MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

Ian McMahon

Welcome to the first Newsletter of the Postal Stationery Commission for 2020, a year that promises to be very busy philatelically.

Also, welcome to new delegate Sam Chiu from Canada.

It is now only a few months until London 2020, International Stamp Exhibition which will be held at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London from Saturday 2 May 2020 until Saturday 9 May 2020. The Commission is planning to have a meeting and Seminar at London 2020 2-4pm on Friday 8 May. I will email details once they have been confirmed. London 2020 will undoubtedly have a strong Postal Stationery class and I look forward to seeing you there.

The FIP Congress, including a meeting of the Postal Stationery Commission, will take place at INDONESIA 2020 which will be held 6-11 August 2020 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Commission meeting will include the election of members of the Postal Stationery Commission Bureau for 2020-24.

A third FIP exhibition, Bulgaria 2020, will be held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 29 September – 4 October 2020.

The next FIAP exhibition will be NZ2020 International Stamp Exhibition which will be held 19-22 March 2020 at the Ellerslie Event Centre in Auckland, New Zealand. There will also be a FIAP Exhibition in Taipei 23-27 October 2020.

There will be FIAF exhibitions, SPM Expo, in St Pierre, St Pierre and Miquelon in June 2020 and in Ecuador, EXFIGUA 2020, in September 2020.

Finally, a reminder for delegates to pass on this newsletter and other information from the Commission to postal stationery judges, exhibitors and collectors in your country and to generally promote exhibiting and collecting postal stationery.

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ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

On page 31 is a list of all of the Commission Delegates and their contact details. If there are any changes to the delegate list or of contact details please let me know. My email is ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com. It is important that our email contacts are up to date. Email address which appear to no longer work are marked by ‘(?)’ in the list. If you know of the correct email address for these delegates please let me know.
The number of reports and other material we are receiving for the newsletter from Commission Delegates has continued to decline and we have not heard from many delegates for a long time. I would urge all delegates to contribute to the newsletter with reports of their country’s activities as well as book reviews and articles on postal stationery. I would be especially interested in hearing from you how you promote the exhibiting and collecting of postal stationery as well as the results of postal stationery exhibitions at Exhibitions in your country.

**FIP Jury Academy**

The FIP Jury Academy was again held in Toronto, Canada 15-17 October 2019. Congratulations to FIP postal stationery judges, Bernie Beston, Ross Towle, Steve Schumann and Dan Walker, on completing the course. The Academy will next be held in England before London 2020. I am pleased to see that about 20 of FIP Postal Stationery Judges have now completed the Academy.

If you are interested in becoming better at judging and giving feedback (and I hope all of our postal stationery judges are!), I urge you to undertake the Academy training and advise the FIP Secretariat (Email: kelly@f-i-p.ch) of your wish to be included in a future Jury Academy.

**FIP Postal Stationery Commission Facebook Page**

- The FIP Postal Stationery Commission has a Facebook page
- We currently have over 200 members
- We update it with news on exhibiting and judging postal stationery
- You are all invited to join the page – search on Facebook for: "FIP Postal Stationery"

**News from the Delegates**

**Finland**

By: Tuomo Koskiaho

New find old Finnish postal stationery:

A new variety of Finland's stationery with two stamp imprints (1860 5 kop and 1856 5 kop) has been found. There are two watermarks in the new variety: French lily and part of the (TERVAKOSKI)I watermark (letter I) on the same envelope. The first discovery was made in 2017 (Juhani
Pietilä) and the other this year (Ari Hämäläinen).

The illustrations are from the latter, left is an unused envelope and in the illustration on the right you can see both watermarks. The watermark (Tervakoski) is in the topmost area of the flap.

**Exhibitions:**

Nordia 2019 exhibition: Jussi Tuori received a gold medal (91 points) with his collection "The first postal stationery issues of independent Finland"

Stockholmia 2019 exhibition, Non-Competitive Exhibition Classes, Juhani Pietilä "FINLAND, POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES 1845-1888"

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**JAPAN**

By: Fumio Yamazaki

I am pleased to report that there were two exhibits of Postal Stationery at the 54th Japan Philatelic Exhibition 2019 (Japex 2019) held at Tokyo Metropolitan Industrial Trade Center Taito-Kan 4th Floor and 5th Floor from 15th to 17th November, 2019 from my previous report in July of this year.

1. Postal Stationery of Japanese Occupation Naval Occupied Area by MORIKAWA Tamaki, who received a Large Gold Medal of 90 points.
2. Koban Postal Card by SETTA Hiroshige, who got a Large Vermeil medal of 82 points.

As for the National Philatelic Exhibition, we will hold the Philatelic Exhibition “Stampex 2020” at the Postal Museum from 6th to 10th March, 2020. The exhibition will be only 100 frames, so that the exhibition will be expected to choose only the best exhibits. The jurors of this exhibition will be FIP accredited jurors. The exhibits classes are Traditional, Postal History and Postal Stationery.

About London 2020, Only one Postal Stationery was accepted as follows:

1. Aerogrammes of Ethiopia 1951-1974 by INOUE, Kazuyuki

About Philanippon 2021, the venue will be decided soon. We hope that all of us will meet together there.

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**NEW ZEALAND**

NZ2020 International Stamp Exhibition (FIAP)

NZ2020 Stamp Exhibition, an Asian international exhibition, will be held 19-22 March 2020 at the Ellerslie Event Centre, Auckland. The Exhibition will include a strong postal stationery class. More details can be found at https://www.nz2020.nz/.
SOUTH AFRICA
By: Emil Minaar
South Africa will hold Cape Town International Stamp Exhibition 2021, a FIP specialised exhibition, on 17-20 March 2021 at the Cape Town International Convention Center. For further information see https://capetown2021.org/. The Exhibition has produced a series of pictorial postal stationery postcards to assist the Exhibition. Please see the advertisement elsewhere in this newsletter for ordering details. The reverse of the cards features attractive illustrations of South African birds based on original artwork by Mrs. Julia Birkhead.

UNITED KINGDOM
By: Michael Smith FRPSL
The Postal Stationery Society
The AGM of the society was held on Saturday 19 October 2020 at the new premises of The Royal Philatelic Society, 15 Abchurch Lane, London.

