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How Belgium's Soaring Postage Rates During the 1920s
Affected Postal Stationery
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2007/08 Programme

17 December 2007	Christmas Meeting	Members 4 page Competition
18 February 2008	TBC	
21 April 2008	TBC	

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Cover

An Industries Series postcard #95956 Circa 1910, showing the Post Office at Timaru, New Zealand. This is the post office I grew up with. It was just down town.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

Another year almost gone and only one more journal in December and it will be 2008. Talking about the journal, please get those articles in early, if you can, as otherwise the posting out gets mixed up with the Christmas rush.

I had a chance to spend some time with the RMIT students who are assisting us to revamp our website. Tom and Ruth O'Dea have brought their expertise and contacts to bear upon this irritating issue. We have had a website for a number of years now but the functionality left much to be desired. This new site will enable the various stakeholders to provide regular updates without having to wait for some else to respond. This opens up a whole new sphere of opportunities to provide and find out information from the WWW.

The journal will be available to read in PDF format which will mean it will be in colour. We are currently working on how this will be managed, so that only those who are authorised to view it, will have access. There will also be a number of opportunities for those, who happen upon it, to see enough, which may encourage them to join the society. I can't wait to see the final product. Thanks Tom and Ruth for all the work you have been doing for us.

This issue is once again a mixture of articles provided by those stalwarts who always manage to come through with something. I don't know about you but I am enjoying the series that John Young has been doing. It seems to me to have a little bit of everything. He can be quite a dark horse at times. Michael Barden presents an interesting article about how rate changes can affect postal outputs, in this case postal stationery. George Vearing does an excellent job with the modern stuff. Once again Harewood is at his offending best and I have a little gripe of my own.

Hope you enjoy. Til next issue, happy hunting, ciao.

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Australian Postal Rates 1937-53 - Part 3

By John Young

This installment describes the stamp denominations 4½ pence to 9 pence. First, however, a word about the captions for the illustrations in the previous installment. It seems that a gremlin left out the bottom line of a few captions, but fortunately without causing a serious loss of information. In the caption for illustration 8.4, however, the words were completely wrong: they repeated those in caption 8.3. So, the caption for 8.4 should have read, "Express mail fee for an airmail letter from W M. Hughes, Parliament House, Canberra. The former Prime Minister's signature is lower left."

9. Four Pence half penny

This was a short-lived issue for surface-mail postcards to foreign countries, 1951-59. Coloured red, it was sold at post offices from May 1952 to July 1953. It was also used for make-up purposes.



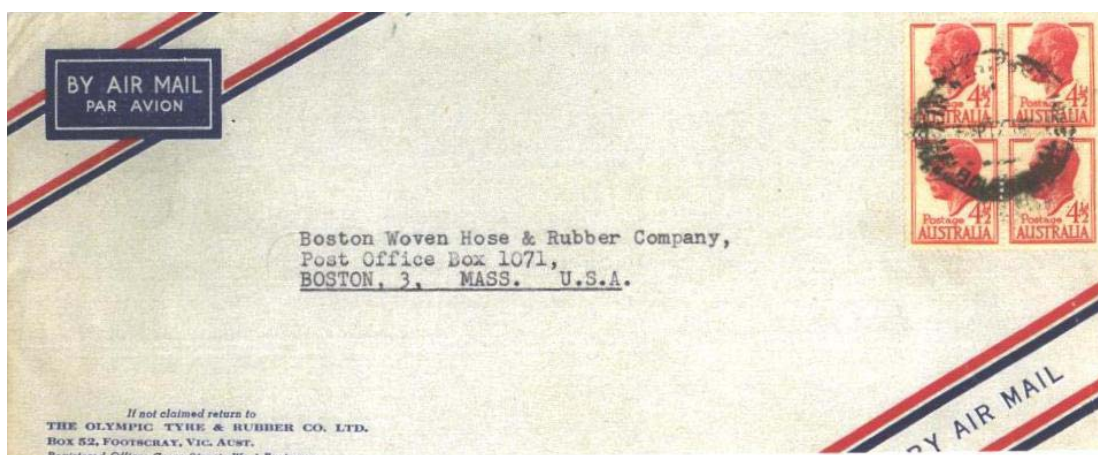
Left

9.1 Surface-mail postcard rate to foreign countries.

Illustration courtesy of Roy Larkin

Below

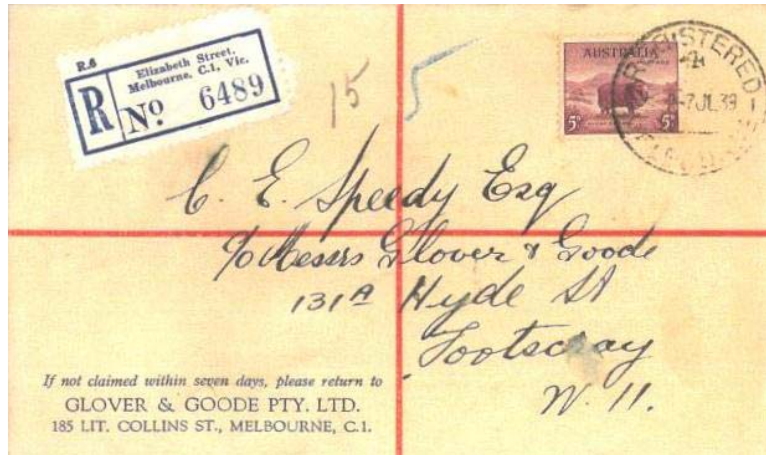
9.2 Make-up use of a block of four, totalling one shilling and sixpence, for airmail to USA. The rate applied during 1947-52



10. Five pence

Like the 4 pence koala stamp, this denomination had two issues (1938, 1946), but it had no designated use after 10 Dec 1941 except as a make-up value. While the letter rate stayed at 2 pence the stamp paid for airmail letters in Australia, airmail throughout the Empire during the "all-up" service from Aug 1938 to Sept 1939, and for registered letters to Australia and the Empire.

10.1 First issue, registration 3d plus ordinary postage 2d

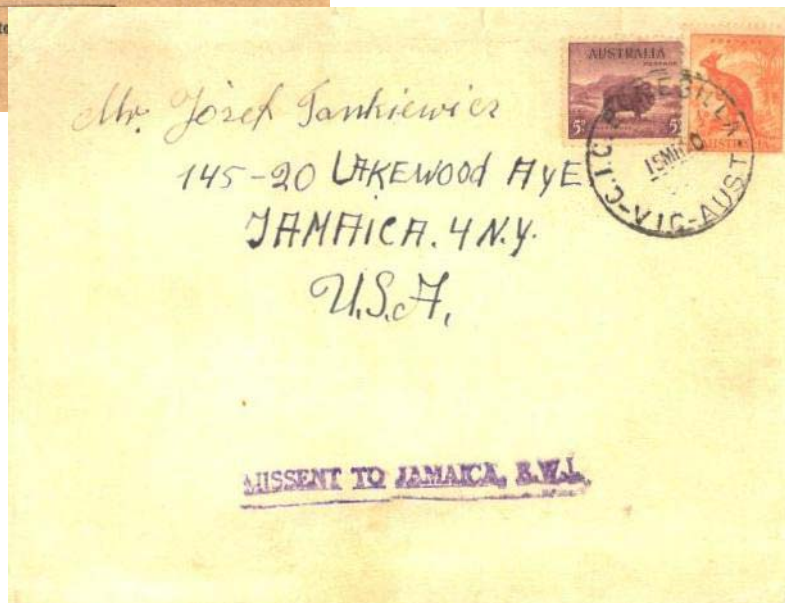


10.2 First issue for "all-up" Empire airmail Aug 1938—Aug 1939. It also paid for airmail letters in Australia or to New Zealand until December 1941



10.3 The second issue (1946) had no designated use, having to be up-rated by ½ penny for airmail letters in Australia or to New Zealand or for registered letters. This example roughly punctured T.

10.4 Second issue up-rated for a double-weight letter to USA (3½ + 2 Pence). Letter posted from Bonegilla immigration centre, 15.3.50. Missent to Jamaica where backstamped 24.3.50. so carried by airmail.



11. Five pence half penny

This denomination began with a surcharged stamp on 10.12.41 for registered letters to Australia and the Empire and airmail letters in Australia or to New Zealand, These usages continued until 1950 when the ordinary letter rate went from 2½ pence to 3 pence. The 5½ pence stamp then had limited use for letters to foreign countries and double-weight letters in Australia and the Empire during the short period 1 Dec 1950 to 8 July 1951.

