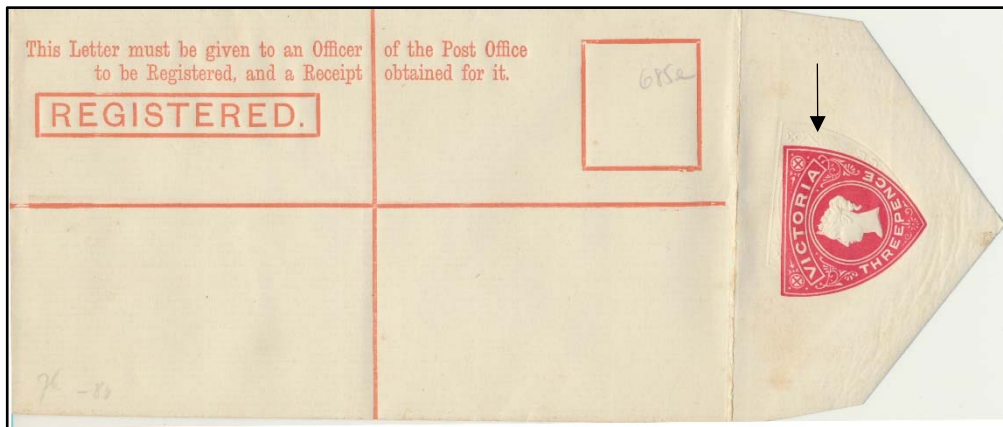


Figure 55 - C7 (size a), with additional colourless embossing.



Figure 56 - C7a (size b), horizontal laid white paper, specimen handstamp Type 24b over indicium, not listed by Stieg.



Figure 57 - C7a (size b), horizontal laid white paper, specimen handstamp Type 24b above indicium, not listed by Stieg.

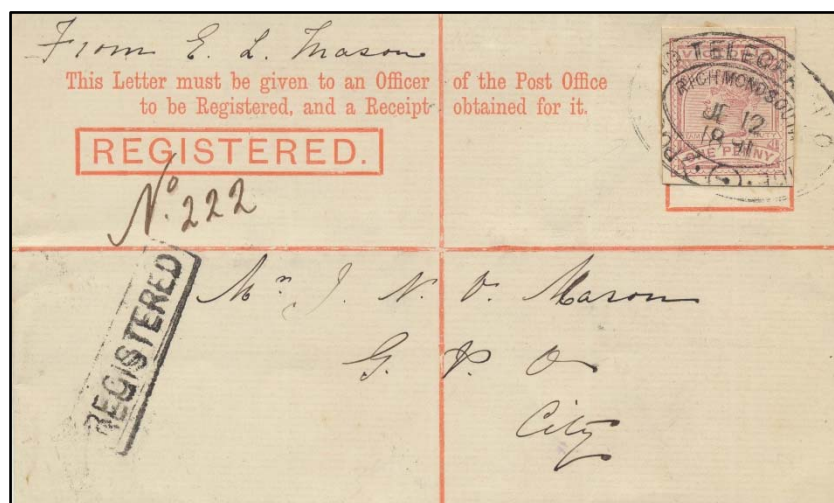


Figure 58 - C7a (size b), early use on 12 June 1891.

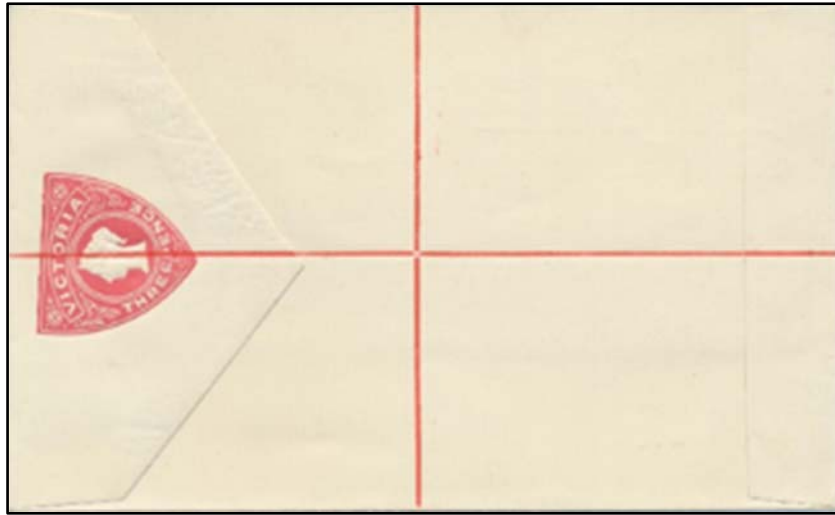


Figure 59 - C7e, (size b) indicium embossed over registration line printed onto the sealing flap. Higgins & Gage list an envelope in size a but this has not been recorded by Stieg.



Figure 60 – C7a, (size b) used by the Peruvian Consulate on 10 March 1892 to Genoa and redirected to Vienna.

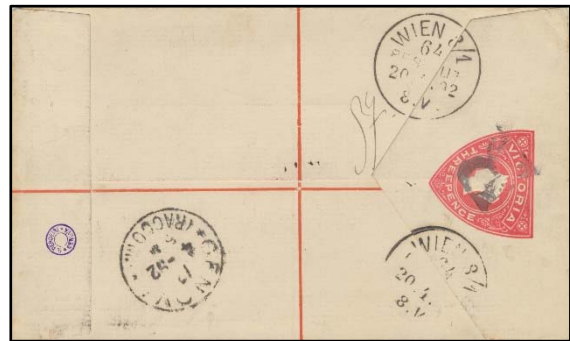


Figure 61 – Back of Figure 60 (with tiny 19th century owner's handstamp). The indicium is less carmine in colour.

Issue of May 1893 (Stieg C8 group)

From 1893, the colour of the embossing was changed from carmine to shades of orange-red and the catalogues note this as a new issue, as distinct from those of 1891. The basis for the May 1893 date is yet to be determined. It may have been noted by a philatelic journal of the day. So far, I have not discovered it.

Stieg estimated 20,000 were issued, which considering the numbers below seems too great, as that would have required issues of 5,000 in both 1893 and 1894. These were also years of great economic depression in Victoria. Indeed, the reason there are no quantities reported for these years was a result of the Department producing only a basic Annual Report for these years, to save money. There would have also been supplies of C7 group envelopes still on hand.

Year	Quantity issued	Year	Quantity issued
1893	Not available	1898	1,194
1894	Not available	1899	1,817
1895	2,013	1900	2,063
1896	1,446		
1897	1,559	Total	10,092

Stieg catalogues two watermarks on some envelopes of this issue. These are:

- 'SAUNDERS/SUPERFINE' - C8b (size a); and C8j (size b); and
- the 'seated Britannia' - C8k.

I have not seen either of the 'SAUNDERS/SUPERFINE' watermarked envelopes.

No illustrations available of the 'SAUNDERS/SUPERFINE' WMK.

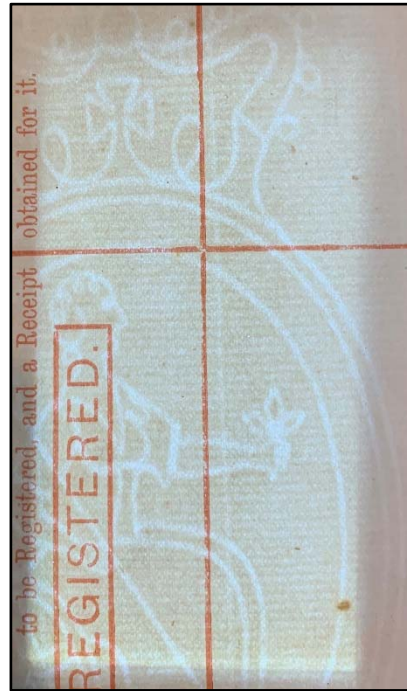


Figure 62 – C8k, horizontally laid paper with seated Britannia WMK.