The Tony Chilton competition was judged by Mike Smith, the winner being Neil Sargent.

The next meeting will take place on Saturday 4 April 2020, again at the Royal Philatelic Society with the speaker being Sandeep Jaiswal on the subject of British India Queen Victoria Postal Stationery.

USA
By: Report – Ross A Towle
The United Postal Stationery Society continues to publish the bimonthly journal Postal Stationary, books, and e-publications. The Lipman Postal Card – Forerunner From Philadelphia by Robert Toal and Catalogue of United States Stamped Envelopes Essays and Proofs edited by Dan Undersander have recently be released. Deposits are being taken for the 2nd edition of The Western Express Companies 1850-1890 which will be printed in April 2020. It contains 166 additional pages to the 1st edition.

The 2019 United Postal Stationery Society Champion of Champions competition was not held for logistical reasons. The 2019 and 2020 Champion of Champions competition will be held at OKPEX in Midwest City, OK on June 26-27, 2020.

The UPSS continues to make the UPSS Single Frame Award and Marcus White Award available to all American Philatelic Society World Series of Philately shows.

AUSTRALIA
By: Ian McMahon
Stamp News articles on Postal Stationery

I have been writing a series of articles on postal stationery in the Australian stamp magazine, Australasia Stamp News, and have covered a variety of topics including Honduras.
aerograms, 150th Anniversary of the First Postal Card, St Pierre and Miquelon postal stationery, new Australia Post issues, auction results, postal stationery literature, exhibiting and reports of meetings.

2019 National Exhibitions

**Aeropex 2019:** Aeropex 2019 was a specialised air mail national exhibition held in Adelaide at the Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall on 6-8 December 2019 (Figure 1). This date was chosen to commemorate the centenary of the first flight from England to Australia by Ross and Keith Smith which brought the first international air mail to Australia. The Exhibition included eight aerogramme exhibits:
- Indian Aerogrammes (Madhukar Jhingan, Vermeil).
- Australian Airletters & Aerogrammes 1944 to 1965 (Frank Pauer, Large Gold).
- Australian Aerogrammes 1966-1981; Note Printing Branch Era (Frank Pauer, non-competitive display).
- Air Letters and Aerograms of Canada (Ian McMahon, Large Gold).
- Australia 10c 3 Flap Definitive Aerogramme (Joan Orr, Large Vermeil).
- Belgian Aerogrammes - The Complete Story (Jenny Roland, non-competitive display).
- The Air Letters of Sierra Leone 1944-1971 (Geoff Kellow, Gold).

*Frank Pauer (above) Receiving his Large Gold Medal for his Exhibit of Australian Airletters and Aerograms from Martin Walker*

**Hobart Stamp Show National One-frame Exhibition**

The 2020 one-frame competition will be held 13-15 November 2020 in Hobart. See hobotstampshow2020.com.au

**Aeropex 2019 Souvenir Postcard and P-stamp (top and centre) and Peter Fink’s private aerogramme (bottom) for the 75th Anniversary of Australia’s First Aerogramme (left and centre).**

**Canberra Stampshow 2020**

The national postal stationery competition for 2019 will take place at Canberra Stampshow 2020 which will be held at the Hellenic Club Woden, Canberra on 13-15 March 2020. More information on the Exhibition can be found at available at http://canberrastamps.org/canberra-2020/. There will be at least eight postal stationery exhibits at the Exhibition including exhibits of Sudan, East Africa, Natal, Indian aerogrammes, New Zealand lettercards, Australian Animal pre-stamped envelopes, and Australian aerogrammes.

**Australian Participation in Overseas Exhibitions**

**Milcopex 2019:** USA National Exhibition 20–22 Sept 2019: Bernie Beston received a Vermeil for Sudan - The Postal Stationery
Postal Stationery Society of Australia

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia (PSSA) met at Aeropex 2019 on the morning of Saturday 7 December 2019 with the meeting having the theme *Aerogramme Mania*. Some 22 members and visitors attended. The meeting included talks and displays on the New South Wales Handbook (Dingle Smith), and aerograms including Frank Pauer (Australian Airletters & Aerograms 1944 to 1965), Madhukar Jhingan (Indian Aerogrammes), Joan Orr (Papua and New Guinea Aerogrammes), Aerogramme Miscellanea (Ian McMahon) Martin Walker (Burma/Myanmar Aerogrammes). After the formal talks, attendees went to the aerogramme exhibits in the frames where the exhibitors present took them through their exhibits.

The next meeting of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia will meet at Canberra Stampshow 2020.

An index of the Postal Stationery Collector, the Journal of the PSSA, for 1995-2011 prepared by Derek Brennan can be found on the Society’s website at https://postalstationeryaustralia.com/postal-stationery-information/. The index includes tables by author, by title of article, by type of postal stationery and by the contents of each issue.

The Postal Stationery Collector, the Journal of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia, has reached a major milestone with the publication of Issue No 100. The Journal was first published in May 1995 (Figure 1) and is published four times a year. It seeks to be a source of information of collectors of postal stationery as well as providing the means for members to share their own discoveries. It was awarded a Vermeil medal at the Asian Exhibition Singpex 2019 and a Large Vermeil at the New Zealand National Literature Exhibition in 2019.
FOCUS AREAS FOR THE FIP POSTAL STATIONERY COMMISSION TO 2020

The Postal Stationery Commission has been working on the six projects that the bureau identified for the years 2012-2016, and at the commission meeting in Taipei all delegates participated in a workshop where suggestions could be raised for future projects.