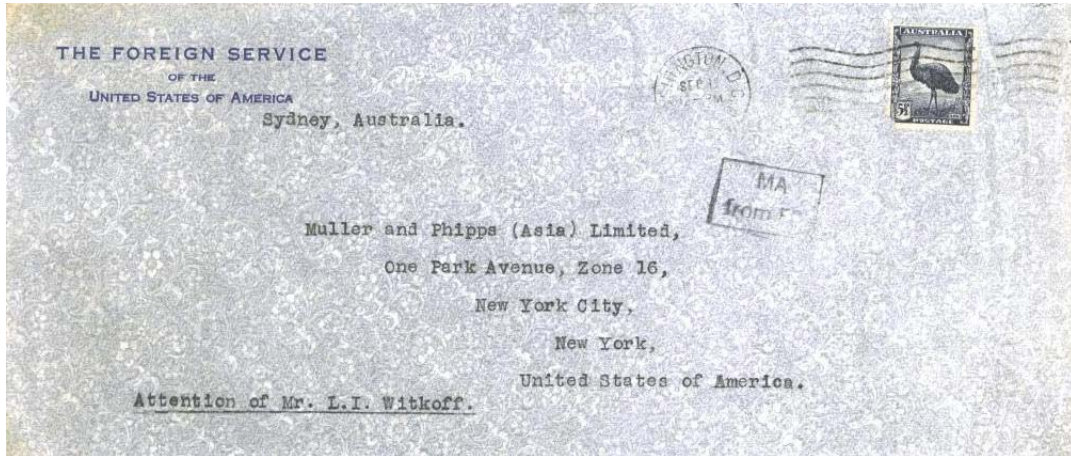


11.1 First issue used for airmail in Australia.

11.2 First issue, used for ordinary registered mail.



11.3 Second issue, used for airmail in Australia.



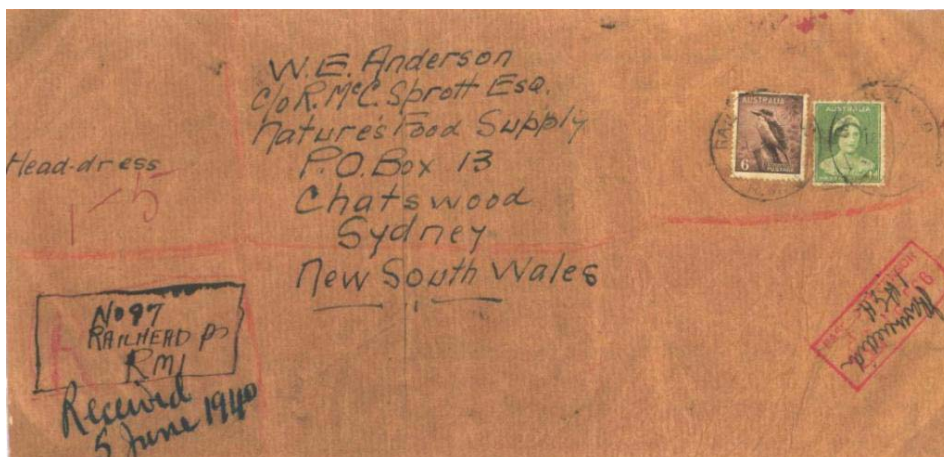
11.4 Second issue, used for double-weight (2 ounce) mail to USA, 3½d for first ounce including ½d war tax, 2d for second ounce. Like the cover shown in illus. 7.3 in the previous instalment, this one has only an American postmark — Washington, but year indistinct. Mail was presumably franked in Australia and transported for postmarking in USA. (The boxed marking is similar to one seen on a Spanish-stamped cover postmarked only USA 1944, which also carried a cachet stating the letter originated from the country named on the postage stamps.)



11.5 Second issue, used for airmail to New Zealand (same rate as in Aust), plus 3d registration.

12. Six pence

Like the 4 and 5 pence stamps, this denomination had two issues (1937, 1942). Printed brown, it was issued for parcels weighing under 1 pound and addressed to a place within 30 miles of the office of posting. In 1939 it also paid for parcels under 1 pound to or from members of the armed forces (illus 12.1). Later it was used for the registration fee (1949- 51!), airmail letters in Australia or to New Zealand (Dec 1950-Jan 1951) shown in illustration 12.3-12.5, and double-weight letters to Australia and the empire (1951-56). It also paid the express delivery fee, 1949-51 (illus 12.5).

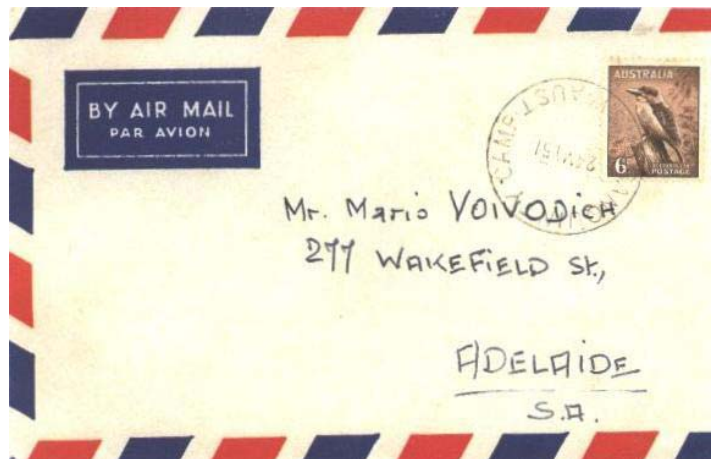


12.1 First issue, used on registered parcel from Rail Head PO, Gaza Ridge, Palestine (Mar — April 1940). Assuming correct rate was paid, parcel was merchandise at 1d per 4 ounces, plus 3d registration



12.2 First issue, registered 3 to 4 oz letter to USA (3d for first ounce, 2d each extra ounce, 3d registration), posted 29.7.41.

12.3 Second issue, used for airmail in Australia, 24.5.51.



12.4 Second issue, mail from BCOF Japan, Nov 1949. Service personnel had reduced-rate postage from Japan but had to pay for airmail in Australia (3d) and registration (6d).

12.5 Second issue, 6d express-delivery fee plus airmail. In this case airmail was still 5½d in Oct 1949, so overpaid by ½d.



13. Six pence halfpenny

This stamp was issued in two colours, brown (Feb 1952) and green (April 1952) for airmail letters to Australia and New Zealand. The brown stamp was replaced because of its resemblance to the 3½ d stamp of the same design and similar colour.



13.1 First issue, used for airmail from Rabaul, PNG.

14. Seven pence halfpenny

Coloured blue, this stamp was issued in October 1951, just under four months after the rate for surface mail to foreign countries went from 5½d to 7½. The rate continued until 30.11.59, and this stamp continued to be sold until 1957.



14.1 Surface mail to USA, probably a Christmas card, used outside KG VI period

15. Eight pence halfpenny

During July 1949 to November 1950 the fee for registered letters to Australia and the Empire was 8 ½ pence. Express delivery letters in Australia were also 8 ½ pence (1.7.49 to 8.7.51). The stamp, coloured brown, was issued in August 1950, giving it a life of just over three months, as the letter rate went up to 3 pence on 1 December 1950.



15.1 Not often seen used for its intended purpose (2½d + 6d registration), this cover mailed from Madang, PNG six weeks before letter-rate postage went up to 3d.

15.2 Express-delivery airmail, 6d express, 2½d letter rate, 3d airmail fee. Illustration kindly supplied by Richard Breckon.



16. Nine pence

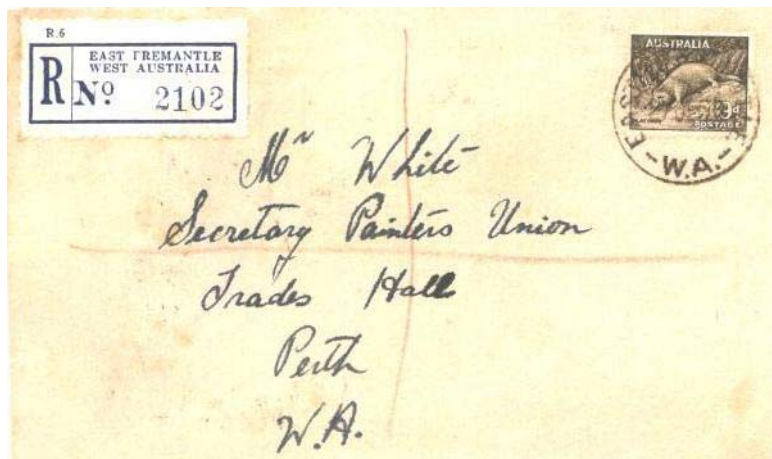
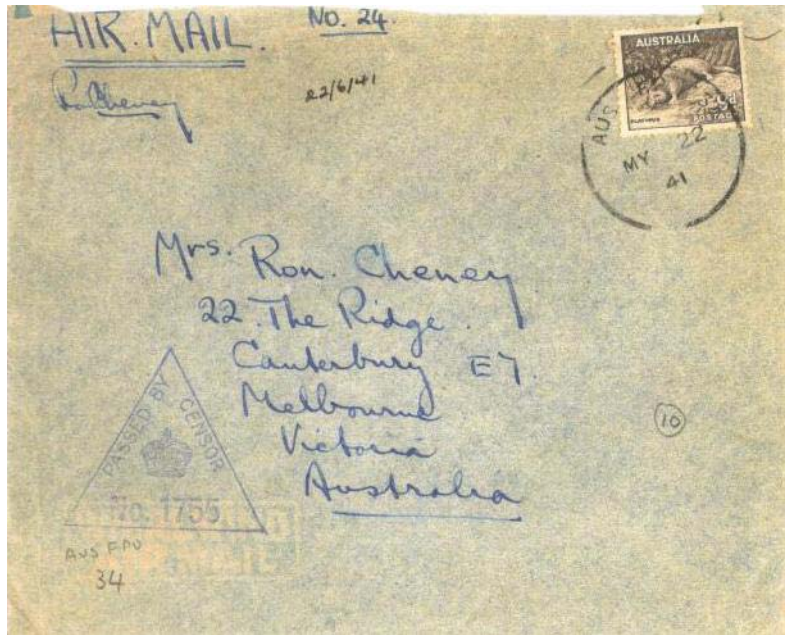
The history of this stamp is similar to that of the 6 pence. Of the two issues (1938, 1943), coloured brown, the stamp's first use was for parcels up to 2 pounds weight addressed to a place within 30 miles of the office of posting or up to 1 pound to a place over 30 miles from the office of posting within the same state.

It was also paid for airmail letters to nearer parts of Asia (illus 16.1). From November 1940 airmail letters could be sent at a concessional 9d rate to or from members of the armed services overseas (illus 16.2). Later uses were combined registration rate to Australia and the Empire (Dec 1950 - July 1951), express delivery fee (195? - 59) and registration fee (1951 - 56). It also paid for airmail postcards to UK, India, Burma, Ceylon, British Caribbean and British Africa, 1939 - 41. The 9d stamp also paid for airmail postcards to Europe, Middle East, Africa and parts of Asia 1945 - 52, and to USA and Canada 1947-52 as shown in illustration 16.6.