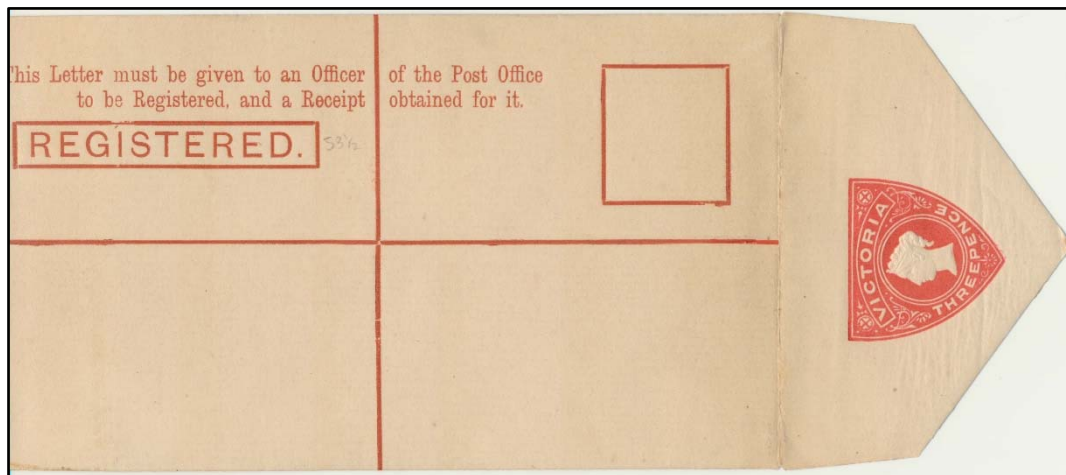


Figure 63 – C8d (size a), horizontal laid light buff paper, text in carmine, box 53½mm.



Figure 64 – C8 (size a), specimen handstamp Type 24b.



Figure 65 – C8 (size b), specimen handstamp Type 24b.



Figure 66 – C8 (size b), CTO with various 1897 dates (March) and showing differences in the colour of the indicia. It is thought these formed part of presentation sets given to other delegates by PMG Gavan Duffy at the UPU Washington Congress during May/June 1897.

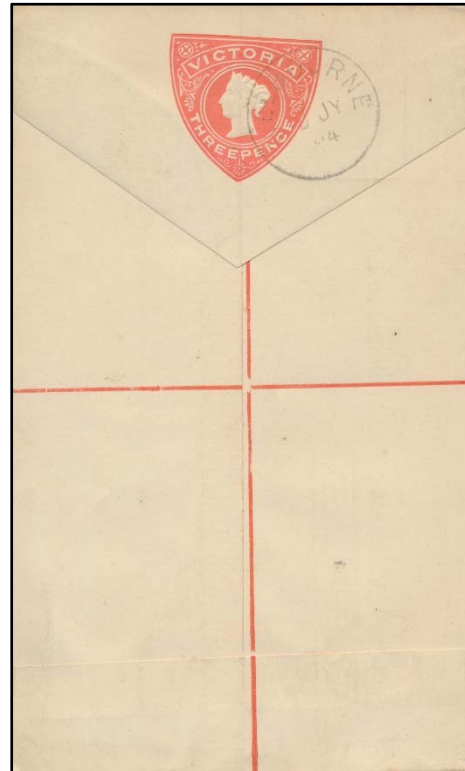


Figure 67 – C8 (size b), with seated 'Britannia' WMK, CTO 19 July 1894, the ERD of this canceller.

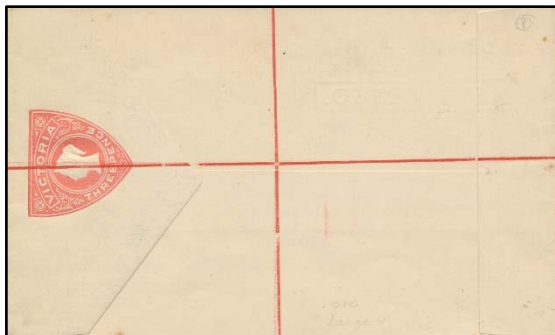


Figure 68 – C8i (size b). Rundell notes this was issued in about December 1897.



Figure 69 – C8m (size b). CTO JA 11 01 from a 'collector set' and confirming that this envelope was still available in January 1901.

4d mauve 'Error of Colour' – Stieg C6

The reader is referred to my comprehensive article about this issue in *Postal Stationery*³⁴.

I have placed this envelope after the 3d issues of 1891 and 1893, as in my view, the envelopes were manufactured in 1894 or 1895 (after the 3d registration rate was introduced). My belief is that these envelopes were produced as part of the 'Trafficking in Stamps' scandal which involved several senior Departmental officials.

This issue is only recorded unused and is size b only.

The first reference in the philatelic literature about these envelopes is in 1922 (Nr3) *Die Gagsache*, at page 42. The second reference is in "Die Briefumschläge von Viktoria" (The Envelopes of Victoria) by WP Costerus³⁵. These are discussed in the article.

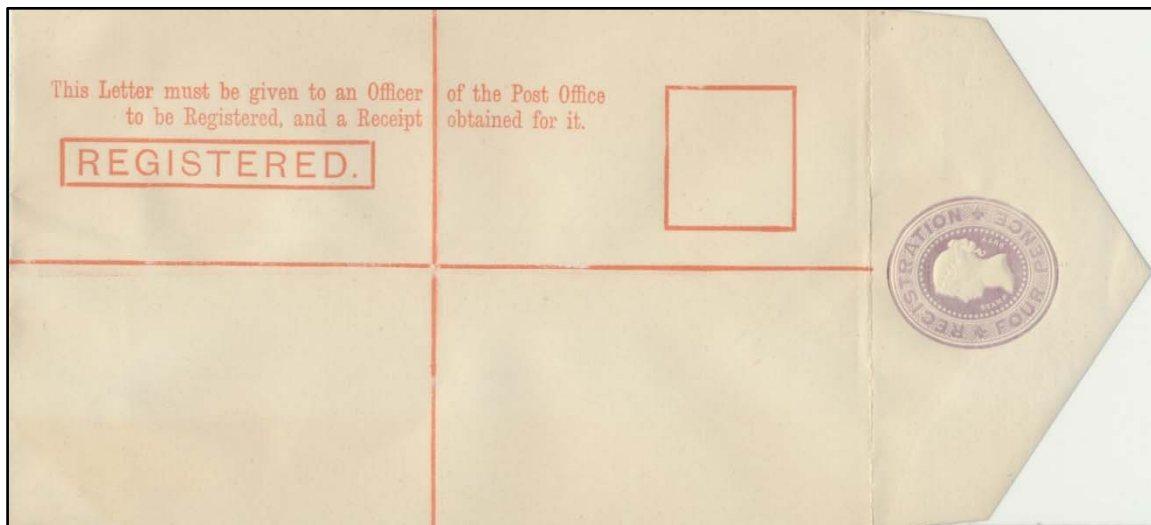


Figure 70 – C6.

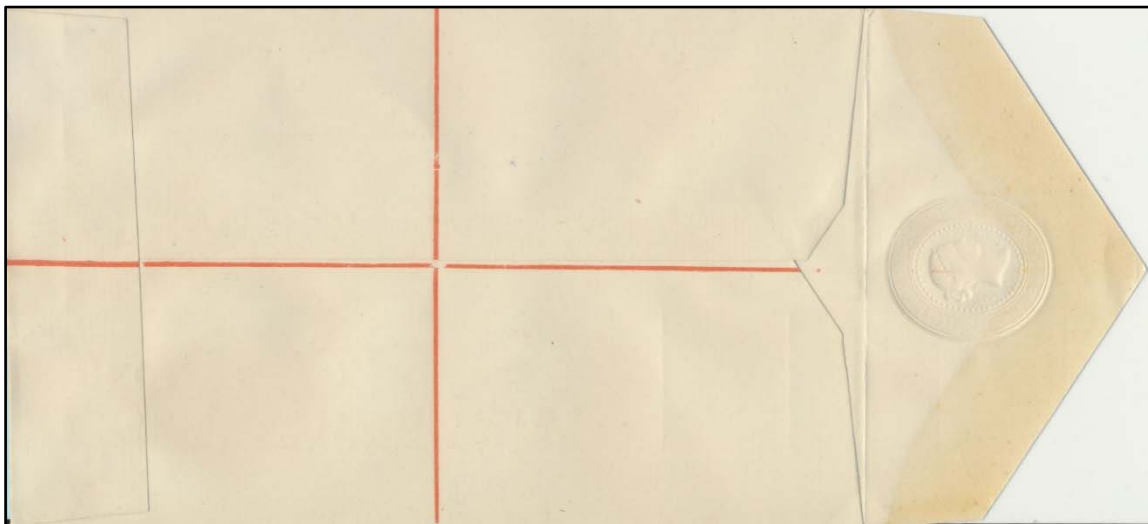


Figure 71 – Back of Figure 70.

³⁴ 'Victoria 4d dark purple with STAMP DUTY Embossed Registration Envelope (so-called "error of colour")', *Postal Stationery*, #444, May - June 2022, pp151-154.

³⁵ Berliner-Ganzsachen-Sammler-Verins (BGSV) *Festschrift* (1926), at p200. There is no reference to the issue in Geoff Kellow's *A Subject Index of Victorian Philately* (1988).

Victoria – Registration Envelopes in the Commonwealth Period (1901 – 1913)

The numbers issued³⁶

Numbers of registration envelopes issued differ between those previously published by Kellow & Breckon³⁷ and Stieg.