The projects towards 2020 are the following:

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| **Project 1: Newsletters**  
We will continue to issue our commission newsletter with information on exhibition results, articles on exhibiting etc. The Newsletter will be issued twice a year | Ian McMahon, Editor of newsletter |
| **Project 2: Videos on YouTube**  
We will make one or more videos of seminars or other information about postal stationery exhibiting and publish it in YouTube | Ian McMahon, Project responsible  
Yu-An Chen |
| **Project 3: Commission Facebook page**  
We will make a Facebook page for the commission and open up for dialogue between exhibitors, jurors and the commission | Project responsible  
Ian McMahon & Juan Reinoso |
| **Project 4: Commission Website Update**  
The commission website needs an update with a new layout.  
The content will be converted to the new website, while the overview and navigation will become easier. | Ross Towle, Project responsible  
Michael Smith |
| **Project 5: Seminars & New Presentations**  
We will develop a new version of the general presentation on judging postal stationery.  
We will also develop new supplementary presentations about special areas within exhibiting and judging postal stationery | Project responsible  
Igor Pirc |

POSTAL STATIONERY RESULTS FOR RECENT FIP AND CONTINENTAL EXHIBITIONS

**Buenos Aires 2019**
Buenos Aires 2019 was a FIAF exhibition held in Buenos Aires on 26-31 August 2019. Gold medals were awarded to Alberto Villaronga (Argentina) for Argentine Postal Stationery 1876-1906 and to Jose Carlos Rodriguez Pinero (Spain) for Postal Stationery of Mexico ‘Series Multas’.
**FUTURE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS**
Planned international exhibitions with a Postal Stationery class. Please note that not all exhibitions are confirmed. The dates shown are subject to change.

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ARTICLES

POSTCARD CORRESPONDENZKARTE – LISTNICA 1871-1875
BILINGUAL GERMAN-SLOVENIAN ISSUES, TYPES AND VARIATIONS
By: Igor Pirc

Introduction
The Habsburg Austrian Postal Administration was the first in the world to introduce in 1869 the postal card as a wide-spread open-message carrier. It accepted the proposal prepared by dr. Emanuel Herman – to implement an open-message correspondence card with value imprint - contained within a study on the functioning of the Austrian Post. One should recall also that four years earlier the Prussian high postal councillor Heinrich Stephan made a non-formal proposal to the members of the 5. Conference of the Postal Union in 1865 in Karlsruhe to introduce an open Correspondenz card (Postkarte) with the value imprint....

The »Correspondenz-Karte«, its official name, obtained an unimagined success – already in October 1869 1.4 million postcards have been sold. The much lower rate compared to that for letters (2 instead of 5 Kreutzer) helped a lot to its popularity. The first postal cards had a smaller size than the later standardised ones, and were printed on yellowish paper in order for the postal manipulation effects not to be noticed.

Early use of the unilingual 1869 issue, 21.Oct. ADELSBERG
At the beginning the postal card was in use only on the territory of the Monarchy. Later on, the Bern postal agreement (July 1, 1875) extended the validity to 21 countries and the UPU Agreement (June 1, 1878) almost to the whole world, in parallel with the introduction of postal cards also in other countries (until 1888 already 36 countries have adopted it).

1. Bilingual Postcard Correspondenz-Karte - Listnica
Austria-Hungary was a multinational Monarchy, therefore in 1871 the decision was taken to introduce bilingual postal cards: German along with Bohemian, with Italian, with Polish, with Ruthenian and with Slovenian. Between 1871-75 four issues with the Slovenian name Listnica have been printed.
There are basic differences among these four issues of the Correspondenz-Karte / Listnica, to be found in the pre-printed text on the rear and front side:

a) First bilingual issue 1.7.1871

Front side of the first issue – bilingual name and address instructions

Rear side - bilingual date line on the upper left side

b) Issue Nov 1871
Front side unchanged; rear side - bilingual date line on the upper right side
c) Issue Oct. 1872
Front side unchanged, rear side without the pre-printed text

d) Issue 1872/73
Front side, in the right lower corner - language annotation in brackets (Slov), rear side w/o preprinted text
The research about the whole quantity of the first postal cards, charmingly named *Gelblinge* (The Yellowish ones) in Austria, has a very long history. Already in 1928 the Berlin Catalogue Ascher evidenced 67 different types. Later on 17 additional types have been found.

The Slovenian bilingual cards have also some of both general and specific characteristics, which I have researched based on those in my collection. Some of my additional findings can be probably explained as a consequence of the correction of the printing matrix during the print of the multitude of cards and, therefore, not necessarily to be catalogued as a new type.

2. Pattern sequences in the inner ornamental frame
The Inner ornamental frame consists of the rhombuses and dots (◊ ●), running around the inner field in a various sequence. They are distinguished first of all by the position of the dots around each of the four corner rhombuses.

Varieties of the inner frame, as well as damages in the form of the broken frame, are the result of the collision between the matrix of the frame and the text (black print), but more probably due to the huge quantities printed, that required repeated changes of the setting for each single language variation.

Out of the 84 (67 and 17, as mentioned earlier) types related to all Correspondenz-Karte printings, there are basically seven types found in the bilingual Slovenian issues: type 1 in all four issues, type 2 in the third issue, and types 3-7 in the fourth issue.

a) *Correspondenz-Karte / Listnica, issue 1.7.1871*

   **Type 1**
   
   b) *Correspondenz-Karte / Listnica, issue Nov 1871*

   **Type 1**
   
   c) *Correspondenz-Karte / Listnica, issue Oct 1872*

   **Type 1**
   **Type 2**
   Missing dots pos. 10/above, 18 and 44 below, double pos. 11 above, 2 and 28 below
   
   d) *Correspondenz-Karte / Listnica, issue 1872/73,*

   **Type 1**
   **Type 3**
   Missing dots pos. 2/above, 27 below, double pos. 28 below
   **Type 4**
   Missing dots pos. 24/above, r. 1; 24 below, double pos. 11 above, 2 and 28 below
Type 6

Missing dots pos. 24/above, and 24 below,

Type 7

Missing dots pos. 9 and 23 above, 13, 18, 24, 44 below, double 10 above 2, 14, 28 below

Type 8

Based on the research of the Listnica postal cards in my collection and comparison with the catalogued types, I found on a small number of cards a pattern of the dots and rhombuses not catalogued. The above new type 8 has missing dots under the rhombus on the upper right and left corner. Both types - 5 and 8 a could be result of the missing dots in the inner frame or the consequence of the printing process (lack of the color).

3. Positioning of the value imprint with respect to the inner frame, variations of the paper and of the value imprint

The Gelblinge have been printed in two runs – the value imprint in yellow first, followed by the print of the text, lines and ornamental frames. Exceptionally, the printing was done in reverse order. This can be seen in cases when the print of the inner frame is positioned under or over the value imprint. The first and second issue had also third print – the text on the rear side.