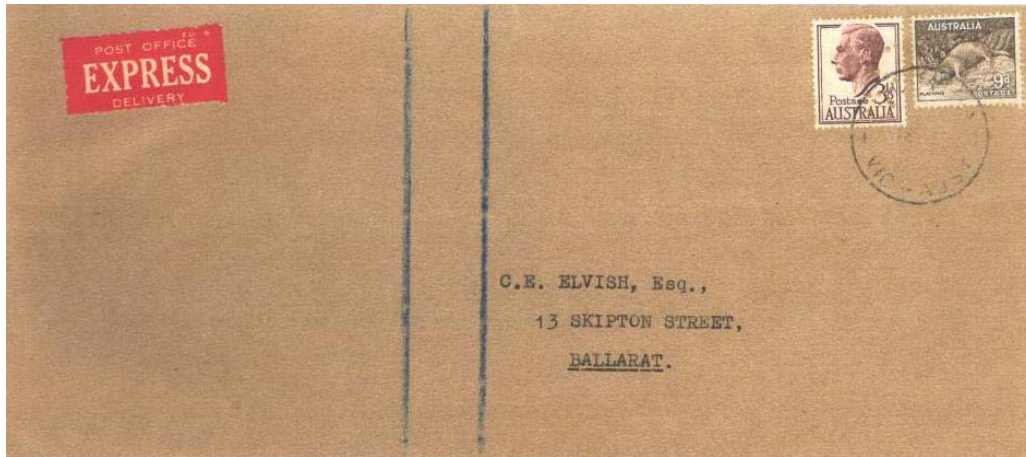


16.1 First issue, airmail to Dutch East Indies.

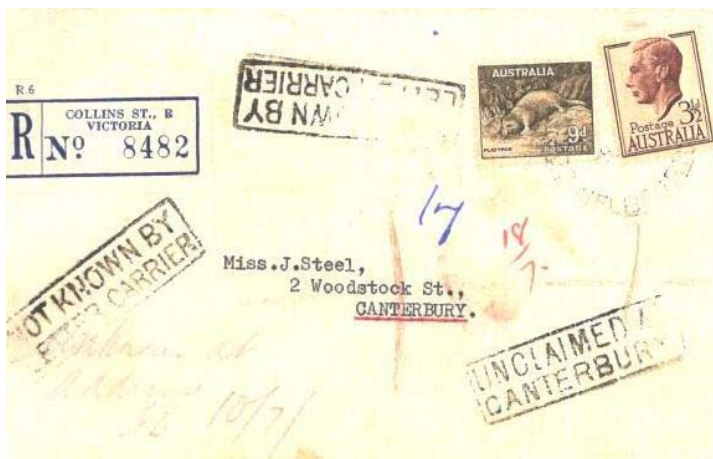
16.2 First issue, used by services personnel at concessional airmail rate, May 1941. This one probably from Tobruk or Libya.



16.3 Second issue, used for registration (6d) + 3d letter rate, Dec 1950.



16.4 Second issue punctured VG on plain envelope, used for payment of express-delivery fee.



16.5 Second issue used 1952 for 9d registration fee.



16.6 Second issue, used 1952, for airmail postcard to UK.

If readers have other interesting covers for the ½ d to 9d stamps that have not been shown in this series of articles, they may like to forward colour copies with captions or other comments to the editor for publication.

New Zealand Musings

By Tony Lyon

This article will reflect one of my pet hates. No I don't mean software that should never have been inflicted upon the world, although that is another irritation. No I mean auction estimates that do not reflect reality. Covers described as rare and then show three such covers on the first page of the catalogue (estimate NZD250). I have been going to raise this for a while but after MS Publisher played up for the umpteenth time I thought right, it is time.

In that most essential publication for collectors of New Zealand Military covers edited by Startup and Proud, on page 282 there is an entry for NZ FPO 5. The period in question is when it was located at Kafar Vitken, being 10.4.42 — 20.5.43, a period of just over one year. They gave it a rating of 500 which places covers from this period from FPO 5 in the scare category. However, and I am not being critical of their assessment at all; their valuation would have been based upon the covers they had seen up to that time. My assessment is that this rating is wrong. This is based upon the number of covers I personally have and the many I have seen in Auction catalogues and on Ebay and Trademe. But the myth of rarity continues. Surely a dealer, who can spot a rarity at 100 paces, begins to think to him/herself that maybe these are not as rare as they are thought to be, after handling dozens of them?

Kafar Vitken

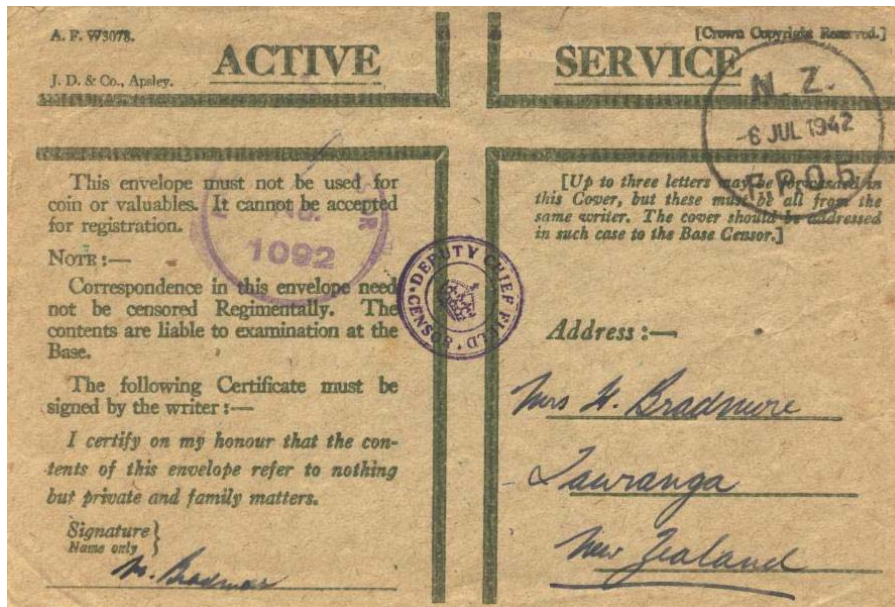
Kafar Vitken is located on the coast between Haifa and Tel Aviv. 1 NZ Convalescent Depot moved to Kafar Vitken 30 April 1942 with postal facilities provided by NZ FPO 5. It was located there for just over 12 months. All of the covers I have seen have the same Censor marking Crown over circle 1092 which is known used on covers from Secretary YMCA 2 NZEF, 1 NZ Con Depot, HQ 6 NZ Division and 14th Light A/A Regiment (Collyer 1988:208).



FPO 5 dated 12 Jul 1942 with censor 1092 also Deputy Chief Censor (applied Cairo) to Christchurch NZ



FPO 5 dated 24 NOV1942 with censor 1092 also Deputy Chief Censor (applied Cairo) . On the reverse a FPO 550 receiving cancel dated 29 Nov 1942. FPO 550 was allocated GHQ M.E.F 24.2.42 and used in Palestine 29.6.42 -2.5.43. There is also a double circle censor mark 124 and the cover has been resealed with a Base Censor tape.

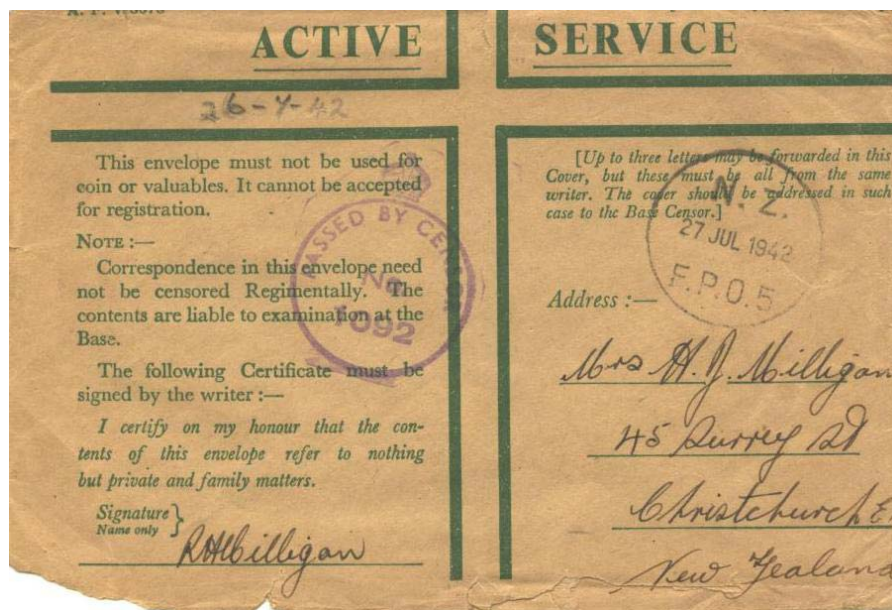


FPO 5 dated 6 Jul 1942 with censor 1092 also Deputy Chief Censor (applied Cairo) .

My research has concluded that Bradmore (NZ Service No 21140) was attached to the NZ 6 Brigade in some capacity. One cover I have from him shows R.H.Q. on the back. For some reason I think he may have been artillery (14 NZ LAA Regiment?).



Example dated 27 Jul 1942 sent at the airmail rate of 6d.



Example dated 27 Jul 1942 sent at the surface free.

No 1 Convalescent Depot had 2 NZ General Hospital in an adjoining area of Kafar Vitkin during June/July 1942 after the hospital left Nazareth. On the 26 July 1942 the Hospital transferred to El Ballah, Kantara West where it remained for 18 months. NZ FPO 4 served this hospital. Has anyone seen any covers from FPO 4 dated June or July 1942? (McKinney 1952:225-226). Soldiers were sent to No 1 Convalescent Depot from the hospitals and as such it is logical that covers from here could come from various units.

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- Startup R M and E B Proud. 1992. *History of the New Zealand Military Postal Services 1845 - 1991*. Heathfield East Sussex, UK: Postal History Publishing Co.
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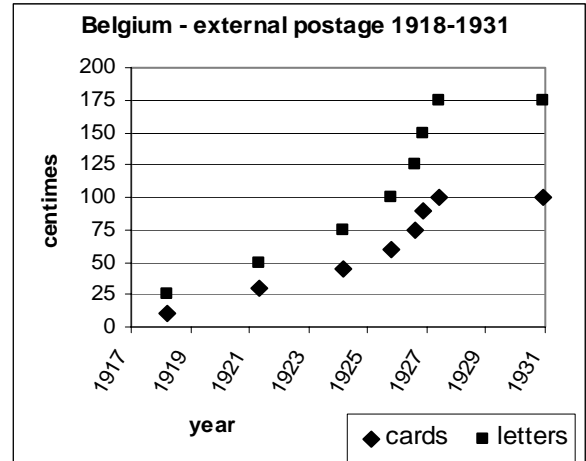
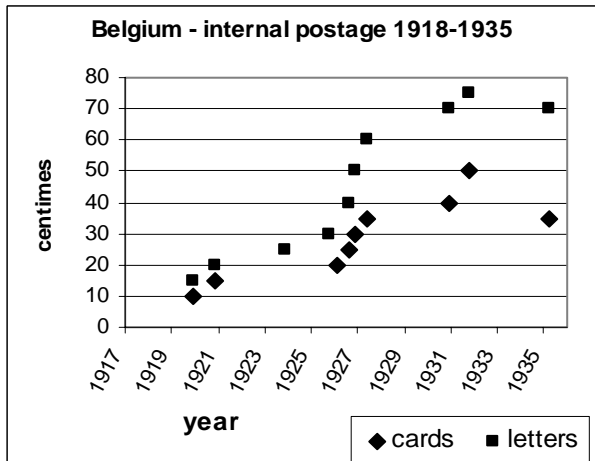
How Belgium's Soaring Postage Rates During the 1920s Affected Postal Stationery

By Michael Barden

Postage rates remained unchanged from 1907 until the occupying Germans raised them in the General Government zone in 1916 and again in 1918. Those from the German Army base areas to Belgium were always more expensive throughout the war. With the Armistice late 1918, these rates reverted to those from pre-war, but not for long.