Year	Quantity issued per MP 341/1 1905/2767 [for 1902 & 1903] (<i>Sydney Views</i> Nov 1994)	Quantity per Kellow & Breckon	Quantity per RBA NP S series	Stieg's estimate by Type
1901	Not given	4583	Not given	4000 (C9)
1902	2,985	Not given	Not given	
1903	1,357	Not given	Not given	
	Total 1901–1903 = 8,925			
1904		Not given	0	
1905		900	900	500 (C10)
1906		840	1320	
1907		1200	1200	
1908		1200	1680	3000 (C11)
1909		960	1680	3000 (C12)
1910		2200	1440	
1911		3120	3120	
1912		9348	9348	
1913		3624	3864	2000 (C13)

An analysis of the production and issue of registration envelopes from 1901 to 1913 (as the available records allow) is contained in the **Appendix** and supports the relevant statements made in the following text.

³⁶ 'Issued' is ambiguous in the records. In some records it means as issued to the Comptroller of Stamps, which is not the same as numbers sold by the post office. In other records, it means sold.

³⁷ *The Stamps of Victoria*, p369.

Issue of February 1901 (Stieg C9)

It is convenient to delineate the issues of registered envelopes from February 1901, when a new type of registered envelope was issued by the Department.

The envelope was much thicker and cut such that the laid paper is diagonal (initially). The flap is also much larger than before. The envelope was used in the Parliamentary Presentation Sets of 5 February 1901, thus giving a month it was first available. CTO envelopes dated in January 1901 are embossed on envelopes of the previous style.

Production of the new envelope likely commenced during December 1900 or January 1901. The significant difference in the envelope from the type issued earlier suggests that the envelopes may have been procured from a different supplier, such as Wm Detmould & Sons and not Sands & McDougall (or perhaps the other way around). The actual supplier is not disclosed in the records.

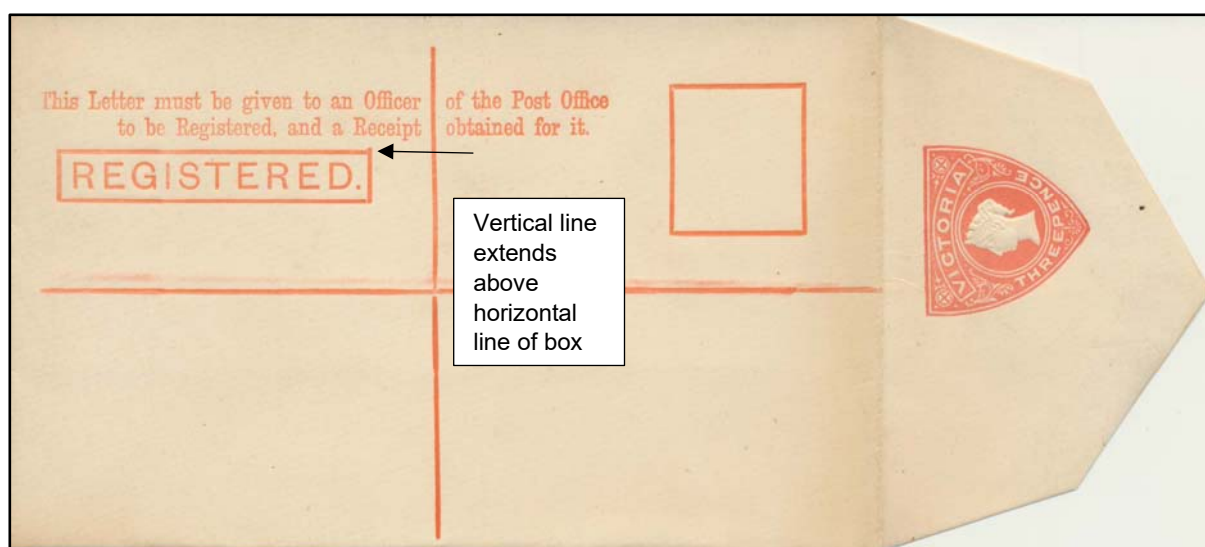


Figure 72 - C9 diagonally laid paper, 'REGISTERED' is 47½mm long and the 'REGISTERED' box is 52 mm long x 9mm high.

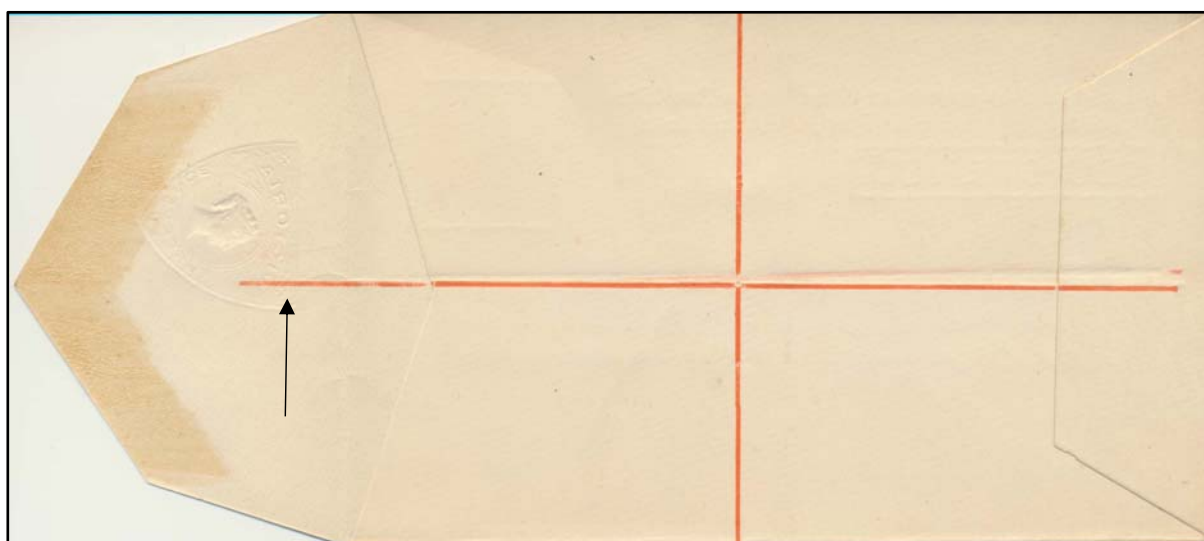


Figure 73 - Back of Figure 72, showing registration line extending far onto flap.

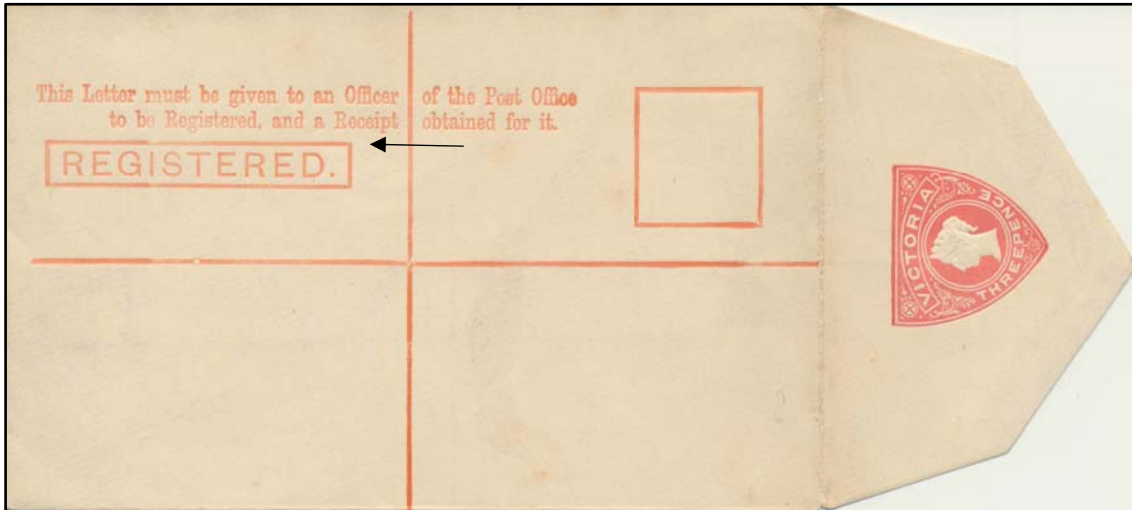


Figure 74 – C9a - diagonally laid paper, 'REGISTERED' is 47½mm long and the 'REGISTERED' box is 53½mm long x 9mm high.