Due to the embossed printing the printed elements – ornamental frame, inscription and value imprint – had to be set together repeatedly, which resulted in different positions of the value imprint with respect to the inner ornamental frame. A central position of the value imprint (ca. 2 cm from the upper and right ornamental frame) is ideal, but the cards show a lot of imprint positions moved to the left or to the right, upwards or downwards.

Positions of the value imprint (centred, down right, left, in the corner above), On the last two cards - print yellow first, then black can be seen. The puncture on the last card is fixation of the printing sheet! Variations in the colour of the value imprint vary from light-yellow to yellow and greenish. The paper can be beige, light-yellowish, sometimes also whitish. Some changes in the colour of the paper could also be due to its aging during 150 years.

This study is also the base for my one-frame Exhibit with the same name.
4. Conclusion
As a part of the Austria-Hungarian Monarchy, the Slovenians started to use at the very beginning, less than two years after the implementation of the first postal card, also bilingual German-Slovenian ones during the era of massive postal communication. They had to wait for their »own« postal cards till February 1919, when the first Chainbreaker postal cards of the State of the Slovenians, Croats and Serbs were issued.

THE FIRST AUSTRIAN POSTCARD – A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF ITS VARIOUS TYPES AND SUBTYPES
By: Frans J. Jorissen Email : jorissen@wanadoo.fr

On the 1st of October 2019, it was exactly 150 ago that the Austrian postal administration issued the world’s first postcard. In Austria this event was celebrated with an exhibition in the prestigious surroundings of the Maria Theresia Knights Hall in the castle of Wiener Neustadt. Johannes Haslauer and Wolfgang König profited from the event to present their remarkable book treating additional frankings on these first postcards:

An exhaustive and beautifully illustrated treatment of the subject, what no serious postal stationery collector should miss in her/his library. As far as I know, some copies are still available at the “Österreichischer Philatelistenklub Vindobona” (email walter.a.konrad@chello.at) for 40 euros plus postage. On the articles-section of the website of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission, you will find a new article, entitled “The first Austrian postcard – a critical analysis of its various types and subtypes”. The article presents a very thorough study of the very first of this group of postcards, which served until the end of 1871. The various types and subtypes of this card are analysed in unprecedented detail, and the observed details are discussed in the light of the possibilities offered by the typographical printing process used for their production.

First of all, the article, which is the first one of a series of articles treating all Austrian cards (“Gelblinge”) issued until 1876, confirms the existence of 3 main types of the first Austrian postcard. Next, it presents new earliest dates for types 2 (25 Mai 1870) and 3 (25 October 1870). More specifically, the article describes for the first time 25 individual clichés, which are each characterised by a combination of small anomalies in the frame on the front of the cards. In all 25 cases, a same combination of anomalies has been found on several cards, corroborating the hypothesis that these cards have been printed with the same cliché.

I would like to invite all concerned collectors to inspect their stocks of these cards. Finding one of the combinations of anomalies defining the identified clichés is a great moment, and I can guarantee that finding new clichés, which will undoubtedly show up when more cards are inspected, causes even stronger emotions.

I would be extremely grateful for all comments, corrections and additions to the article. I would also gladly receive your observations concerning the individual clichés (dates of use of the clichés described here, descriptions and scans of new clichés, etc.). A publication on the web has the great advantage that it is easily available, but also that mistakes can be easily repaired, and additions can be made. Since the present article is certainly not perfect, this is exactly what I intend to do. I hope that this article will serve as a basis for further research, the results of which will be published regularly in this newsletter.
INTRODUCTION TO NEW SOUTH WALES JUBILEE CARDS & LETTER CARDS
By: Dingle Smith, Peter Kowald & Michael Blinman

Detailed accounts for New South Wales Letter Cards and Jubilee Cards are now available on the Society’s web site. To view go to www.postalstationeryaustralia.com and follow the link to New South Wales Postal Stationery. The accounts are profusely illustrated and include a catalogue listing for the letter cards. As with the earlier accounts for Newspaper Wrappers and Registration Envelopes comments, corrections and additional information are welcome, such changes can be easily added to the existing web site material.

New South Wales Jubilee Post Cards
In late 1888 arrangements were completed for the exchange of post cards between New South Wales and Great Britain: the rates being Two Pence for the long sea route or Three Pence for the quicker overland route to Great Britain via Italy. Special cards were prepared for this purpose. The suggestion was adopted that the post cards should celebrate the Jubilee (50-year anniversary) of the issue of the first NSW postal stationery on 1 November 1838: the albino embossing of letter sheets with a circular replica of the Seal of the Colony.

Of particular note is the fascinating history of the purpose of these most colourful of the NSW postcards: the intention that the 2d and 3d rates of the first two issues distinguish between the ‘long sea route’ and the quicker ‘overland route’ through France via Italy. The account includes a sample analysis of sea route, departure and arrival times that shows that the advantage gained, for the extra penny, by the overland route usually ranged from 4 to 8 days. The November 1890 decision to change the maximum post card charge to Two Pence for the United Kingdom, France and some other countries ended the ability to charge differentially for routes. This immediately shortened the useful life of the third ‘and for France’ issue producing a particular rarity if any of those cards had a French destination and were sent between 19 August and 29 December 1890 (the last day before issue of the single rate Two Penny Card). This is the first instalment of what will be a coverage of all the NSW postcards.

Letter Cards
The first New South Wales letter cards were printed in June 1894 following agreement between the Australian Colonies on their postal use and transmission. In order to allow for the required folding and perforations the cards required the use of special paper akin to thin card. This was normally imported from Great Britain and there were frequent supply problems. The existing catalogue classifications rely heavily on the recognition of the colours especially those for the inner message portion of the cards, the shades of which vary from very pale yellow to dark pink. The outer address portions also varied with various shades of grey.

John Bell published information of the letter cards based on the New South Wales Printing Office records for the period 1894-97 together with additional archival material on the supply of the paper and details of the specimen overprints. Sadly, John’s death in 2012 precluded the publication of information on the later issues.
The current account has discarded the earlier reliance on colour as the determining factor in the classification. It is replaced by a classification based on the impressed stamps, the coat of arms used on the address side, the perforations and the printed instructions on the reverse of the card. The new classification recognises nine Types (LC1 to LC9) with possible sub-classes of colour variants limited to three of these Types. It is clear from the inspection of accumulations of the Letter Cards that the effects of ageing together with the variations in colour of the paper originally supplied do not provide a sustainable basis for classification.