Inflation during the 1920s affected much of Europe, the hyper-inflation suffered by Germany being the most severe. Some other countries such as France also suffered rising postage. But here, philatelically, it is Belgium which concerns me.

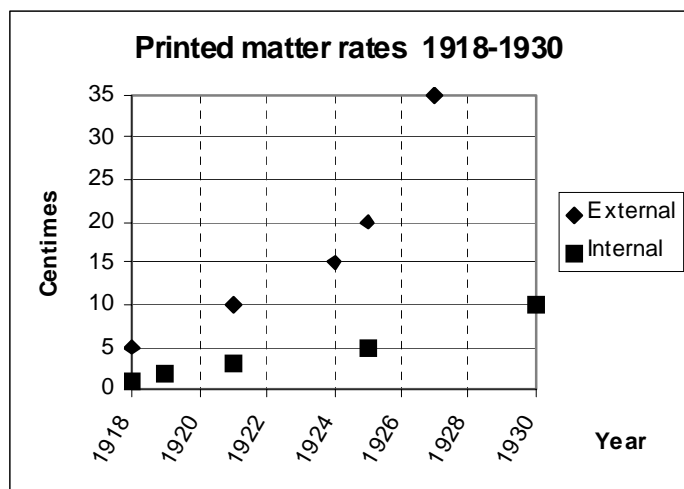
Increases until 1925/1926 were reasonably orderly, but from then until May 1927, there were three rapid and substantial increases in postage, both internally for and externally from Belgium. The graphs below illustrate the timing and show the magnitude of the values.



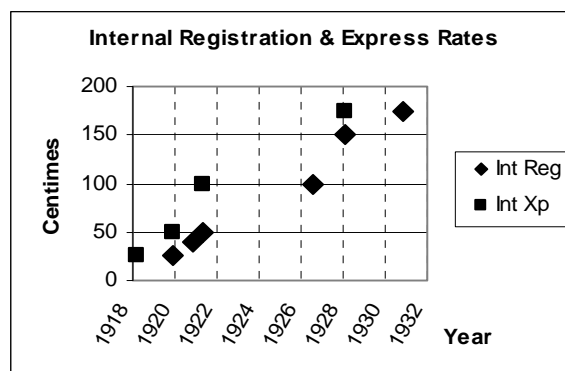
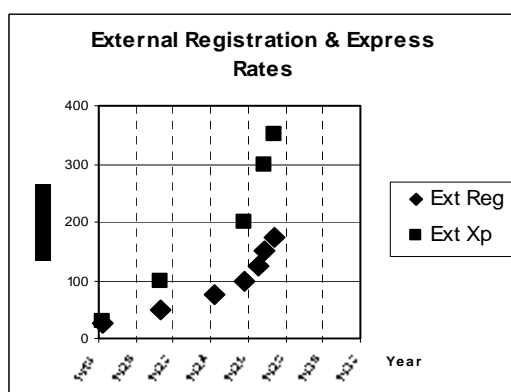
From 1930 onwards, internal postage seesawed a bit with the depression, rising a bit more in WW2, but external postage remained unaltered until September 1945 when it doubled.

Commercial printed matter (*Imprimés*) and postcards containing up to 5 words – other than the address – also felt these inflationary pressures.

Again external rates remained steady after 1927 until September 1945 when they doubled.



Registration and Express charges escalated likewise. External express charges became twice those for registration. Internally, they ended up the same, but still way up on 1918, as the following two graphs show:-



The rapid increases in postage rates put great strain on the Government stamp printers, L'Atelier du Timbre at Malines. Where stamps did not exist for a required new letter rate, they first surcharged obsolescent stock and later issued a new stamp for 'permanent' use, only to have to repeat this process shortly after. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the postal stationery.

When values changed sooner than planned (1926 period), stamps had to be used initially for the new values; then L'Atelier du Timbre overprinted the obsolete postal stationery. Lastly, they issued cards of the new value, but only in time to have to repeat the process all over again. Not having card issue dates closer than the year, I would expect that with the swift rises of 1926-1927 the new cards followed the next rise. If so, they would have been mostly overprinted and only issued for immediate use with extra stamps. Some more accurate dates may be revealing. Would any Belgian reader, who is closer than I to the new *Musée Postal* (is there one again?), be interested enough to enquire or research literature?

In 1920 the *Roi Casqué* cards superseded the 1915 Albert type, and again in 1922, the Houyoux series became the sole type printed. It should be noted that all postal stationery was bilingual with either French or Flemish leading, hence two types exist for each EP number. From 1927 tri-lingual postal stationery was issued for the Cantons of Eupen and Malmédy further adding to numbers and problems for L'Atelier du Timbre. At least the art work for each stamp was common. Only a value needed inserting.

Scanning auction listings, there are scarcely any offerings of either letters or postal stationery for 1926-1927. Either they are in short supply or closely held or both.

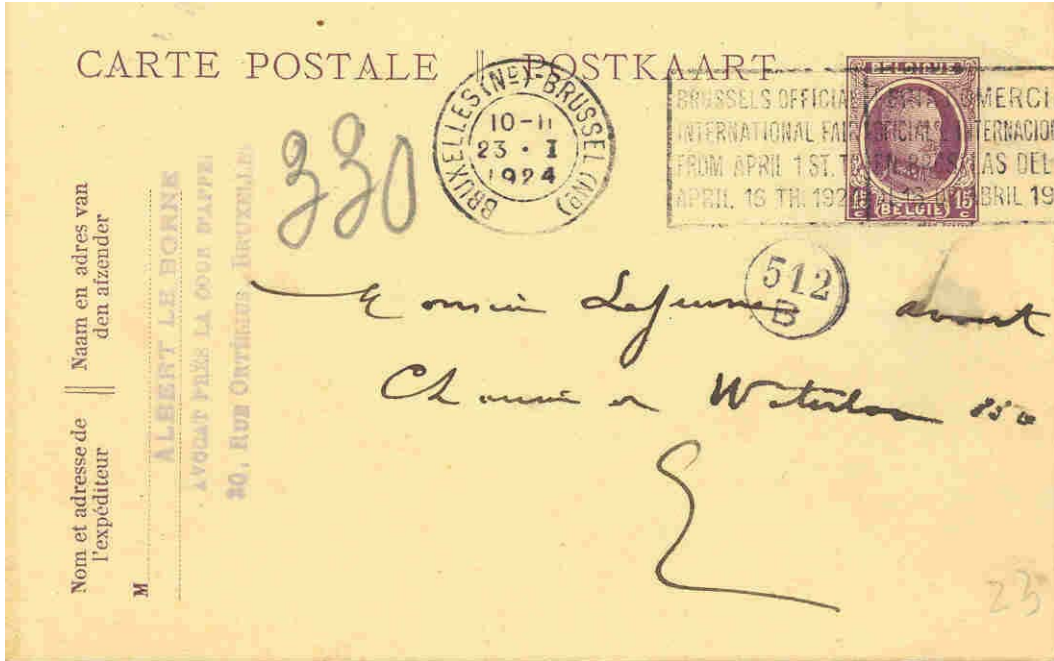
I wish now to show examples of both internal & external postal stationery. This segment has been completely rewritten from the original article. The original and more detailed version of this article was published in **Belgapost**, the journal of the Belgian Study Circle in Vol 17 (pp 22-31, 70-78 & 113-118) in 2004. It contains also two sections on letters used internally and abroad.

References.

1. **Les Entiers Postaux de Belgique**, Société de l'Entier Postal, Pro-post Brussels 1990
2. **Vade-Mecum du Philatelite Marcophile 1849-1920**, R. Silverberg, SALM Phila Club, Belgium 1983
3. **Catalogue Officiel de Timbres-Poste**, CPBNTF, Belgium 2002
4. **Tarifs Postaux 1849 – 1987, Service Intérieur**, E & M Deneumostier, Verviers 1987
5. **Tarifs Postaux Internationaux 1892 – 1988**, E & M Deneumostier, Verviers 1988

Internal cards could either be used at face value internally or up-rated for use abroad, whereas cards for use abroad were rarely used internally, being more expensive than internal letters. Internal cards were printed on buff cardboard, while those for use abroad were on blue cardboard.