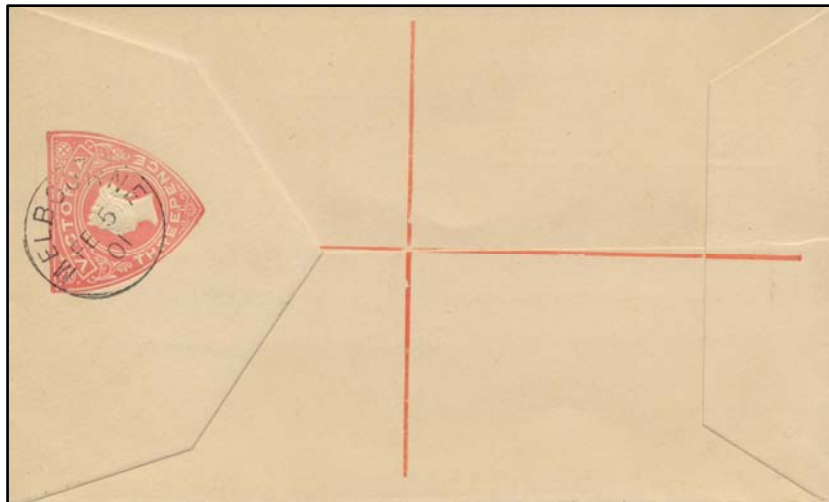


Figure 75 – From a Parliamentary presentation set, cancelled FE 5 01.

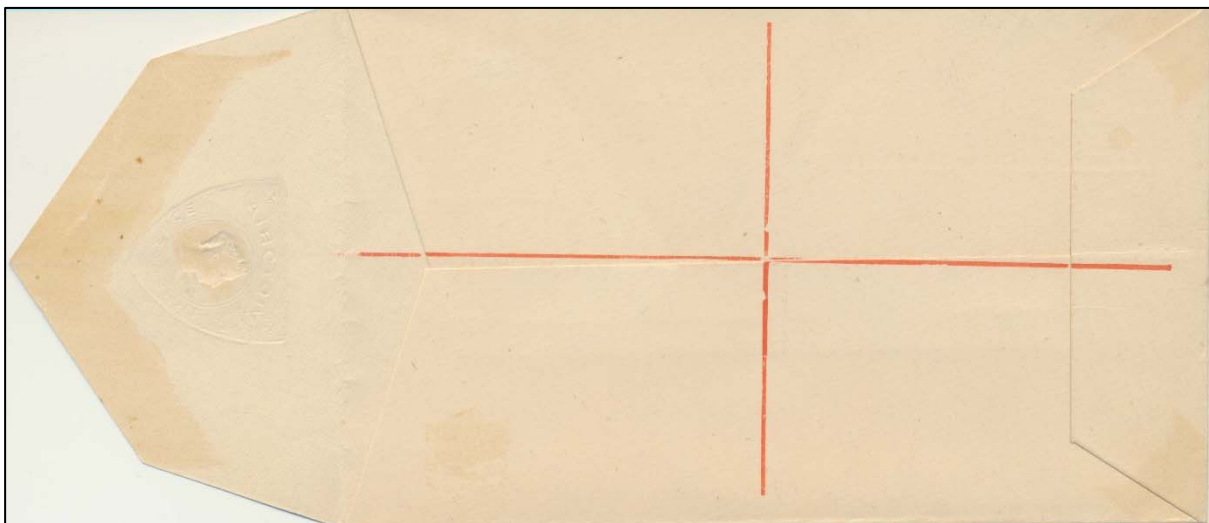


Figure 76 – Back of Figure 75, showing the horizontal line protruding a short distance onto the back of the flap. This issue is subject to significant aging which leads to difficulties in using terms such as 'white' and 'cream' in describing differences in the paper used to manufacture envelopes.

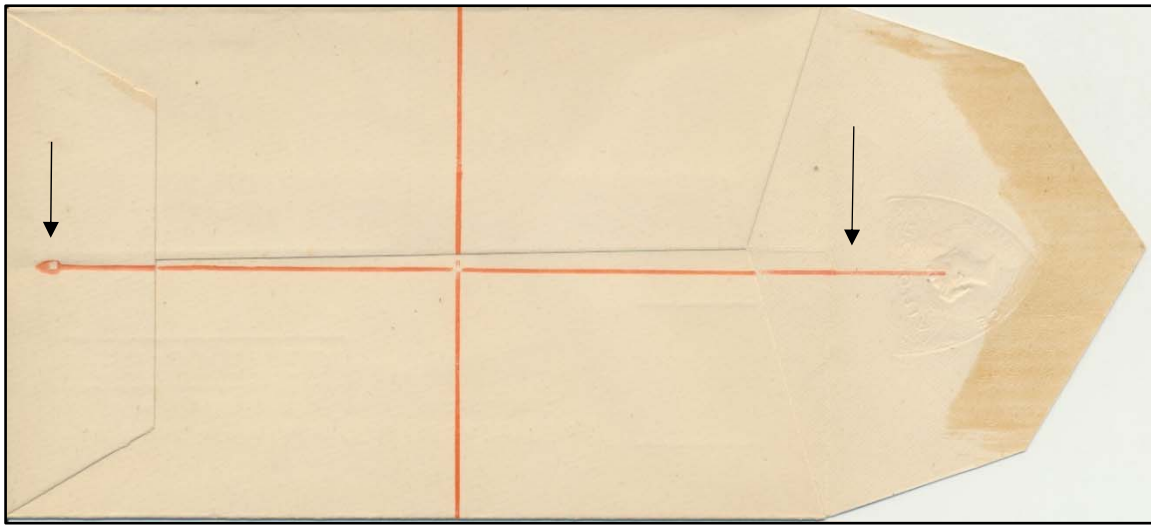


Figure 77 – ‘Arrowhead’ variety (not catalogued by Stieg), horizontal registration line protrudes far onto flap. CTO envelope of JE 28 02.

In about June 1902, an envelope of whiter paper was issued with horizontal laid lines and the right-hand side vertical line of the ‘REGISTERED’ box extending slightly above the top of the horizontal line of the box. This variety must have also been printed in early 1901, as NP-S-7 does not disclose any printing of registration envelopes from 1 July 1901 until December 1905 (as unlikely as this seems), although it is possible records of such printings exist elsewhere.

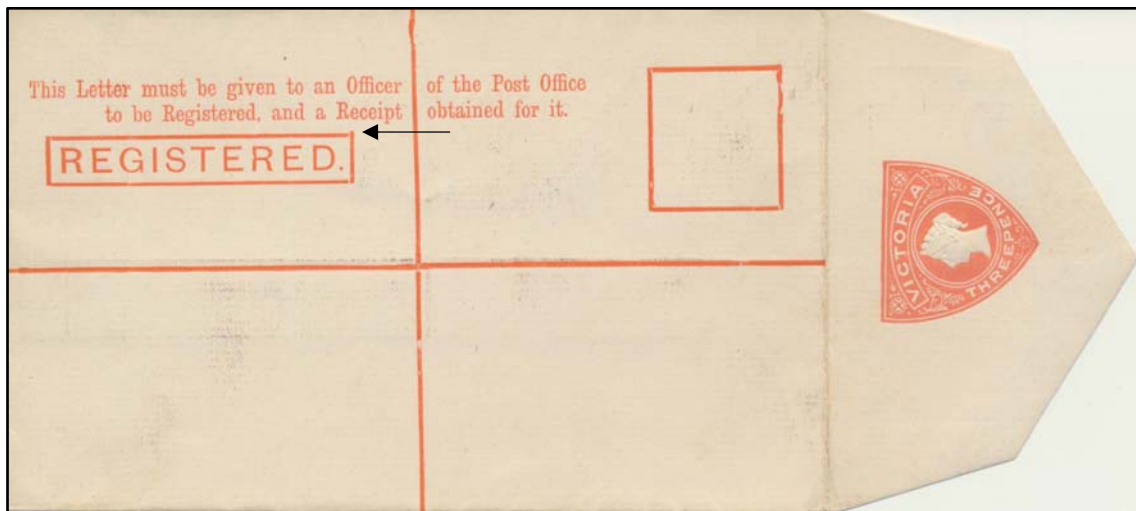


Figure 78 – Stieg C9c, horizontally laid white paper, ‘REGISTERED’ is 49mm long and the box is 53½mm long x 8mm high.

The several varieties observed in the first issue (Stieg C9) support the suggestion that a large number were initially printed in the first half of 1901. The issue is found used well into 1907. As well as the observed and catalogued differences of the C9 group, there are at least three distinct shades found on the indicia of this issue. These are illustrated below.



Figure 79 – Orange red.

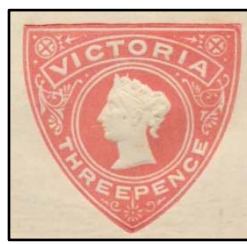


Figure 80 – Red.



Figure 81 – Carmine.

