

Datestamp Information and Suppliers

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APPENDIX 1: Postmarking Regulations, 1830 to 1976

"Post Office Regulations", 9 May 1830

.Masters of Ships about to sail are prohibited from receiving letters on board not stamped with the Post Office Stamp.

"Post Office Regulations", 14 January 1835.

Every letter put into the Post Office or Letter Box will be marked with an appropriate Post Office Mark, with the amount of Postage with which the same letter is chargeable, such Postage if unpaid, to be marked with Black Ink, or, if paid, with Red. Letters exempted from Postage are to be marked free.

"Post Office Regulations", 1 August 1837.

Each Postmaster is to carefully stamp every Letter delivered in at his Office with the appropriate Post Office Stamp, on the day on which it is put in, and to write legibly thereon the Postage with which it is charged, endorsing on those on which the Postage is paid at the time of being delivered in, with Red Ink, and unpaid Letters with Black Ink, as a distinguishing mark. He will further mark the words "Post Paid" on all Letters of the former description, and the word "Free" on all Letters which are not liable to Postage.

"Rules & Regulations for the Post Office Department", 1843.

7. –Each letter put into a Post Office or Letter Box is to be marked with an appropriate Post Office mark, with the amount of postage with which the same letter is chargeable; such letter if unpaid to be marked with black ink, or if paid with red ink. Letters exempted from postage are to be marked with the word "Free" in red ink.

"Report on the Colonial Post Office", 1847.

Every Postmaster is supplied with a paid and an unpaid stamp with one of which all letters for dispatch are marked on the face, the date being inserted in writing. Letters on arrival are not stamped ... Paid letters are taxed with red; unpaid with black ink.

Regulations for the Post Office Department of Western Australia, 1885.

STAMPING.

61. At Offices where movable date-stamps are provided, the figures of the dated stamp must be carefully adjusted at the beginning of each day.

62. It is necessary, not only that the impression of every official stamp should be legible, but that it should be perfect in every particular, so that each letter and figure of the stamp may be quite clear and distinct. To effect this, attention must be paid to the following points:

1. The stamp must be kept perfectly clean, which may be done most effectually by washing it with a solution of potash and soda, or with printer's lye, using for the purpose a small brush. Type which has been used must be cleaned *before* it is replaced in the box.
2. The cushion, on which the letters are placed to be stamped, should be quite even, and very slightly elastic, and it should be laid upon a slab of stone, or thick plank, resting firmly on wooden supports.
3. The stamp should be held firmly in the hand, and struck upon the letter with a light sharp blow, care being taken not to let the stamp fall upon the impression made at another office. It is in the power of any one, by attention and practice, to become a good and rapid stamper.
4. Strict attention should be paid to keeping the pad constantly fit for use, by supplying it occasionally with a few drops of sweet oil, which should be rubbed in with a cork, so that it shall always be in a moist state. If the pad is allowed to become dry, or the stamp dirty, the stamping will be imperfect and indistinct.

63. The duty of stamping letters, &c., will be as follows:

1. Letters posted at any Office must be dated on the front or address sides, care being taken that no part of the address is defaced.

2. Letters received from another office, whether for delivery or in transit, will be date-stamped on the back.
3. Re-directed letters will also be date-stamped on the back.
4. Returned and dead letters will be stamped on the back with the date-stamp of the day on which the dead letters are returned to the General Post Office.
5. Books and other Packets must be stamped as if they were ordinary letters.
6. For date, obliterating, and other stamping, only black stamping ink must be used.
7. Every letter posted too late for any mail must be marked with the "Too Late" stamp, or the words "Too Late" written in red ink on its face, at the left hand top corner, otherwise the impression of the date-stamp on it will be regarded as evidence that the letter was in time for the mail of that date.
8. Every letter mis-sent to any office must, either by stamp or writing in red ink on its face, bear the words "Mis-sent to _____" (naming the office).

64. The Defacing Stamp requires the same kind of pad as the date-stamp, and equal care should be taken in using it. Proper obliteration consists in making the defacing stamp appear distinctly legible on the postage stamp, without smearing it.

"Commonwealth Regulations", draft, circa 1901.

[Ed. This material is believed to be from the printed proceedings of one of the Post and Telegraph Conferences held in preparation for the Commonwealth].

III.— Date Stamp, Office Seals, and Postage Stamps Obliterators.