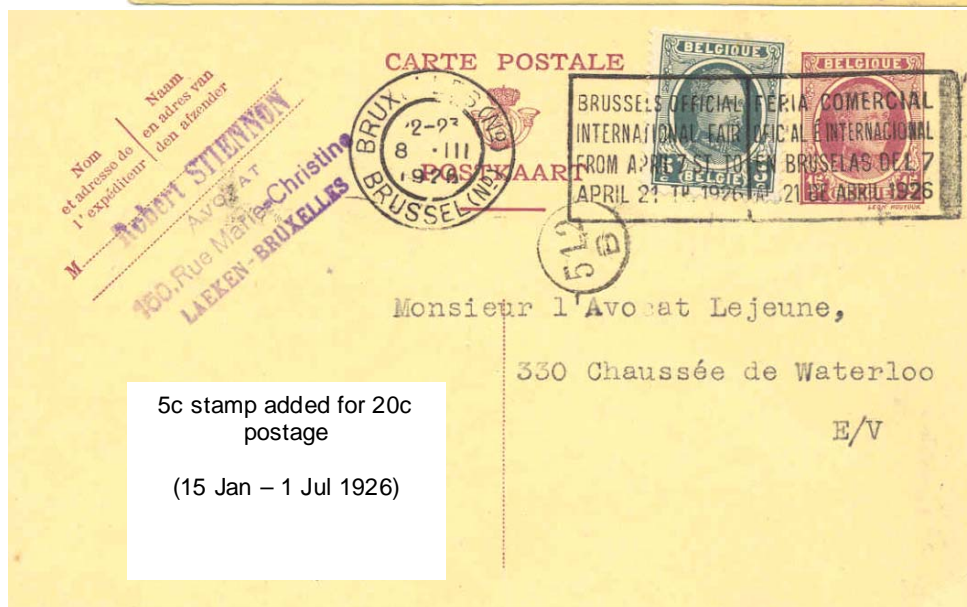
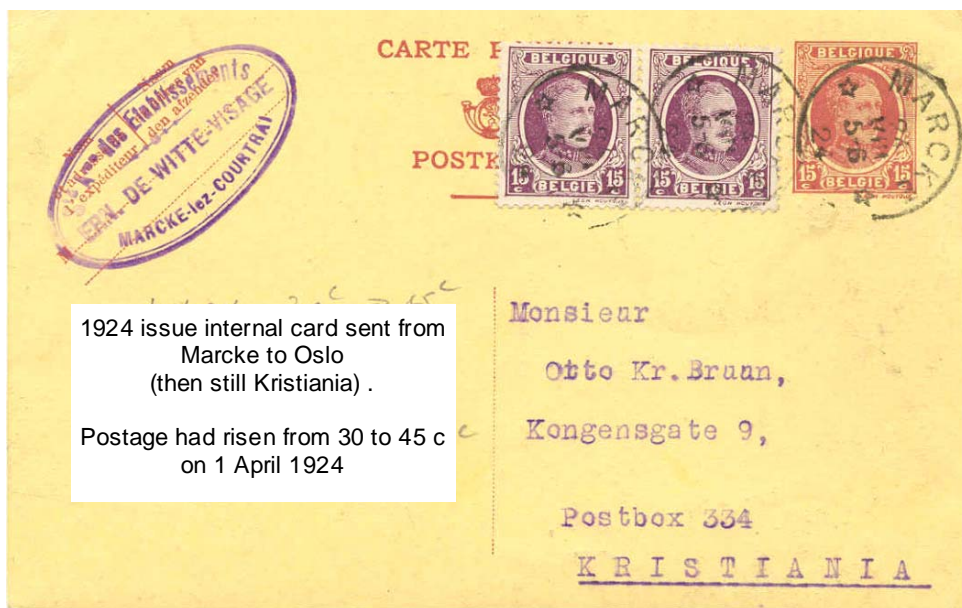
1. Internal Cards.

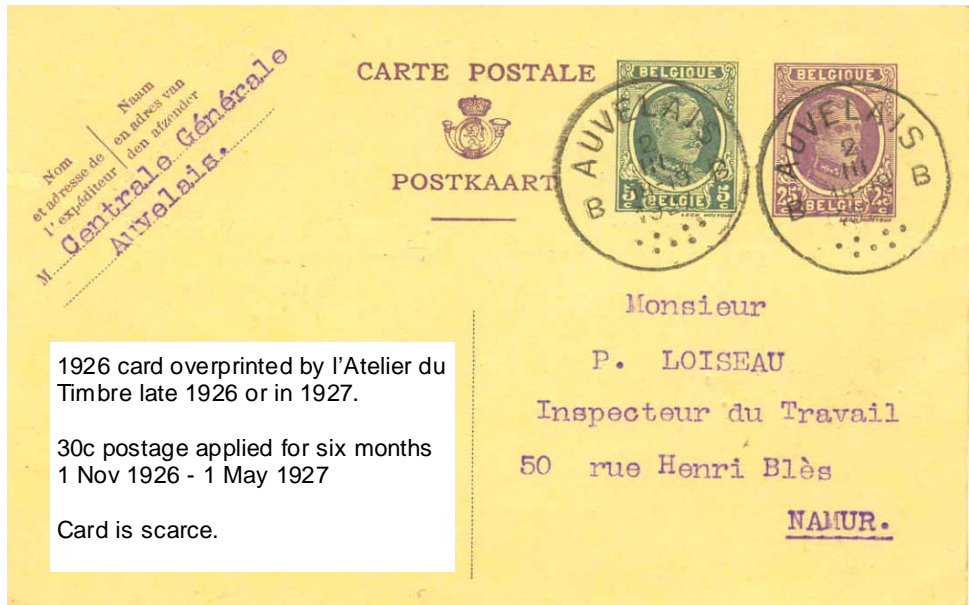


1922 style card used in 1924. Postage remained 15c until 14 January 1926



Same 1922 card used abroad but within the "rayon limitrophe". This limited distance applies within approximately 20 km of each side of an international border. In this case, the distance travelled totalled around 20 km. Only a 5c surcharge applied above internal use. This rate held until, 1 July 1926

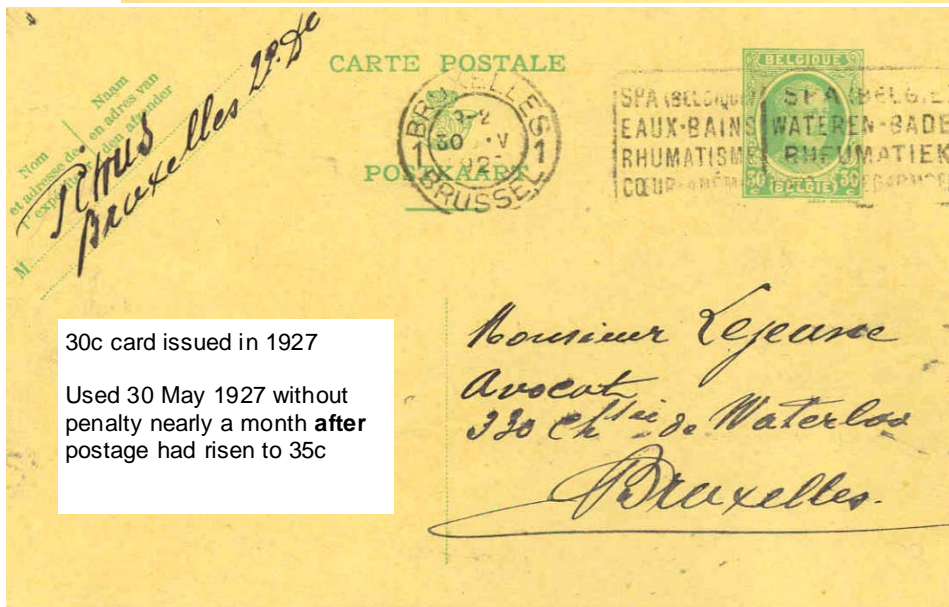




1926 card overprinted by l'Atelier du Timbre late 1926 or in 1927.

30c postage applied for six months
 1 Nov 1926 - 1 May 1927

Card is scarce.



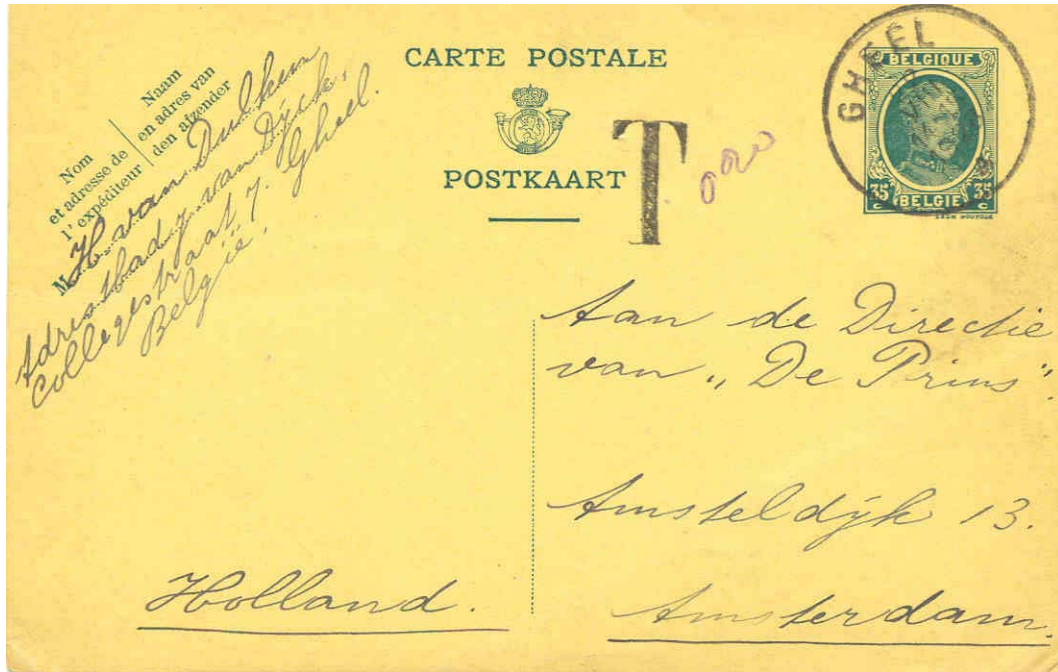
30c card issued in 1927

Used 30 May 1927 without penalty nearly a month after postage had risen to 35c



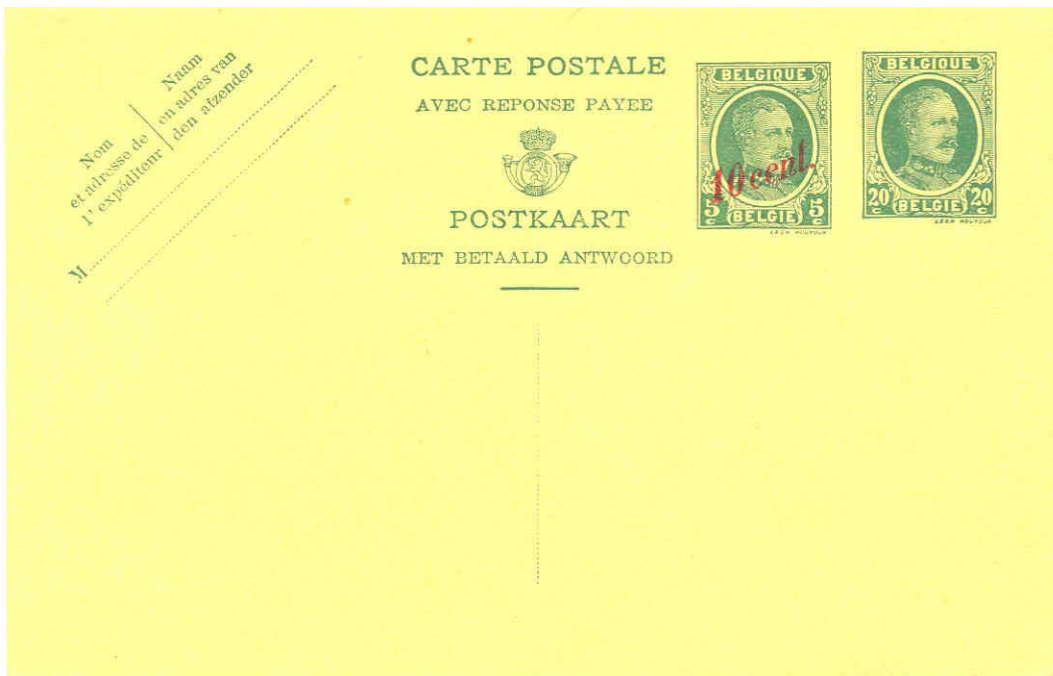
1927 issue card with additional 5c stamp added for 35c rate
 1 May 1927 - 1 Dec 1930

Used 20 Dec 1927



1928 issue card with attempted use as “rayon limitrophe” between Belgium and Holland. Rate for this was 35c, but Amsterdam is not within this zone, although Gheel is. Post office has added 20c (2 x shortfall), but this is incorrect as shortfall is 65c (2 x = 1,30 Fr).