Issues from 1901 to 1905

No records have been discovered about the production of the registration envelopes in 1901. RBA NP-S-7, which includes records for Victoria about quantities into stock and distribution to the Comptroller of Stamps, commences from 1 July 1901 but does not initially contain any columns for envelopes (both post office and STO). These only appear in the register from March 1904. Where this information is recorded, from 1 January 1901, remains a mystery. There were no registration envelopes brought into stock or distributed in 1904³⁸ and none were manufactured³⁹. We do know that 4,583 envelopes were issued in 1901⁴⁰, 2,985 envelopes were issued in 1902 and 1,357 were issued in 1903⁴¹.

Issue of March 1905 (Stieg C10)

RBA Register NP-S-7 indicates that after the first quantity of 600 registration envelopes were brought into stock and issued on 13 March 1905, none remained in stock. So, we can be reasonably confident that before this printing, there were no registration envelopes in stock at the beginning of 1905 and the first printing of envelopes in 1905, were C10 envelopes. Following, are the movements into stock, all of which are likely to be Stieg C10 envelopes, despite Stieg estimating only 500 were issued. All were subsequently issued to the Comptroller of Stamps by July 1907.

NP-S-7	Date into stock	Quantity into stock	Die out	Die in
Folio 58	13 Mar 1905	600	10 Mar 1905	28 Mar 1905
Folio 58	14 Mar 1905	300		
Folio 74	08 Jan 1906	900	23 Nov 1905	17 Jan 1906
Folio 83	09 Oct 1906	900	17 Sep 1906	08 Oct 1906
		2,700		

This issue is distinguished by the use of a *sans-serif* font for the admonition and a different cut flap. The envelopes may have been acquired from a different supplier than those of the C9 group issues. Despite the quantity produced and issued, very few are recorded unused or used. Used examples dated 16 January 1906 (Public Offices Melbourne) and 23 May 1906 (Geelong) are recorded.

³⁸ According to RBA NP-S-7.

³⁹ According to RBA NP-M-5.

⁴⁰ *The Stamps of Victoria*, p369.

⁴¹ See *Sydney Views* No45, November 1994, p15 where NAA MP 341 1905/2767 is reproduced. This sets out the number and value of Postage Stamps (including postal stationery but excluding Postage Due Stamps) during 1902 and 1903.

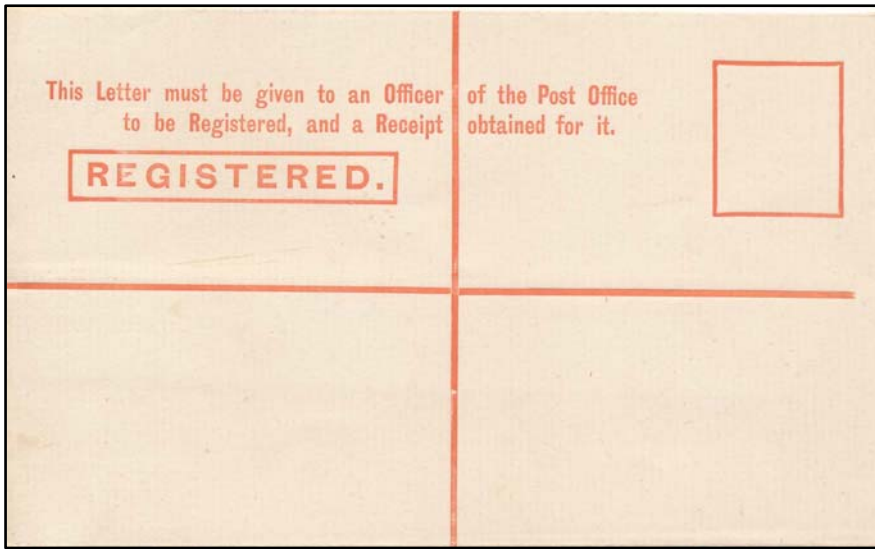


Figure 82 – C10.

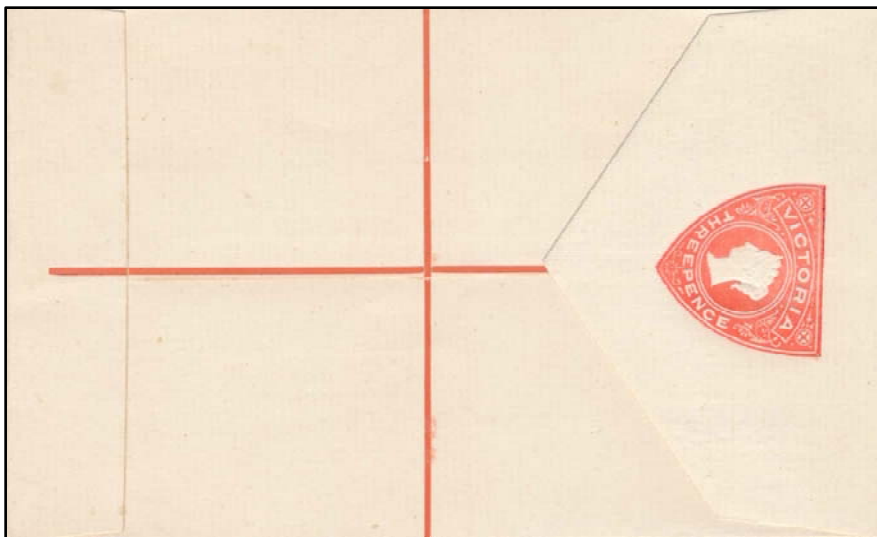


Figure 83 – Back of Figure 82.

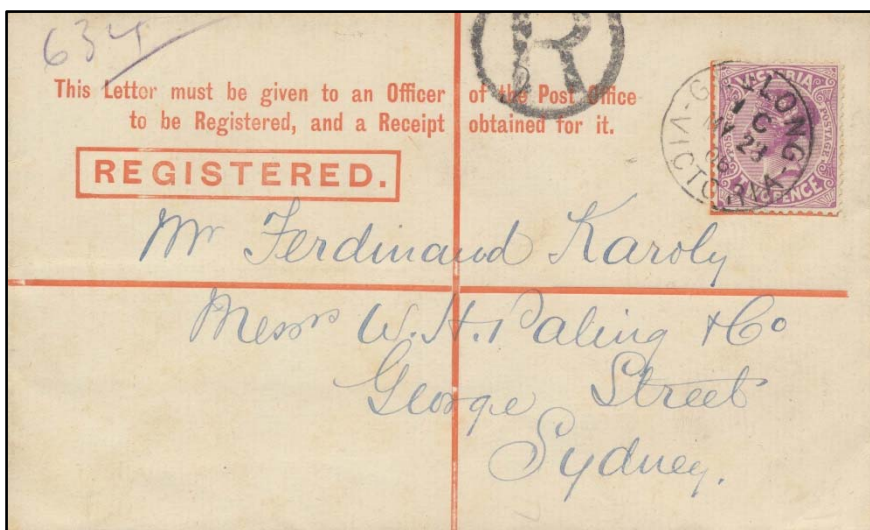


Figure 84 – C10 used from Geelong on 281 May 1906. One of two examples recorded used.

Issue of September 1907 (Stieg C11)

The stock of registration envelopes was nil on 16 July 1907. The first quantity into stock after this date was on 12 August 1907, so we can be reasonably confident that the first issue made to the Comptroller of Stamps after this date, on 4 September 1907, were C11 envelopes.

NP-S-8	Date into stock	Quantity into stock	Die out	Die in
Folio 03	12 Aug 1907	1,020	22 Jul 1907	12 Aug 1907
Folio 11	29 Apr 1908	1,200	12 Mar 1908	23 Apr 1908
			30 Apr 1908	05 May 1908
		2,220		

Stieg estimated 3,000 envelopes. Examples of this issue appear to be harder to find than the previous issue (C10). Stieg had only one used example - as illustrated in his book. The Ronnie Winchester collection contained a used example with the ERD of 12 October 1907.