60. Office Stamps supplied.

Every postmaster will be supplied with a date stamp bearing the name of his office, a complete set of type, and obliterating stamp, an office seal for sealing mails, and such other stamps as may be required.

61. Stamp or Type lost to be made good.

Should any stamp or type be lost they will be made good at the cost of the postmaster, and a newly appointed postmaster should be careful to see that the stamps and type are complete, as he will be held responsible for them.

62. Movable figures in Date-stamps to be changed daily—Impression of Stamp to be taken.

Each day, before any other duty is performed, the movable figures indicating the date must be removed, and those for the day substituted. An impression must at once be made in the book furnished for that purpose, and initialed or signed by the postmaster or person by whom that duty has been performed. It is necessary that the impression of each official stamp shall be legible and perfect in every particular.

63. How Index Figures to be used.

When a stamp is fitted with index figures or letters, care must be taken to change the figure or letter punctually, and take an impression in the book. The use of the index figure or letter is to indicate the mail by which a letter is sent or received, and the figure or letter should be altered immediately after the receipt of closing of a mail beginning with "1" or "A" for the first mail.

64. Use and care of Official Stamp and Seal.

The official stamp and seal, when not in use, must be kept in a secure place, and persons not connected with the post office must not be allowed to have possession of or in any way tamper with them. The seal must only be used for sealing mails and official communications, and must not be used for the postmaster's private purposes or letters.

65. Course to be adopted when Postmaster is without Date-stamp.

When from any cause an office is unprovided with a date-stamp, the postmaster must write with ink on each letter the name of his office and the date on which the letter was received by him.

66. Letters and packets to be date-stamped.

Postmasters must properly date with the date-stamp of their office, on the addressed side, every letter and packet posted at their offices.

67. Method to be adopted when Postmaster is without Obliterator.

If from any cause an office is without an obliterating stamp, the postmaster must mark each postage stamp with a pen, drawing a line diagonally from corner to corner of the stamp, the lines crossing about the center. (See Regulation No. 104).

68. Stamps to be kept clean.

All stamps must be kept perfectly clean, so that the impression of every figure and letter may be clear and distinct, as in the case of delay the office whose date is illegible may be held responsible. Stamps may be cleaned with soap, soda, hot water, and a brush.

69. Packets containing valuable Enclosures to be date-stamped carefully.

Great care must be exercised in using the date-stamp on packets containing valuable enclosures. When a label is provided the date-stamp must be impressed upon it alone, and when no label is provided slight pressure should be used, carefully guided by which a clear impression is nearly always obtained.

70. Obliteration of Postage-stamps.

Every postmaster must be careful to obliterate all postage-stamps affixed to postal articles posted at his office, otherwise diminution of revenue may arise from the re-use of the postage stamps which are not defaced. Especial attention to this most important duty must be given, as a heavy fine is inflicted in every instance of neglect to deface a postage-stamp which may come to the knowledge of the Department. Postmasters must not fail to report the circumstances to the Deputy Postmaster-General whenever they may receive from other Post Offices articles bearing unobliterated postage-stamps.

104. Letters handed to Mailmen on the road for delivery at addresses on the roadside.

Mailmen are permitted to receive stamped letters on the road, at any distance exceeding a mile from the nearest post office, and deliver them to addresses on the line of road without taking them on to a post office—provided, of course, that no post office is passed before reaching the addressee.

Before delivery, however, of such letters, the postage stamps thereon must in every case be defaced by the mailman, by heavily scoring the stamps across thus, either with a suitable pencil, or pen and ink, or in any way equally effective. Great care must be taken that this obliteration is properly performed, as the conveyance or delivery of letters without stamps is a breach of contract.

Instructions and General Information for the Guidance of Allowance and Contract Postmasters, 1906.

DESPATCH AND RECEIPT OF MAILS, Etc.

1. The dater and other stamps must be kept clean, to insure a clear impression. The movable figures in the dater are to be changed every morning, and an impression is to be taken, for record, and to see that the correct date has been inserted.

2. All correspondence *posted* at an office is to be dated on the face or address side of the envelope or cover, and all correspondence *received* from other offices is to be dated on the reverse side immediately on receipt.

3. *Defacing Postage Stamps.*—To protect the Revenue from possible loss, it is very necessary that all postage stamps affixed to mail matter should be properly obliterated. *Defacing stamps and dating* should be done, say, every hour, and not left until just before the closing of the mails.