Rapid rate changes seemed to cause personnel problems too!

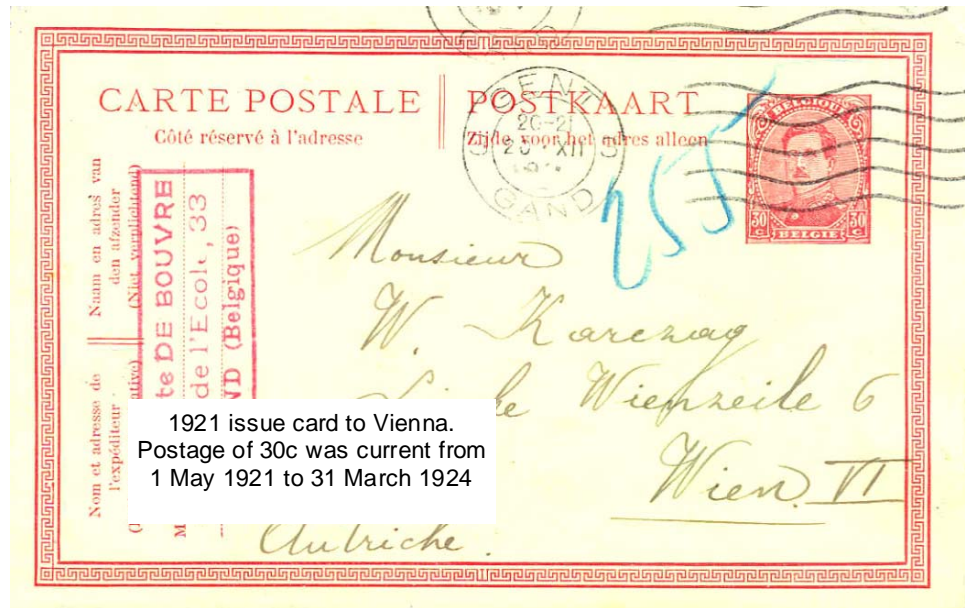


1926 reply-paid card, which was surcharged in 1927 to meet current 35c rate.

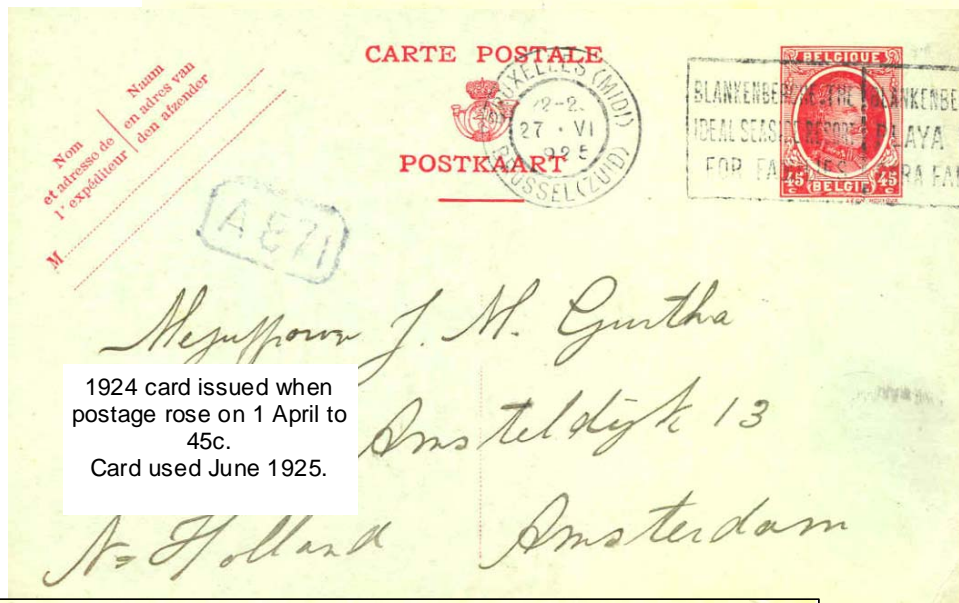
This lasted until 1 December 1930, when it became 40c.

L'Atelier du Timbre got two bites at this cherry.

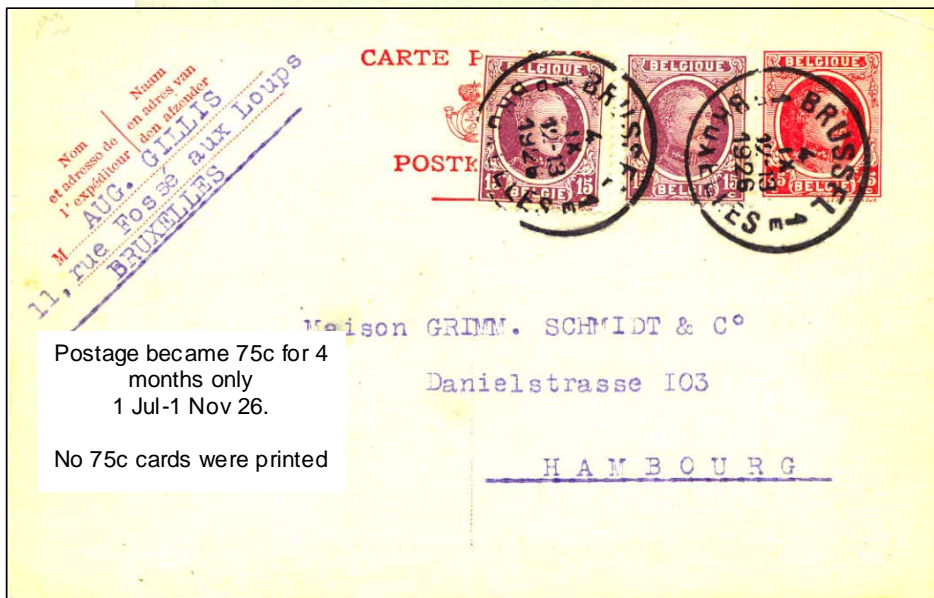
2. Cards for use abroad



1921 issue card to Vienna.
Postage of 30c was current from
1 May 1921 to 31 March 1924



1924 card issued when
postage rose on 1 April to
45c.
Card used June 1925.



Postage became 75c for 4
months only
1 Jul-1 Nov 26.
No 75c cards were printed

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held 20 August 2007

President David Brindle welcomed Members to the meeting. The Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting held 21 August 2006 were proposed by Mr Brindle and seconded by Ms Irene Kerry. They were carried as an accurate record of the proceedings. Mr Brindle then presented his report for the 2006-07 year.

PRESIDENTS NOTE

The AGM of August 2007 has been and gone and all very quietly at that, a small but interested attendance at the meet. Your current council "volunteered" to carry on and with no other nominations all were duly elected. It is difficult to find time to sit on the Council and I am sure that you are all happy to sit back and let the others do it. If that is the case then I am sure we will get more of the good presentations and active work from your Council, but no doubt, it would be better with your input.

I would like to thank all council members for their active participation, without them, we would be moribund. Our Secretary, John Lancaster keeps us all on the straight and narrow, the Treasurer John Steward has the best set of accounts for a society like ours. Then we have the very active and erudite Editor of our magazine in Tony Lyon, who has always put his best foot forward to present one of the better, if not the best (but then again I'm biased), Journals in Australia. Recent additions to the Council, Ruth and Tom O'Dea, have been very active with revamping our web site and with the help of a team from RMIT, we are now on the brink of going on-line again with your Society. Michael Barden works very hard at providing a diverse and very interesting programme of displays for each of our meetings, well done Mike. Two other members - Irene Kerry and John Young - beaver away in the background and are an important part of the Council. On behalf of all the members, I extend our thanks to you all for the past year and wish you well for the next. During the year, we had the resignations of Frank Pauer and Wayne Rankin from the Council.

Yes, we do have our reworked website just about there. Tom and Ruth plus the volunteer team from RMIT have done the hard yards and we are about to go back on line. Congratulations to you all and many thanks for the hard work so willingly given. And now a request: Articles for our Journal are always required and Tony will be only too happy to receive them, so please keep them coming people.

President's report: Mr Lyon moved that the report be published in the AJP, seconded by Mr Young.

Mr Young then presented his Librarian's report. He commented that not much has been borrowed from the Library over the past year, and which is quite a disappointing position, however reasonable considering so few Members now attend meetings. He suggested that another culling of material be undertaken with a view to either auctioning via Brighton, or simply dumping "the stuff" for recycling. He will prepare a detailed listing for consideration and action by Council.

Mr Brindle proposed that the report be accepted, and it was seconded by Mr Lancaster.

Mr John Steward submitted the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2006. These were circulated to all Members present.

Profit & Loss Statement for year ending 30 June 2007

	Income	2007	2006
	Joining fees	50	40
	Membership fees	2490	2500
	Advertising	400	290
	Bank interest	18	17
	Commission & Donations	128	112
	Total Income	\$3086	\$2959
Less			
	Expenses		
	Journal production & distribution	1465	2303
	Bank fees	-	2
	Insurance	55	55
	Website internet registration	-	39
	Printing, postage & stationery	31	56
	Rent	297	594
	Sundry expenses	109	252
	Total Expenses	\$1957	\$3301
	Surplus/Deficiency for year	\$1129	[\$342]

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2007

	Assets		
	Cash at bank	3792	2663
Represented by			
	Members funds		
	Members funds at 30 June 2006	2663	3005
	Surplus/deficiency for year	1129	[342]
		\$3792	\$2663

Membership

	2007	2006
Members at 1 July	98	97
Plus new members	6	7
Less resignations	8	6
Members at 30 June	96	98

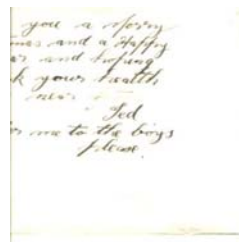
These reports together with that of the Auditor were proposed by Mr Steward and seconded by Mr Fuller. The Accounts were so accepted as an accurate record of the financial position of the Society as at 30 June 2007.