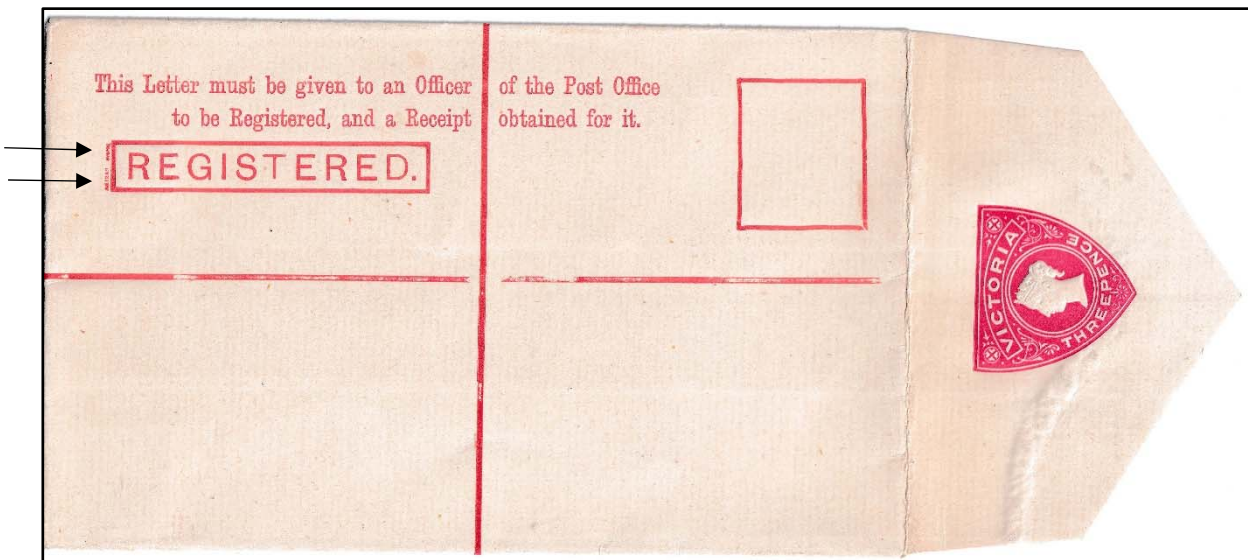


Figure 85 – C11.

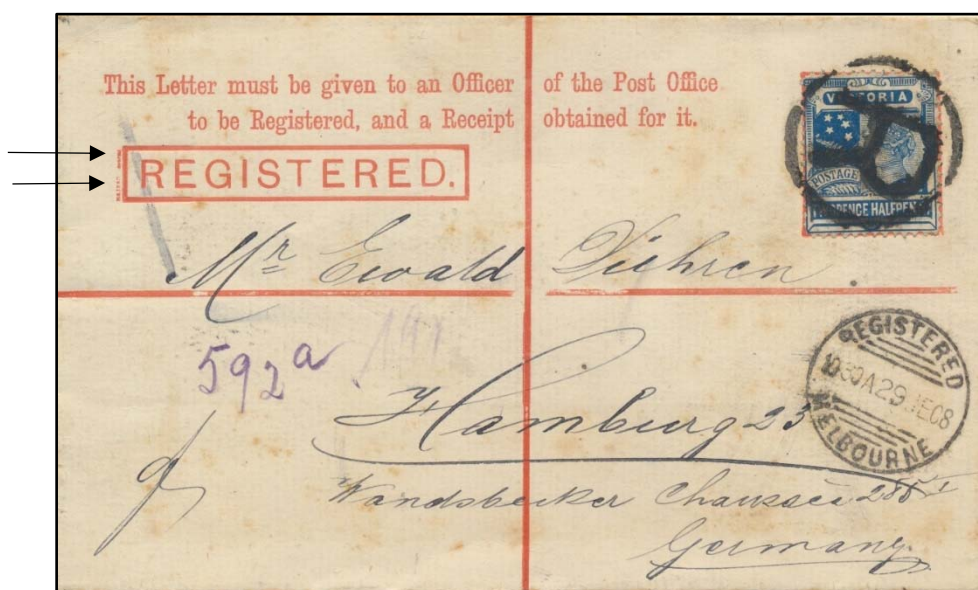


Figure 86 – C11 as illustrated in Stieg. Three used examples are now recorded.

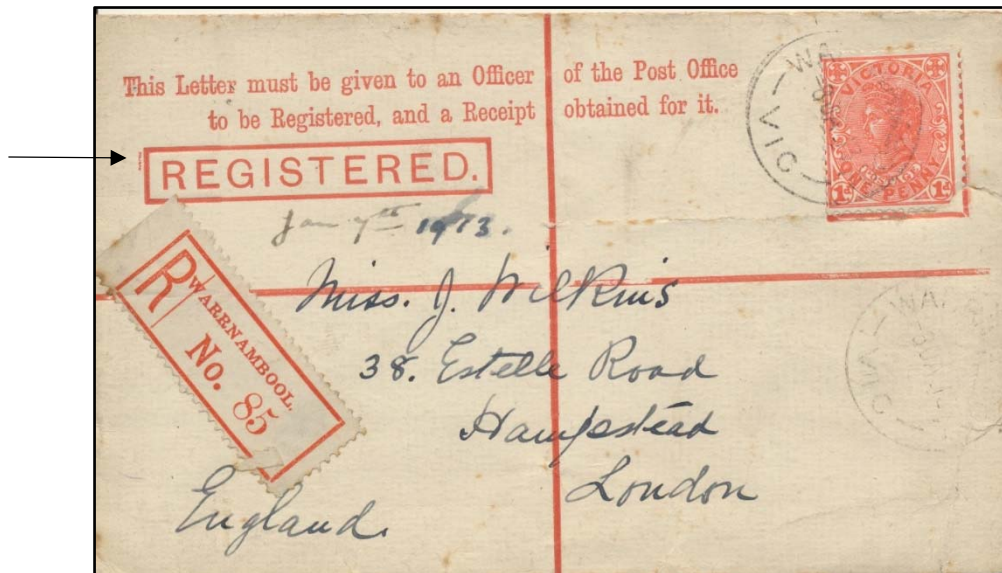


Figure 87 – C11 with only one piece of micro printing left of box (at top), used 8 January 1913 from Warrnambool, only example recorded so far. Whether this is from a different printing than the other example (with two pieces of micro printing) is not known. It may have broken off during printing.

Issue of March 1909 (Stieg C12)

The quantity held of the previous issue (C11) was only 60 on 20 November 1908, when a large total quantity (2,796) was taken into stock between November 1908 and January 1909, suggesting that these envelopes were Stieg C12. Stieg estimated 3,000 were issued. The next distribution to the Comptroller of Stamps was on 4 March 1909, suggesting the first sale of the C12 issue would have been made in that month. The last distribution of C12 envelopes from stock was made on 24 May 1910, when no registration envelopes remained. This means we can be reasonably confident that the next printing into stock and subsequent issue in 1910, was Stieg C13.

NP-S-8	Date into stock	Quantity into stock	Die out	Die in
Folio 18	26 Nov 1908	240	19 Nov 1908	09 Jan 1909
Folio 19	17 Dec 1908	2,400		
Folio 20	14 Jan 1909	156		
		2,796		

C12 examples can be distinguished from earlier printings by the appearance of 4 tiny dots below the horizontal line at the right-hand side of the front and back of the envelope. The ERD of a used example is 16 August 1909 at Melbourne, although the main usage is recorded in 1910.

There are two main varieties:

- with the front horizontal line going to the right-hand edge of the envelope; and
- with the line stopping about 7mm from the right-hand edge.

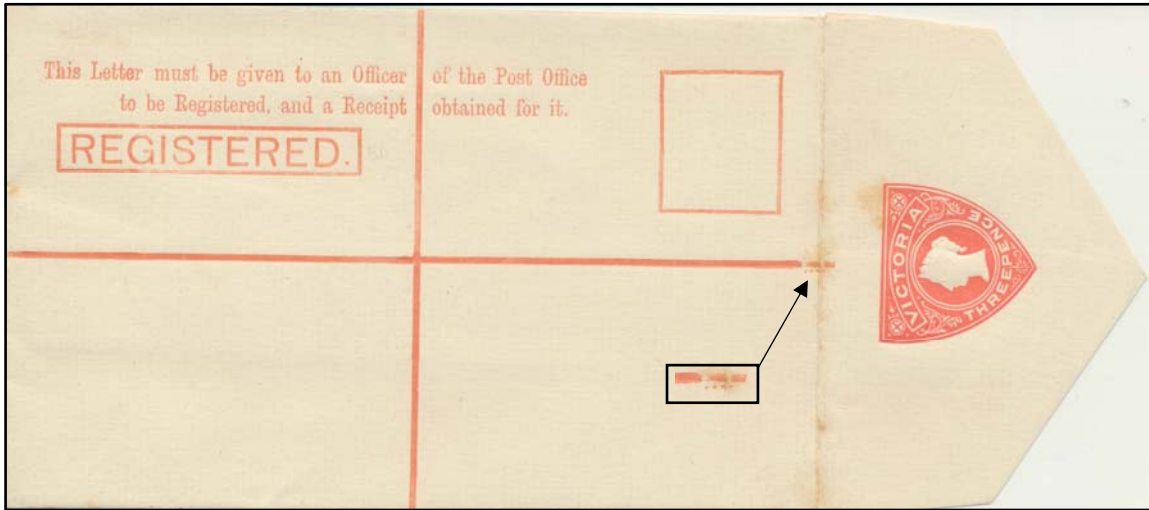


Figure 88 – C12 with horizontal registration line going past the right-hand edge with four tiny dots below the line at right.