The cards were widely used, the numbers issued annually increased from some 300,000 in 1895 to in excess of a million by 1906. They continued to be issued in New South Wales until the first issue in 1912 of the Commonwealth letter cards that featured scenic views on the reverse in 1912. The account also includes details of the various styles of specimen overprints found on the letter cards together, where known with the dates, numbers printed and comments of their likely distribution. Examples of proof material include an essay for an unissued reply letter card produced in 1896 and four unissued scenic letter cards in about 1898.

*Essay for NSW scenic lettercard, circa 1898 [above]*

**Collectable Postcards**

As a fund-raising endeavour for the 2021 International Exhibition, to be held in Cape Town, the next series of postcards have been prepared by the Organising Committee. The first of these sets was released in 2017—Official Postal Stationery showing a pre-printed 'Indica' of Standardised Postage. (Note: only 250 of these sets have been printed).

The postcards depict original artwork by Mrs. Julia Birdhead. This set of cards, sold in packs of 10 designs, are of indigenous birds. They were on sale at the East Rand 100 Exhibition held earlier in Benoni (4-7 September).

Now orders can be placed with Emil Minnaar by email: [Emil@Minnaar.org](mailto:Emil@Minnaar.org).

The selling price per pack is R200 plus R15 (local) and R65 (Foreign) postage and packaging.
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS 1987 PICTORIAL AEROGRAMMES
By: Ian McMahon

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

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

On 18 February 1986, a new philatelic officer, David Jackson, arrived on the Islands to take up the position from 19 February 1986. As a new philatelic officer, he had a number of ideas for changes to the function of the philatelic office and on the Islands’ stamp issuing program writing on 14 April 1986 to the Islands’ Administrator with proposals for some changes in the function of the Office and copy of a Five-Year Stamp Program. Included in this proposal was a proposal for the issuing of aerogrammes: I have been giving some consideration to introducing Aerogrammes into the Cocos (Keeling) Islands postal system. Subject to cost of production I should like four definitive Aerogrammes showing scenes and Malay culture. Production costs and lead time are currently being investigated.

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

I believe this to be justified in postal terms by the sale, through the Post Office, of up to one hundred blank aerograms per month to residents, and up to four hundred per month during yachting season. Would you please find out some costing. I would initially look at 20,000 of each design. Aerograms would be required to be pre-folded. I would like your opinion of the time required to set production in motion.

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

It is worth noting that he justifies the issuing of stamped aerograms by the comment that the Post Office sold up to one hundred formular aerograms per month to residents, and up to four hundred per month during yachting season. The Tradewinds season of June to October, is also the yachting season. During this time Direction Island (which is otherwise uninhabited) becomes a safe haven for international yacht travellers.

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

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

On 7 July 1986, Mercury Walsh wrote to David Jackson providing a quote for printing of the pictorial aerograms:

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

This quote was only for a single design, so a revised quote for three different designs was provided by Mercury Walsh on 10 July 1986:

- Size: 205 x 327.5 mm flat- as A/Post (3 designs)
- Description: Printed litho offset four colour process (background colour from four process colours if required). Die cut to shape, gummed and folded on airletter machine. Band in 50's, pack in cartons of 1,000's and overpack in 2,000's.
- Material: Aerogramme White 65gsm
- Origination: Client to supply line art and reflection art or transparency for pictorial area
- Price 60,000 (20,000 x 3) $55.50
- EX WORKS Colour seps. & Prepwork $1,500.00 approx.

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

On 30 September 1986 Jack Earl wrote to Cocos acknowledging payment of $2,300 for artwork for the aerogramme and commented that he was glad you liked the roughs Gamble sending them up so I can work on finished artwork 27 November Jack Earl received a further $500 for the aerogramme artwork. 2 Dec 1986 $800 for aerogramme artwork space to Brian Clinton. On 17 Dec 1986 Cocos telexed Gamble Artwork arrived please go ahead with production congratulations on a top job. On 21st January, 1987 Mercury Walsh wrote to David Jackson that they had safely received artwork for all 3 Pictorial Aerogrammes from Bob Gamble and were proceeding with the preparatory work. They noted that the artwork is far more complex than originally quoted: as they had based our quotation on 3 multicoloured pictorial areas and the stamps from line artwork. There is now a total of 8 colour separations for the 3 designs and the total prepwork estimate is now $2,200 not $1,500 as quoted. They commented that the artwork is particularly attractive and should produce a superior set of aerogrammes. David Jackson replied on 3rd February 1987 that the revised prepwork estimate of $2,200 was fine and that “I am sure you are right we will end up with a very attractive set of aerogrammes”. Artwork for pictorial panel for AG 2 endorsed David This looks good in colour. Please check for accuracy and advise me by telex .... Bob Gamble

Shown below are sketches and artwork for the three aerogrammes, mockups of the layout of the aerogrammes and proofs of the AG1 with and without the inscriptions:

Artwork for pictorial panel for AG 2

Artwork for stamp for AG 2
Artwork for pictorial panel and stamp for AG 3

Mockup of the layout of the aerogrammes sent to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Philatelic Bureau on 9 September 1986 by Robert Gamble. Two earlier mock-ups are shown below.

Artwork for the reverse of all three aerogrammes and the stamp area and pictorial panel for AG 1
Illustrated above are two mock-ups of the layout of the Cocos (Keeling) Island 1987 aerogrammes based on the Australia 1985 45c aerogramme depicting an Emu and an Australian formular aerogramme (approval No. W37). Illustrated below are two proofs of AG1, with and without the inscriptions.
On 16 March 1987 Mercury Walsh wrote to Mr Jackson to say that they had dispatched by Australian Airlines Airfreight 20 cartons of aerogrammes to Cocos as follows:

- Design AG1 - 6 cartons each 2,000 - 12,000
- Design AG2 - 6 cartons each 2,000 - 12,000
- Design AG3 - 6 cartons each 2,000 - 12,000
- Design AG1/2 - 1 mixed carton of 1,000 each
- Design AG2/3 - 1 mixed carton of 1,850 AG3 and 250 AG2 - 2,100
- TOTAL 40,100

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

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

Be in at the beginning
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS first ever AEROGRA MMES
First day of issue 29 July 1987.