DUTIES OF MAIL CONTRACTOR OR DRIVER *RE* ACCEPTING, AND DELIVERY OF, ROADSIDE LETTERS.

2. A Mail Contractor is required to convey loose letters, etc., given him by any Postmaster or Officer-in-charge of a Receiving, Allowance, or Contract office for delivery on the road; he is also required to receive or take out of roadside boxes, beyond a mile from a Post Office, correspondence intended for the office of destination or delivery along the line of route. If fully prepaid (*i.e.*, if the letter bears a 2d stamp), and for delivery before a Post Office is reached, the mailman must cancel the stamp by crossing and dating it with ink or in some other effective manner. If the correspondence be unpaid or insufficiently prepaid, it must *not* be delivered, but posted at the next Post Office on the line of route, whence it will be despatched to destination, charged with double the deficiency, to be collected on delivery. All correspondence so received must bear an indorsement by the mailman indicating the particular point or box on the road at which it was received.

Acts and Regulations, February 1914.

209. Mail contractors are required to receive (beyond a mile from a post office) correspondence intended for delivery along their line of route. If fully prepaid and for delivery before a post office is reached, the mailman must cancel the stamps, by crossing them with ink, or in some other effective manner. If the correspondence be unpaid or insufficiently prepaid, it must not be delivered, but posted at the next post office on the line of route, whence it must be despatched to destination charged with double the deficiency, to be collected on delivery. All correspondence so received must bear an indorsement by the mailman indicating the particular point on the road at which it was received.

Obliterators, abolition of, 1915.

Circular Memorandum No 443. G. 7396/15
Postmaster General's Department
Melbourne 5th July 1915.

Subject: Obliterators (Hand) – abolition of.

With reference to General Memorandum No. 223 of the 11th May last, regarding the suggested abolition of obliterators, I am to inform you it has been approved that the use of the hand obliterator be discontinued, and that the date stamp be used for cancelling postage stamps in place of obliterator.

2. Please note and act accordingly so far as you State is concerned.

Justinian Oxenham, Secretary.

Instructions to Postmasters, 1953-1976.

1054. Office Date-stamp.—The mail date-stamp must be altered either at the close or immediately prior to the commencement of each day's business. A sharp metal instrument or any article likely to cause damage to the face of the type must not be used to turn the wheels of a revolving date-stamp. In altering a revolving date-stamp for dates 1 to 9 inclusive, the first wheel must be turned until the small hyphen bar appears, so that a block impression in front of the date will be avoided. Where a date-stamp is fitted with hour indicators, it must be altered at suitable times during the day, according to the times of despatch of mails. In cases where articles are postmarked between the time of the despatch of the final mail for the day and closing time of the office, the time wheel of the date stamp should be altered immediately after the despatch of the mail to indicate the closing time of the office.

1055. A date-stamp must on no account be altered for ante-dating or post-dating purposes. Any alteration of a date-stamp impression, which may be necessary, must be made in ink, and the alteration initialed by the Postmaster.

1056. Record of Date-stamp Impressions.—Every time a date-stamp is altered, a clear impression must be made in the book—Form P.M.63 provided for the purpose, and the officer altering the stamp must place his initials beneath the impression. Before the date stamp is used, the sample impression must, wherever practicable, be checked by a second officer, who must also append his initials. Should the impression be found to be incorrect, the date-stamp must be altered, another impression taken, and the incorrect impression marked "Error" and initialed by both officers.

1057. At offices where a distinctive date stamp is issued to an officer for a specific purpose (e.g. Money Order duties) and such date stamp is to be retained in his custody throughout the day, a clear impression of the distinctive date stamp must be made in the office record of date stamp impressions. The officer to whom the date stamp is issued must place his initials beneath the impression as an acknowledgement of receipt of the date stamp.

1058. The Postmaster or Officer in Charge must examine the Date-stamp Impression Book at 9 a.m. each day. The impressions made since the previous day's examination must be scrutinized, and the examining officer must initial the book as an indication that the scrutiny has been made. If an error in the alteration of the date-stamp has occurred, and postal articles have in consequence been incorrectly dated, the Postmaster must make a record of the fact in his diary, and take suitable action with regard to the irregularity. The scrutiny must also include an examination of the quality of the sample impressions, and appropriate corrective action must be taken where it is apparent that an imperfect impression is due to an unclean or worn date stamp, or lack of attention to the cleanliness or proper inking of the stamping pad.