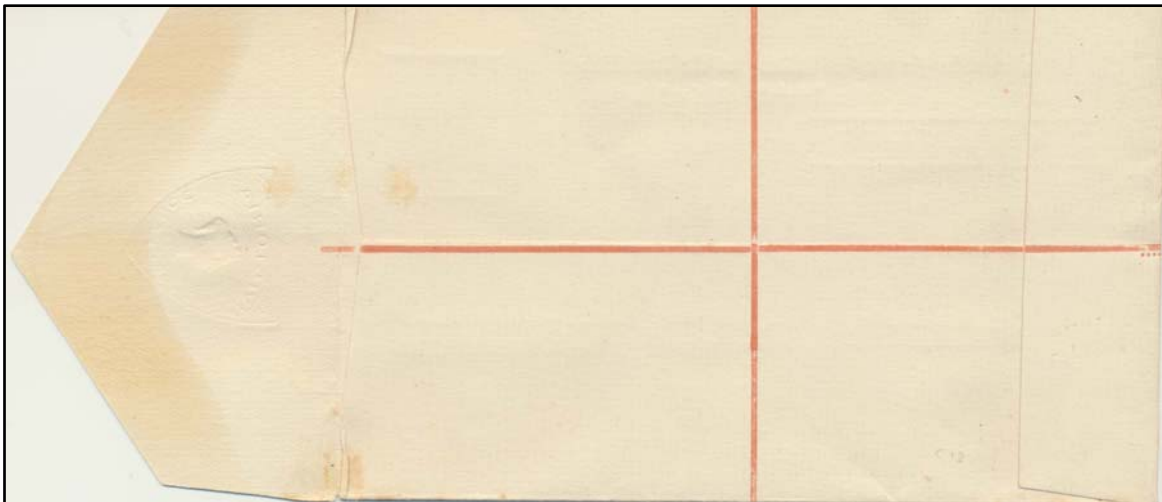


Figure 89 - C12 with 4 small dots below the horizontal line on the front and back.

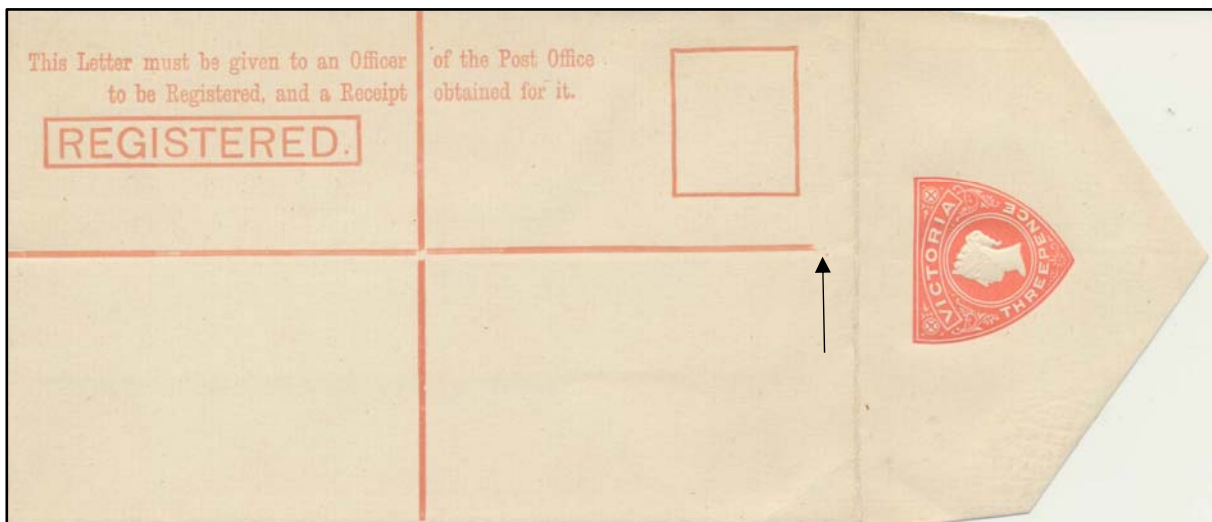


Figure 90 – C12 with horizontal line with gap of about 7mm from the edge.

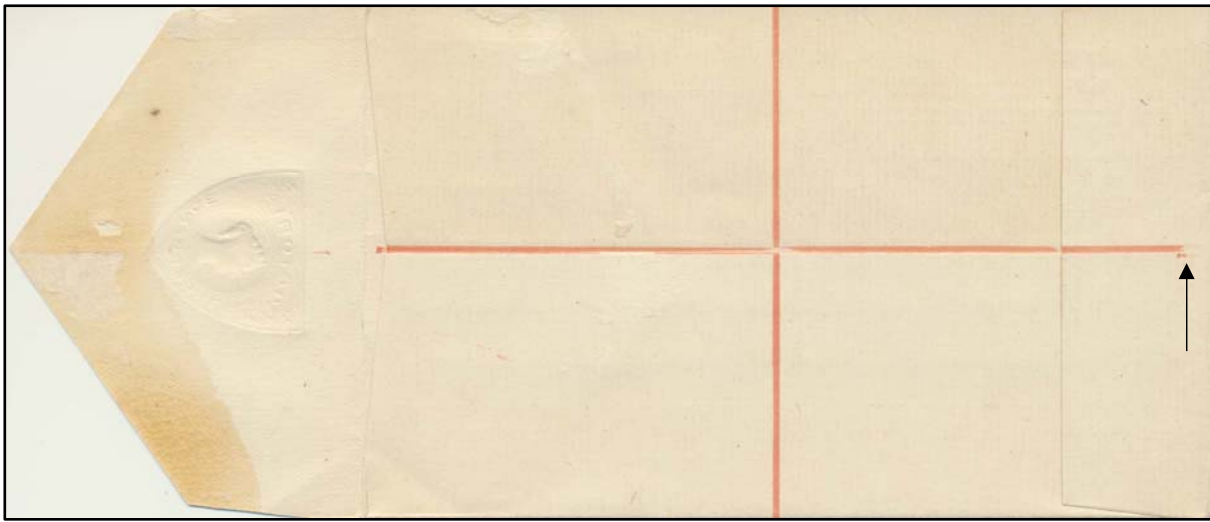


Figure 91 – Back of the Figure 90, with a gap in the horizontal line at the edge.

Issue of June 1910 (Stieg C13)

As stated earlier, no registration envelopes remained in stock on 24 May 1910 and the next envelopes brought into stock were on 13 and 14 June 1910. By this time, printing was supervised by J B Cooke, the Commonwealth Stamp Printer (who relocated to Melbourne from Adelaide in May 1909) in preparation for the issue of uniform postage stamps and stationery, although this was some time in the future. Meanwhile, Cooke proceeded to standardise the production of items where possible. This, among other things, he achieved with the registration envelopes for Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, featuring the distinctive smaller registered box. In December 1912, the design was also utilised as an interim measure for 3,900 Queensland envelopes. Finally, in 1913, the design was used as an interim measure (until May 1913) for 4d kangaroo Australian registration envelopes.

As the stock of registration envelopes was zero immediately before the first quantities were put into stock on 13 and 14 June 1910, we can be reasonably confident that the first sale of this envelope would have been soon after its initial distribution to the Comptroller of Stamps on 14 June 1910. The ERD for a used example is 6 October 1910, to India.

Stieg's estimate of 2,000 (while understandable) is wide of the mark, as is his comment that "*most were probably destroyed when [the] Commonwealth issued registered [sic] envelopes in 1913*⁴²."

Cooke was determined to minimise spoils and the Victorian registration envelope was placed into stock up to 15 January 1913 and last distributed on 23 April 1913. This explains why Victoria did not receive any of the interim 4d kangaroo registration envelopes and its first issue of the Commonwealth envelope with the heading 'Registered Letter', was in May 1913.

⁴² 23,847 minus 17,772 equals 6,075 envelopes manufactured and not taken into stock. It is not clear if these were subsequently destroyed. The Secretary of the PMG's Department in his circular Memorandum No 875, dated 22 December 1913, advised all DPMGs to withdraw old issues of registration envelopes which were to be destroyed. However, NP-S-5 (Spoiled Stock - Postal Notes, Beer Duty Stamps, Postage Stamps, Postage Due Stamps, Entertainment Tax Stamps, etc.) does not disclose the destruction of any 3½d registered envelopes. RBA NP-S-9, folio 50 discloses that on 13 February 1915, 6562 1½d postal cards and 4560 1d reply cards were destroyed and 120 of each retained for specimens (as per a previous direction).