For the first time in its interesting history Cocos (Keeling) Islands will issue a set of three (3) pictorial aerogrammes. These superbly illustrated aerogrammes are printed in four colours and depict the history, marine life and the unique sailing craft of the Cocos Malay people. Great Philatelic interest is being generated by pictorial aerogrammes, so here is your opportunity to start a collection with the beautiful Cocos aerogrammes - the very first ever produced by this Indian Ocean tropical coral atoll.

AG1 features the marine life found in the tropical lagoon of Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Colorful and authentic they are shown with examples of coral found in the area. The stamp depicts an aircraft flying into the tropical sun. The artist is Tom Bland of Melbourne.

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

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

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

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

On 29 July 1987, Cocos (Keeling) Islands issued the three 50c pictorial aerogrammes: AG 1 Aircraft flying into the tropical sun; AG 2 Malay dancer and AG 3 Captain William Keeling. The quantities produced were: AG1 20,250 AG2 20,500 AG3 21,100.

The second, and last, issue of Cocos (Keeling) Islands aerogrammes was issued on 26 February 1992. The set of three 70c pictorial aerogrammes were designed by Sandra Harman from photographs supplied by Cocos resident, Joanna Smith and were also printed by Mercury-Walsh Hobart: A4 Aerial View of Cocos Keeling Islands with signpost superimposed, pictorial panel coconut palm and beach; A5 Aerial View of Cocos Keeling Islands with signpost superimposed, pictorial panel aerial view of lagoon and A6 Aerial View of Cocos Keeling Islands with signpost superimposed, pictorial panel Coconut palms against sunset sky.

From 1 January 1994, Australia Post took over the running of the Cocos (Keeling) Island postal services. From that time Australian stamped aerogrammes would have been valid for use on Cocos (Keeling) Island.

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FROM OUR CONTEMPORARIES
Postal Stationery Society [UK] Vol 27 No 3 August 2019
- New Zealand – instruction boxes on newspaper wrappers
- Belarus provisional surcharges
- GB postal stationery news
- Book review – Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrapper Catalogue by Jan Kosniowski
- The shocking revelation of post office wrapper survival rates [by John Courtis]
- Modern Ugandan registered envelopes

Postal Stationery Society [UK] Vol 27 No 4 November 2019
- Post Office circulars June 1878 to January 1885
- Belarus provisional surcharges: Part 2
- GB postal stationery news – new items reported
- Responses to queries arising from the August issue – responses from Mark Diserio and Wayne Menuz, which includes remarks about revenue stamps imprinted on parcel post forms
- Modern Indian Armed Forces stationery [issues from 1969 onwards]

L’ Intero Postale [Italy] n.131 – 2019
- Requirements for An Interesting Repiquage [privately printed postal stationery]
- 150 Years of The First Postcard
- Creative Postal Rates
- 1919-2019 Centenary of Fiume Postal Stationery

L’Entier Postal [France] No 109 Juin 2019
- Correspondence from a French sailor stationed at Fort-de-France (Martinique, West Indies) from 1941 to 1943 [correspondence with his mother in France, using current postal stationery cards – a fine piece of work]

Ganzsachen [Germany] No 2 2019
- Remainder markings on Bavarian private postcards
- The relationship between philately and historical knowledge sound using the example of postal documents from the time of the Third Reich
- GDR private cachets on the history of space travel from the fire arrow to Sputnik
- Austrian postal stationery as Promotional tricks (part 3)
- The postal stationery covers from Chile 1911/1912
- From the club’s history - BGSV 100 years ago: 100th anniversary of Felix Lande’s death
- Grinding, templates, gleanings 160
- New literature

Postal Stationery [USA] Vol. 61 No. 5, Whole No. 428 Sept-Oct 2019
- The Lipman Postal Cards of 1872 – Evidence Based Conclusions
- The Straits Settlements 1891 Post Card “2” Surcharges
- Envelopes, Wrappers, etc. Delisted 19th Century Item; Unofficial Surcharges used by Local Post Offices; Nesbitt Printed Advertisements on Postal Stationery
- Rare Russian Card Offered on eBay
- Australia, Newfoundland and E A F Stationery
- Printed-to-Private-Order, or Stamped-to-Order?
- Penalty Overprint on Envelope 2295-39 FDC
- Dubai Scouts Post Card
- Dubai Scouts Aerogram Commercially Used
- Victoria Registered Envelope with Overprint
- Salvador Wrapper with Double Indicia
- US Official Consular Envelopes
- Unlisted Salvador Envelope
- Barbados QEII $2 Registered Envelope Varieties
- Correction to Nicaragua Article
- Hong Kong Dubious Surcharged Card
- Postal Savings Card Fake? Caveat Emptor
- Switzerland View Card of Lake Lucerne and the Missing “e”
- My Version of the Full-Face McKinley Recovery Story
- Why Were Full-Face McKinley Cards Printed from Electrotype Plates Instead of Hardened Steel Plates?
- Thomas De La Rue & Co. …
- USA Card used in China
- The Moorhouse Imitation Die Proofs
- Market Report & Counterfeit and Bogus Report
- Modern Bolivia Aerograms
- Rare Showcase, Hong Kong Registration Envelope Overprints

**Postal Stationery /USA/ Vol. Vol. 61 No. 6, Whole No. 429 Nov-Dec 2019**
- Military Postal Stationery of Australia, Wayne Menuz
- Envelopes, Wrappers, etc. Aerograms
- Blue McKinley
- S28f - The “Four Arcs” McKinley Card of 1910
- USA 1920 Surcharge Favor Item
- Nicaragua’s 1899 Reply Card Used
- Moorhouse Imitation Proofs
- New Variety of USA Envelope UPSS 15 (U9
- Swedish Maxi Cards
- Surcharge on Wrong US Card?
- More Used Bicentennial Consular Envelopes
- USA “Syndicate” Envelopes
- The USA and the UPU
- USA Centennial Envelopes with Typewritten Addresses
- Salvador Wrappers with Misprinted Indicia
- Modern Bolivia Aerograms Used
- St. Vincent Specimen Registration Envelope
- Colombian Envelope
- Proper Use of the ½d Embossing Die on Tasmanian Mail
- LITERATURE REVIEWS MICHEL Ganzsachen- Katalog Deutschland 2018, 22nd edition, Catálogo Especializado Sellos de Cuba
- Rare Showcase, Sarawak 1941 Registration Envelope
- More Used Bicentennial Consular Envelopes
- USA “Syndicate” Envelopes
- The USA and the UPU
- USA Centennial Envelopes with Typewritten Addresses
- Salvador Wrappers with Misprinted Indicia
- Modern Bolivia Aerograms Used
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- Colombian Envelope
- Proper Use of the ½d Embossing Die on Tasmanian Mail
- LITERATURE REVIEWS MICHEL Ganzsachen- Katalog Deutschland 2018, 22nd edition, Catálogo Especializado Sellos de Cuba
- Rare Showcase, Sarawak 1941 Registration Envelope