The Elections for Council were then conducted as detailed on the AGM notice. There being no other nominations, all were so elected unopposed. Mr Tom O'Dea was appointed webmaster. Mr Brindle proposed that Paul Briglia be re-appointed as Auditor for the forthcoming year, and this was seconded by Mr Fuller.

No 1 New Zealand Hospital Ship "Maunganui"

By Tony Lyon

A recent acquisition to my collection is this cover posted aboard the Maunganui and cancelled with NZEF Field Post Office which in turn has been overstruck with a EPP 22 receiving cancel dated 15 NO 41 at the Base Post Office, although Startup and Proud don't show this date. It known used at MPO KW 2 from the 30 Nov 1941. This would have been the Hospital Ships third voyage. The fourth voyage arrived in Egypt January 1942. The censor was Captain C R J Judson?

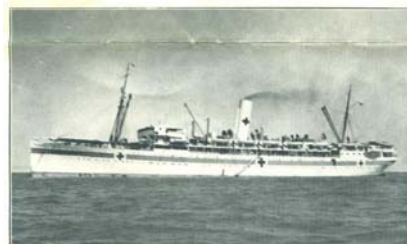


Christmas
Greetings

From

No. 1 New Zealand Hospital Ship
"Maunganui"

CHRISTMAS 1941



"MAUNGANUI"

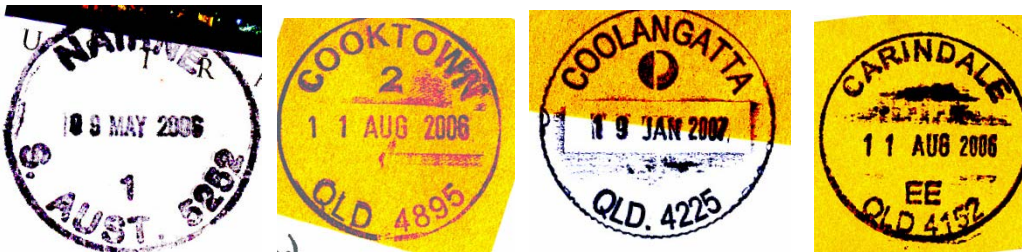
The cover contained the Christmas greetings card.

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

This month's preface is in response to Neville Solly of Yankalilla re "improving" illustrations of postmarks for inclusion in this column. While I take every care in producing these illustrations and checking the spelling, I have always realised that mistakes will occur. For this reason the illustrations should always be viewed that a new postmarker is now available from a particular post office. Now I will illustrate some postmarks in their original form including the one from NAIRNE to give everyone an idea what some originals look like and it is often very hard to make out the particular post office. One particular problem is that some are in particular colours that do not reproduce well in black and white. So Neville, I hope this will satisfy you as not all cancels are quite as clear as the one you illustrated and I would like to be able to add your name to the list of contributors to this column. Any other comments on how these cancels should be presented would be appreciated.

Here are 4 postmarks in their untouched state.



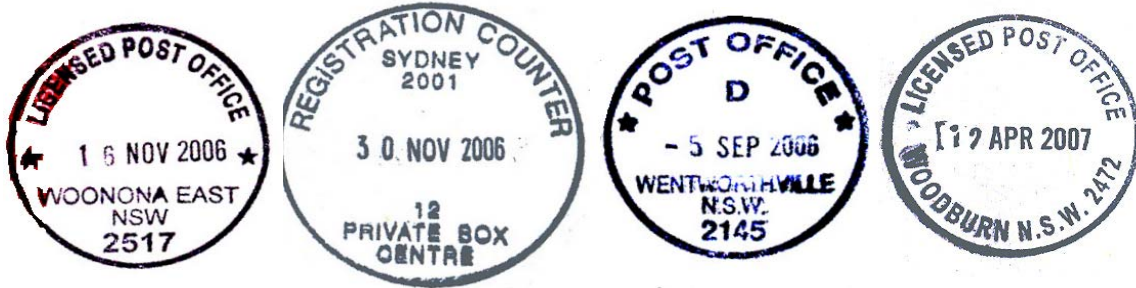
COOKTOWN

Many thanks to Richard Peck, Ian Cutter, John Treacy and Peter Dearie for their contributions to this column.

N.S.W.:-Earlier datestamps:- KINCUMBER (85/34), MALUA BAY(90/32).



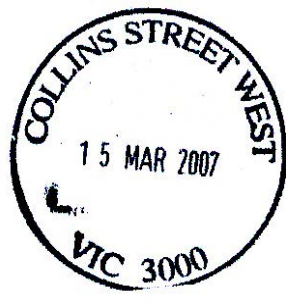
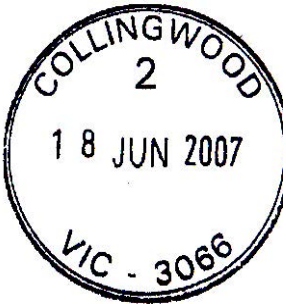
N.S.W.:- (cont.)



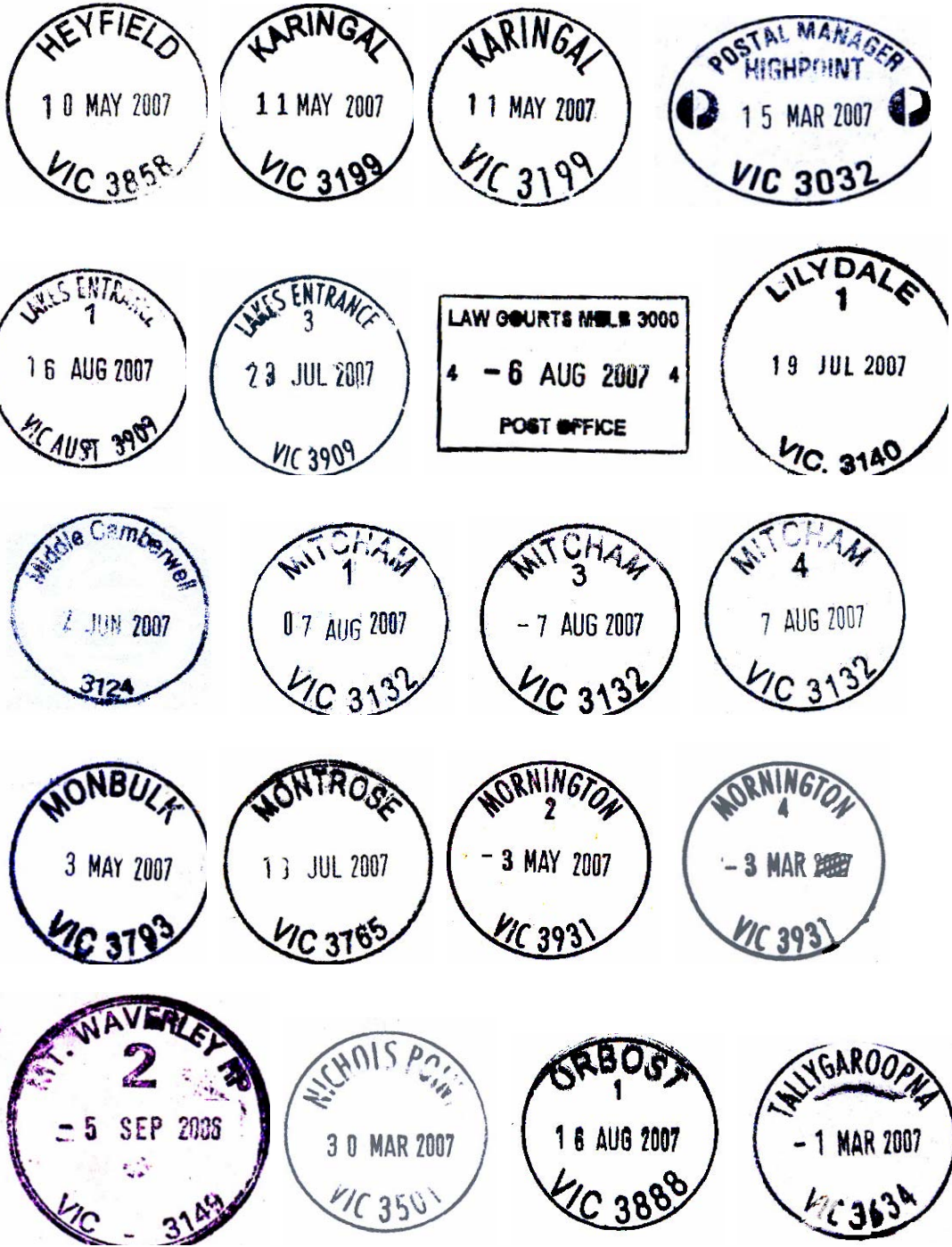
QLD:-INNISFAIL (SPARE) Interesting..Earlier datestamp:-BAMAGA(86/34)



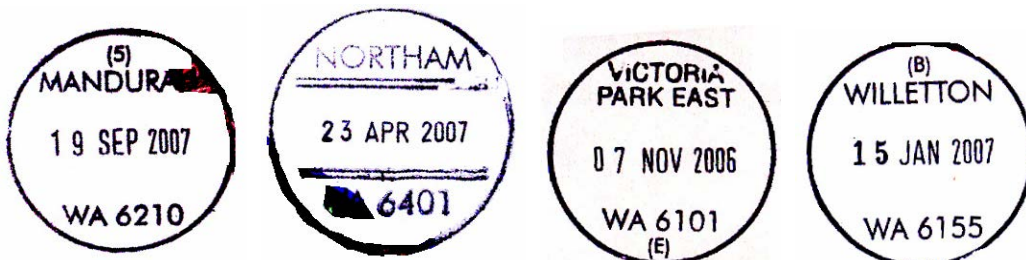
VIC:-MT. WAVERLEY –Also 3, Earlier datestamps:-BAIRNSDALE(76/34),COLLINS STREET WEST(96/33), MONTROSE(95/31), NICHOLS POINT (87/37), ORBOST(77/35), TALLYGAROPNA (97/29).