NP-S-8	Date into stock	Quantity into stock	Die out	Die in
Folio 59	13 Jun 1910	2,400	03 Jun 1910	08 Jun 1910
Folio 59	14 Jun 1910	2,580		
NP-S-9				
Folio 01	18 Jan 1912	4,080	11 Jan 1912	19 Jan 1912
Folio 08	13 Aug 1912	3,888	02 Aug 1912	09 Aug 1912
Folio 12	03 Dec 1912	984	30 Nov 1912	02 Dec 1912
Folio 13	13 Jan 1913	480	13 Jan 1912	11 Apr 1913
Folio 13	15 Jan 1913	3,360		
		17,772		

It is not clear if the varieties in the issue are the result of separate printings or not. However, if reliance is placed solely on the Manufacturing records⁴³, then it discloses only three dates of *actual* manufacture (as distinct from dates that quantities were brought into stock and distributed to the Comptroller of Stamps). These are:

Date of manufacture	Quantity	Die out	Die in
8 June 1910	5,000	03 Jun 1910	8 Jun 1910
18 Jan 1912	14,936	11 Jan 1912	19 Jan 1912
8 Aug 1912	3,911	02 Aug 1912	09 Aug 1912
		30 Nov 1912	02 Dec 1912
		13 Jan 1912	11 Apr 1913
	23,847		

The three separate dates of manufacture (with long periods in between), might explain the three known and distinct philatelic examples shown below and on the next page.

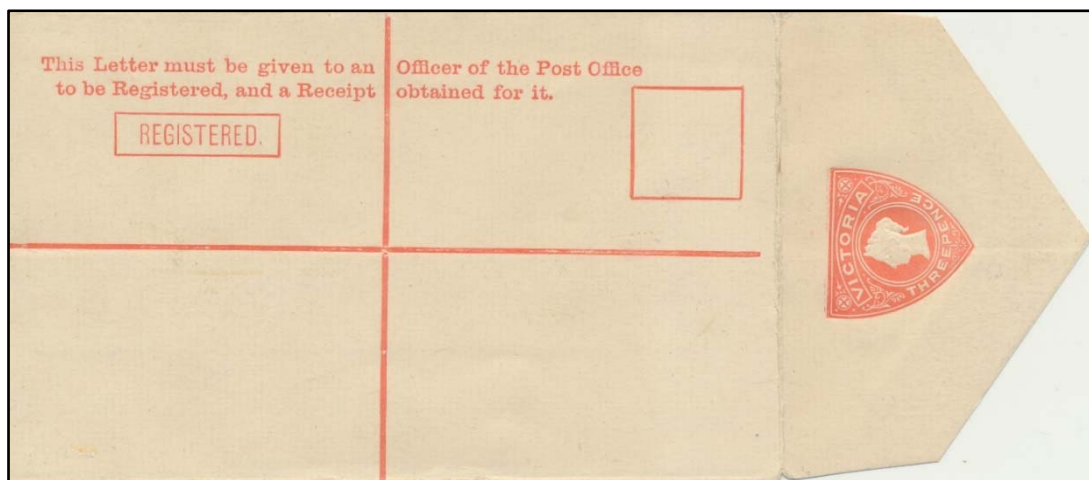


Figure 92 – C13 lineal printing and indicium in orange-red - from the first printing. The 'REGISTERED' box is 31 long x 8mm high.

⁴³RBA NP-M-5.

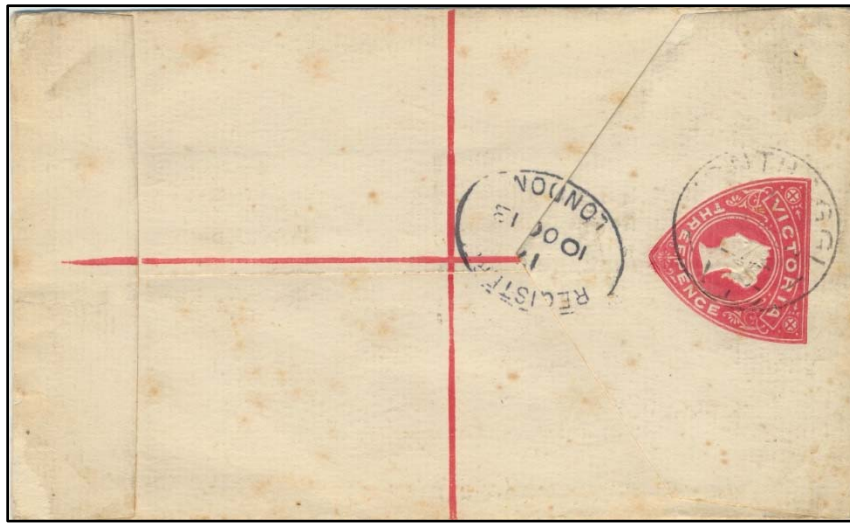


Figure 93 – C13a lineal printing and indicium in carmine - from the second printing.

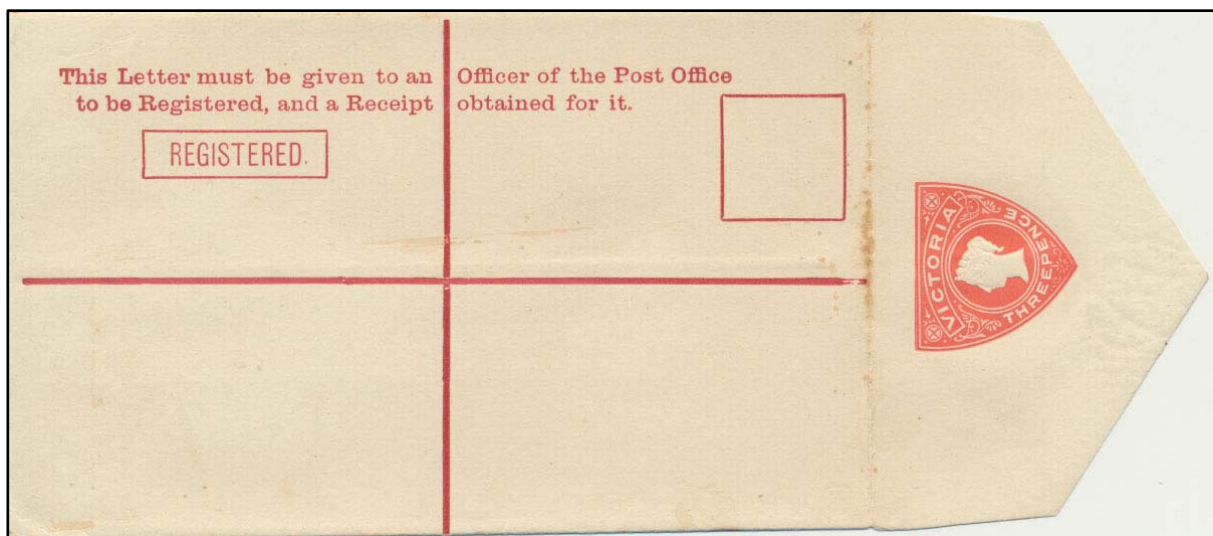


Figure 94 – C13b – lineal printing in deep carmine, indicium in red - from the third printing.

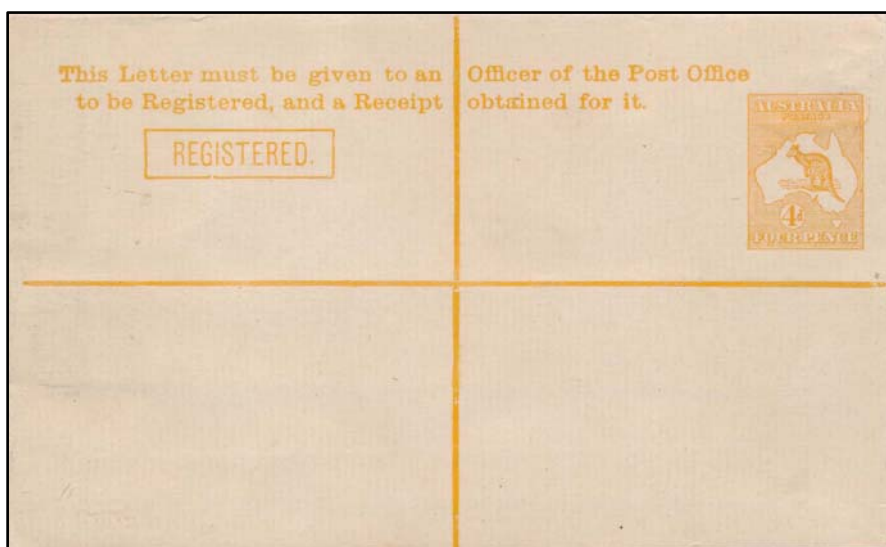


Figure 95 – The first Australian registration envelope was issued to NSW on 17 February 1913. It was never distributed to Victoria due to the large quantities of the Victorian registration envelope still in stock.