**Ganzsachensammler [Switzerland] December 2019**
- The broadcasting service of the SGS
- Resolution of the GSS 122 riddle
- Currency designations in Saxony (Germany) from 1841 to 2002
- Swiss Post celebrates 150 years of Swiss postcards
- A new private folding sheet with two stamps

**Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS] December 2019**
- 2c Cameo wrappers – period of use
- Illustrated cards: Krug Brothers, Furniture Manufacturers, Chesley, Ontario
- Multiple stamp impressions
- 2019 Santa Letter
- PCF Corner

**Postal Stationery Collector [Australia] Volume 25 No 4: Issue No 100 November 2019**
- Who Was A. Eugene Michel?
- Alexander, Fergusson Pty Ltd PTPO Envelopes
- Australian Stationery Characters
- 75th Anniversary of the First Australian Aerogramme
- Military Postal Stationery of Australia
- Military and Other Stationery Used by Italian POWS Held by the British In Libya 1942-1946
- Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1987 Pictorial Aerogrammes
- Private Overprinting on Australasian Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers
- PSSA Forum
- Listing of Australian Non-Denominated Postal Stationery
- Literature

**Postal Stationery Collector [Australia] Volume 26 No 1: Issue No 101 February 2020**
- A. Eugene Michel – Some Further Information
- Australia KGV 1d Red ‘Wilby’ Embossed Design Die 2 (BW EP8, ES29e and PS9a)
- Military Postal Stationery of Australia (Part 2)
- Scarce Examples of Private Overprinting on Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers
- PSSA Forum
- Listing of Australian Non-Denominated Postal Stationery
- Literature
**LITERATURE – BOOKS AND CATALOGUES**

*Queensland Postal Stationery* by Alan Griffiths. Published by the British Society of Australian Philately (BSAP)

Alan Griffiths has formed an extensive collection of Queensland postal stationery including much archival material and many rare items including some that came from the Ron Butler collection which was exhibited at Australia 99 and included a part proof of the 1898 pictorial postcards with 15 of the 17 known views. This monograph has been published to complement the sale of the collection which is due to take place at Abacus’s February 2020 auction.

The monograph has chapters on postcards, wrappers, lettercards, registration envelopes and STO envelopes with the material arranged chronologically in each chapter. Seven appendices cover formular registration envelopes, the reply cards split and used as single cards in 1913, telegraph postal stationery, a brief comment on postal notes (postal stationery with an impressed stamp paying the fee for the postal note service), a brief outline of the Queensland Intelligence and Tourist Bureau unstamped picture postcards, official unstamped stationery, and wrapper guillotine lines. The monograph is not a catalogue listing and does not include prices. It draws heavily from Collas’s publication on Queensland Postal Stationery. Many proofs, essays and rare items are illustrated.

While the author comments *I embark on this in the knowledge that other collectors of this field will no doubt be able to add to the contents, but it is produced in an attempt to provide a more comprehensive listing as a starting point*, the inclusion of information from other collectors as well as recently published material would have produced a more satisfying publication although I note that the listing of the views of the 1910 pictorial postcards published in the *PSC* has been included. The monograph could have been improved by taking a more rigorous approach to referencing and the inclusion of a bibliography.

Spiral bound A4, 130 pages, colour illustrations. Available from BSAP for GBP £31 plus postage (about £10.20 for Australia). Ordering details on the BSAP website (bsap.org.uk). Contact: Huw Williams Email huwie35@sky.com.

*Filigrano Interi Postali 2020, XXXII edition. Published by filSam Filatelia Sammarinese.*

A catalogue of the postal stationery of Italy, San Marino, Vatican City and Europa CEPT including the Cavallini from Sardinia, Lombardo Veneto, Italian post offices overseas (eg in Albania, Turkey, Libya, Crete and China), Italian occupation issues (Corfu, Albania etc), Allied occupation issues, Trentino, Dalmazia, Fiume, Venezia Giulia and Italian Colonies (eg Eritrea, West Africa, Libya, and Somalia), and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta as well as a listing of postal stationery used as air mail flight covers. Listings include postcards, aerogrammes, military issues, IRCs, lettercards, postcards with advertising, parcel cards, and money orders. A summary of postal rates is included. The catalogue can be purchased through the website www.filsam.com at € 20.00. Almost 300 pages, A5, colour, perfect bound. In Italian but includes a Philatelic Glossary with English translations.
Available in January/February 2020

The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union:  
The Postal Card  
Worldwide, 1869 – 1974

Ordering details to be available soon at rpsl.org.uk

“Postal Card” is a segment within The Postal History of the UPU by James Peter Gough, RDP. These two volumes address the postal history aspects of postal cards, reply-paid postal cards and even letter cards, making these volumes highly relevant for all collectors of postal stationery.

“Jamie” is a well-known philatelic writer, speaker and researcher as well as a three-time grand prix exhibitor of postal history who, through this book, is reshaping the way we view postal cards. While the postal card was introduced before the UPU began, it was the UPU that would expand its global use by making it a required class of mail. The postal card evolved through many changes of UPU rules and regulations that affected postal card formats, usages, anomalies and postal rates.

Postal cards of early issuers are described in their approaches, uses, restrictions and rates from 1869 to the start of the UPU for both domestic and foreign destinations. From the start of the UPU period, the evolution of the postal card is covered chronologically by each congress until 1974 when the UPU removed the requirement for member countries to issue postal cards or even maintain a postal card class of mail, effectively ending a global century of the postal card.