VIC:- (cont)



W.A.: - Earlier datestamp:-NORTHAM (83/37).



Urban Myths

By Harewood

September
2007

Pioneering migrants, occasional convicts and explorers opened up this vast land of ours in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. So what followed them?

Trade has existed since the emergence of man, and was the singular impetus for the development of postal services. Settlers and merchants needed to communicate, transact business and source and promote products. Roads then railways followed commercial development, with the postal services following. Shipping services were gradually expanded to meet the merchant's needs. The clear linkage between the posts, banking and market intelligence is no better exemplified than in the money letters that became the norm for transfer of financial, market and trading data, which became an accepted part of the postal system from the early 1830's. The **money letter** was a precursor to that of a **registered** letter. **Money letters** first appeared in Van Dieman's Land in the early 1830's and according to Dr G Kellow there are few money letters recorded. To use a term often utilised by bibliophiles and philatelists with a sinecure, such letters endorsed with the terminology "Money Letters" may therefore be rated as uncommon. The post office reports indicate that such letters went at normal postage rate, with perhaps any fee involved being paid in cash without indication of same on the entire. Victoria also had money letters from about the 1840's. Nineteenth century entires and covers can be found with the "**Registered**" marking either hand-written or with a handstamp allowing space for an appropriate number to be inserted. So why the historical comment upon the important issue of **registration**?

As one may expect Harewood has an extensive global contact and network. Quite a few of these worthy souls collect stamps and often request him to create a significant piece of **registered** postal history for their respective collections. He has a meteorological colleague in Toronto who's the global expert on "B" overprints of early Siam. Now this very kindly and co-operative soul sought Harewood's assistance in returning a certified piece by **registered** mail suitably affixed with \$1.85 REB international stamps and one of those remarkable large \$5 pieces that have depicted the £2 roo or the NSW blue 20/- Carrington. Harewood had sent an A4 envelope last December 2006 to this friend utilising the beautiful REB stamps. This was of course **registered** for it contained a number of forged "B"s! Now can you imagine his amazement and confusion when he visited his local LPO with a carefully crafted **registered** cover for his Toronto friend? Crafted is the operative word for it had a block of the REB as well as the \$5 blue NSW centennial!

They told him that **registered** inter-national is available only for letters that are enclosed in a **prepaid registered post inter-national envelope!** This bland piece is sold at \$10.60 and has apparently been in operation since September 2006. And there's no label either even if you wanted to send your own cover to an overseas collector friend! It was not ever thus! In conclave with several learned aficionados of the hobby, he was informed that you are not able to send registered mail to Germany – one has to wonder where else you are now prohibited from despatching beautifully crafted covers utilising the magnificent and pictorial stamps of Australia.

So who's responsible for this change? None other than the International Division of Australia Post – something to do with a body called UPU. Did they consult with the Philatelic Division within that august body? Well apparently not, for to quote from a senior APO official "We really want to get out of the stamps game!"

So gone are the days when you could send your own registered cover to your many global friends, relations and others. Now go

to it and badger and complain to your local LPO, APO contact and Federal MP Member. We're going to change politically so let's hope!

Harewood may now be contacted for comment, musings and aberrant humour at AustPhilSoc@gmail.com

Hullo and welcome to the very modern, new, sexy revamped and ACTIVE website – Go Look!

Harewood gains a cyber space blog?

This column is coming to you from the digital intelligence licensed laboratory deep within the bowels of the Technical Institute located somewhere outside the CBD fringes not far from the markets.

It's no wonder Harewood had an inordinate time in finding the DILL, for his satnav voice changed timbre so many times, as he circled the Victoria Market complex. Nevertheless, he was rewarded after locating Building 10, for within was the singular secret to the re-creation and revitalisation of the Society's website that had lain dormant for far too long. Readers will know that the Society has been without a functioning website for over two years.

Canberra was probably the first society to have developed a presence in cyber space. We took up this new technology in 1996 with Simon Alsop linking one of his sites so that at least we might be recognised cyber-wise. In October 1998 John Tolan succeeded in getting us www.aps.org.au and so we prospered quite conspicuously. This really was a very significant moniker – the envy of several global societies!

Sadly, John had to pursue his ecclesiastical duties in the more deprived sand belts of outer suburbia. And so we had to seek yet another master for our web services. We

believed we had a sound and reliable operator in July 2003, but in the passage of time this proved not to be so – it is damned near impossible trying to be a webmaster in Shanghai, who went missing in August 2005. So in January this year, the Society sought the help of the well-connected Harewood and his numerous contacts. He was gracious to be of some small assistance.

For, many light years ago when he was considerably younger and had not quite developed the insatiable habits he is now disposed too, he frequented the portals of a new university being established in Clayton. Being fascinated by the healthy beauty and prowess of the ladies basketball team, he took a singular shine to several of them – all tall and very fit ladies.

He will not regale you with the ribald stories of those halcyon days, but suffice to say that one of these pulchritudinous players has kept pace with him over the years. Ruth Walter, with an amazing computational intellect and veritable genius at mathematics. Her first job was with ABS but the public service bureaucracy soon had her joining IBM, where she met Mr O'Dea.

After Ruth left Big Blue, the idea of contracting attracted her, so followed stints with various government departments then as a lecturer at RMIT. We are now

benefiting from this connection, and of her close liaison with Astrid Bauers in the School of Computer Science and InfoTech. Astrid is project manager of a group of overseas students – all of whom already have degrees - from India and several other Asian countries. They are at RMIT to gain masters degrees. As part of their course work, they undertake projects on behalf of major corporations.

However, allow Harewood to digress just briefly. Over the years, he had been assured that most of the stuff you need to learn is pretty easy, and publishing a web site is nowhere near as difficult as it might seem. The concept of being able to expose your pearls of wisdom to millions of potential visitors worldwide may at first appear quite outlandish, but once you have a few key concepts under your belt, it can be as simple as pushing a button. Harewood soon learned that some of the stuff you need to learn will drive you crazy, and so he resigned himself to the fact you come across errors and stuff-ups that make absolutely no sense no matter how hard you try to figure them out. Sleep or walk out, light a cohiba or even select several glasses of shiraz. Some solution will come eventually [unless that's your sixth glass, in which case it's time to go to bed, anyway].

Therefore, we sought advice about getting good software. Unless you believe cutting the lawn with a pair of nail scissors is good for the soul, you won't want to get too involved with hand-coding HTML, the scary-looking gibberish that sits behind web pages. Ideally, find people with exceptional web design skills instead and a lawnmower as well if you need one!

Many eons ago, Harewood was advised that the only place for a software manual was the bin. Instructed to not even bother opening any manual that comes with software, rather, go directly to the nearest bookstore and get a copy of the appropriate "How To" manuals. If there isn't an edition available for the software, consider the Complete Idiot's or Dummies Guide series. Take it from one who persevered with the manual for way too long.

In January we started to plan, and plan, and planned it some more. We needed a

complete overview of how the whole thing hangs together and how the navigation will work before even firing up a computer. It was Mr O'Dea that made sure we had all our content - words and images - finalised before beginning to rebuild our site. He constantly reassured us not to complicate things; since content was to be the strategic mantra. He made us leave all the bells and whistles, spinning doodads and fly outs, pop-up multicoloured frippery to all the other idiots out there who haven't a clue. He made us think clean, neat, and informative. The Society is now very much indebted to Mr & Mrs Tom O'Dea for having taken up the challenge last January of trying to make sense of a website that was once housed in California.

When the O'Dea's, accompanied by your President and Harewood, made a presentation to the students, we were up against City of Melbourne, Telstra, IBM and several others. Five of them were attracted to our project and offered to undertake the website development in their own time. We are very much indebted to Astrid and to the APS Team of Anubha, Chintan, Varun, Payal and Vishal – who are all from India.

Those of you who came along to the Society's AGM last month would have had the opportunity of meeting the APS Team as well as the new web masters of Ruth and Tom. The site is now up and functioning again. However, there is still some further tinkering to be done behind the scenes, which will not affect those of you who are more distant and wish to make contact once again.

Eventually we plan to have a member forum where people will seek advice, comment and exchange views. One of the first to e-mail us was George Bowman of California who sought advice about ship mail datestamps. This will be the first to be put into the member forum. Such queries will then become an ongoing archive of information.

The sense of achievement in releasing our revised and updated content on the wired population is enormous. Even if you're a normally cool, laid-back kind of person, Harewood defies you not to jump up in the air and shout "Alleluia!" when it all finally

works. Moreover, no, Harewood will not more comment, gossip and innuendo, just let reveal the address of his site - he just can't Harewood know by e-mail to handle the criticism.

AustPhilSoc@gmail.com

Sometime in the near future the Society may consider franchising the brilliant IP for the use of other clubs, groups, societies and geriatrics. It is almost time for some luncheon nibbles followed by an afternoon siesta so Harewood believes it's time to farewell the adroit computer specialists. For

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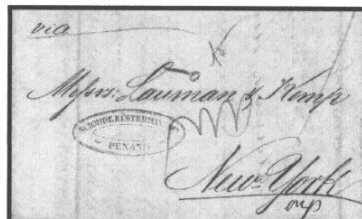
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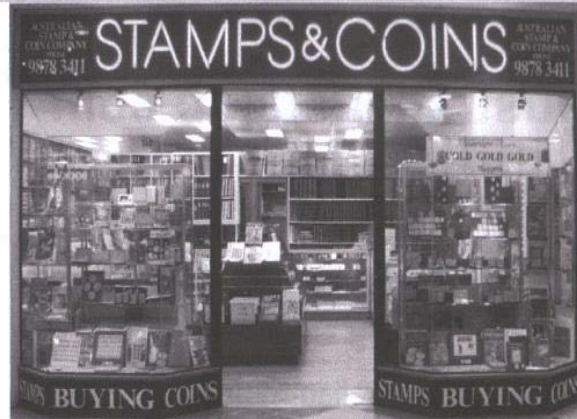
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What YOU can do to help the Australian Philatelic Society

- ◆ Sign up a new member
- ◆ Write an article for the Journal (Better still, write two!)
- ◆ Send the Editor any interesting philatelic news
- ◆ Come to the monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- ◆ Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- ◆ Get involved in one of the Study Groups
- ◆ Enter the Society Competitions
- ◆ Volunteer to display your collection at the monthly meeting
- ◆ Ensure the Council receives your feedback and suggestions for the Society

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