The Royal Philatelic Society London
Türkiye’de Postanın Mikrotarihi, 1920-2015 / Microhistory of the Turkish Posts Volume 1 1920-1950 by Mehmet Akan and Timur Kuran

A handbook of Turkish postal stationery from 1920-1950 including IRCs. In addition, it covers a range of unstamped stationery including formular postcards, airgraphs, domestic return receipts, external return receipts and PPT service envelopes as well as the postal stationery of the state of Hatay. A wonderful book placing the stationery issues in an historical context. A sample of the book including details of the authors and the contents pages can be found at https://sites.duke.edu/timurkuran/files/2019/09/FINAL-combined-compressed.pdf.

Turkish and English, hardbound, xxi+791 pp, illustrated in colour. The Turkish text is followed by the English text throughout the book.

Handbook on Icelandic Postal Stationery

I want to inform you of a new Handbook on Icelandic Postal Stationery. Published in early December last, fully bilingual Icelandic and English, covering nearly all aspects of Iceland’s postal-stationery issues. The covered topics include postal cards, lettercards, printed-matter cards and aerograms. All aspects are presented in considerable detail on 245 pages and every type as well as numerous variants are illustrated in color. The layout is in A5 format, perfect bound hard cover. If you want further information, please contact the author, Halfdan Helgason at halfdan@halfdan.is. See also my website: http://www.halfdan.is/ps/.

Halfdan Helgason


Since its first publication in 1971, the postal stationery catalogue of Canada and Newfoundland, originally edited by Jim Webb, has been the definitive work on Canada’s extensive postal stationery issues. When Jim Webb passed away his work was taken over by the current editors, William Walton and Earle Covert (from the 5th Edition). It is 19 years since the publication of the 7th edition of the Webb’s Catalogue and in that time, there has been very many new discoveries and many new issues. It is not surprising then that there are many significant changes including a new numbering system. As the editors comment: The numbering system Jim Webb developed for his first edition worked well, but has become increasingly cumbersome as countless new discoveries have been made and added to the listings. We reluctantly concluded, as we ran out of letters to fit under major numbers, that the time had come to correct this. The headaches involved for collectors (including ourselves) and dealers are obvious, but with time the new numbers will become familiar - old time collectors will remember the need to convert from Holmes numbers to the new Webb numbers. Our rationale with regular issue items has been to assign separate numbers to each item that represented a separate Post Office inventory listing. In fact, it has never made sense to us that (for example) cards available with no heading, English heading, and bilingual heading, or envelopes available in #8 and #10 sizes, would be listed with the same basic number, using letters beneath to record the different forms. Now all such items have their own number, as do major varieties such as the letter card capital C handstamps. A concordance from old Webb numbers to the new is provided on page 461.
There are many price changes, based, where possible, on the marketplace including auction realisations and advice from dealers. The Catalogue is now in colour, has 482 pages and is spiral bound. Compared to many other catalogues the editors have ensured it is well illustrated: And we have continued our liberal use of illustrations. This is a visual hobby, and it's more fun to see things. We have also found that visual points of comparison bring new varieties to light, when collectors see that something they own is not quite the same as what is pictured. The Postcard Factory Card listings have been substantially expanded. As expected, the Catalogue covers the envelopes, postcards, lettercards, lettersheets, postbands and wrappers, aerogrammes and the sole registered envelope. What is unusual about this catalogue though is its detailed specialised listings. These include the many items of private order and official postal stationery but also listings of postal stationery with privately added views and printing such as the postcards used by the Canadian railway and steamship companies which often have attractive views printed on the front as well as those used by express and money order companies. While not variations in the postal stationery itself, these items are very popular with many collectors. Also, of special note are the listings of private precancels, private rouletting (of postcards sold in sheets), special event envelopes, Santa Claus envelopes and the Hechler bogus unofficial overprints. One of the Catalogue’s particular strong points is the listing of essays and proofs which is unusually detailed. A list of Specimen items has been added in this edition. One thing missing from this edition is the listing of ‘Canada Premium Products’, modern Xpresspost and similar items. These have been omitted to prevent the Catalogue becoming unwieldy. The listing of these items is, however, available for free at http://www.bnaps.org/ore/WaltonCovert-PSC/WaltonCovert-PSC_Contents.htm. Appendices are included on envelope knives and linings and on post card headings (both essential in understanding the listings) as well as a concordance of the catalogue numbers with those of the 7th Edition. For purchasing information see https://www.canadapost.ca/shop/spotlight-collectionsplus/p-342233.jsf Retail price is CDN$84.95.

Unitrade Specialised Catalogue of Canadian Stamps 2020 and the Loss of Postal Stationery Listings from Annual One-Country Catalogues

For many years this popular annual Catalogue has included a basic listing of postal stationery items using a Unitrade numbering system (a Scott-like numbering system – Scott numbers were used for adhesive stamps with extra numbers for specialised varieties only listed in the Unitrade catalogue). With the publication of the new Webb Catalogue the publishers decided to drop the postal stationery section due to the limited coverage of the listing and the greater use by postal stationery collectors of Webb numbers.

While in some ways understandable, I think this decision is unfortunate as the inclusion of postal stationery in the Catalogue exposed all collectors and dealers using the catalogue to postal stationery and was used by many dealers and collectors who did not specialise in postal stationery. Also, the Catalogue included new issues which given the 19-year gap in editions of Webb was very useful. Perhaps in future they could include a simplified listing using Webb numbers or an annual update to the Webb Catalogue.

The Unitrade catalogue is not the only one-country annual catalogue to remove their postal stationery listings as they try and cope with the vast expansion of new adhesive stamp issues and the need to limit the size and cost of their catalogues. The inclusion of postal stationery in annual one-country catalogues helps to make collectors aware of postal stationery and attract them to the hobby as well as encouraging general dealers, who are unlikely to have access to specialised postal stationery catalogues, to stock postal stationery.
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The Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter
Edited by Ian McMahon

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Please send comments, articles and change of delegate’s addresses to:

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*TL: Team Leader

**FIP Exhibition: Last Participation in FIP PS Jury  
A: Apprentice  CA: Cross-Accreditation

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