1059. **Date-stamping of Articles Posted.**—Articles (including parcels) posted for despatch or delivery must be date-stamped carefully to cancel the postage stamps affixed to such articles and to show the date, and (where so fitted for the purpose), the hour of stamping. Cancellation must be by steel date stamps, and black cancelling ink only must be used. However, postage stamps on parcels and packets may be cancelled by the use of special-type postmarkers, at offices where such are provided.

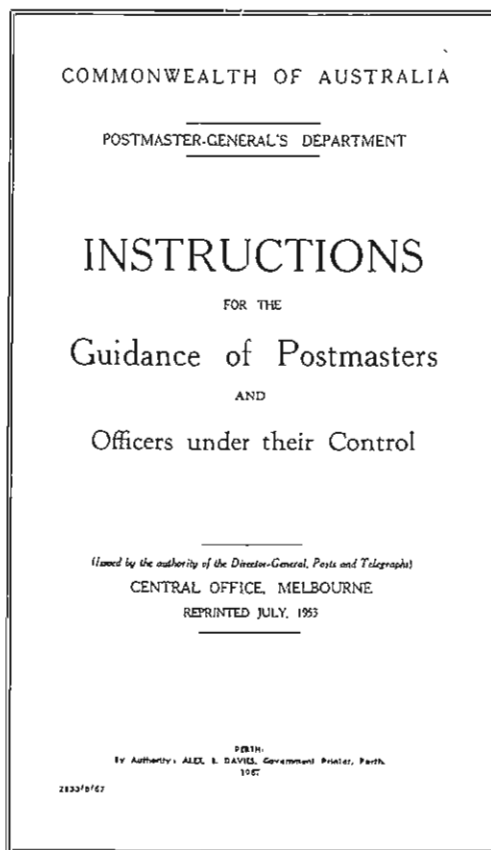
1060. When the date-stamp impression made on the postage stamp affixed to a postal article is not distinct, an additional impression must be made on the envelope or wrapper. The Postmaster must frequently examine articles date-stamped at his office to see that this instruction is observed.

1060A. **Unobliterated Postage Stamps**—Postage stamps not cancelled through error or omission in the office of origin must be struck through with a thick line in ink, biro or indelible pencil at the office which detects the irregularity. In no case are these stamps to be impressed with the date stamp.

1060B. **Date-stamping of "Paquebot" Mails.**—Provision is made for mail matter to be posted on ships at sea. Such articles may bear postage stamps of and according to the tariff of the country to which the ship belongs, or Australian postage stamps. Such mail matter will be lodged at the counter of a post office at the next port of call by the Purser or a similar officer, and when received in this manner, the postage stamps should be cancelled with the ordinary date-stamp, and an impression of the "Paquebot" stamp made on the cover of the article in close proximity to the stamps.

1061. Care must be exercised in the date-stamping of packets to prevent damage to the contents. Where a tie-on label is attached to an article, the date-stamp impression must be made thereon.

Reissued—Serial 1908.



2-276221

Reduced to 55%.

APPENDIX 2: Office Status Criteria, 1905-1912

[Although this memorandum is dated 1905, the general principles must have come into force with the formation of the Commonwealth Postmaster General's Department. Bamboo Creek in Western Australia was downgraded from a colonial Post and Telegraph Office to the Commonwealth status of Non-Official or Allowance Office on 1 March 1901, the date the new Department came into being.]

Circular Memorandum, No 380. G 4423
Postmaster General's Department
Melbourne, 14th October, 1905

For the Deputy Postmaster General, Perth.

I am to inform you that, in view of the different arrangements which have hitherto been in force in the various States, in connection with the granting of offices and postal facilities in the country, and with the object of placing the organization of the Department in this respect on a uniform and more satisfactory basis throughout the Commonwealth, the Postmaster General is of opinion that it is desirable to make in all cases some small payment for work performed for the Department in order to bring all persons undertaking the receipt and delivery of letters, etc., within the category of employees of the Department and thus ensure some sense of responsibility. He has therefore approved of the following arrangements:—

(a) That in all places the Department afford its first facilities in the form of a Receiving Office, and that in such cases as those in which no payment has heretofore been customary a nominal salary of say £1 per annum to be made, which sum is to be advanced in the form of a supply of postage stamps, thus affording all persons doing this class of work the means of providing a supply of postage stamps for public use without having to purchase them out of their own funds. Receiving officers to be allowed in addition to their allowance, which, in no case, is to exceed £8 per annum, the commission on the sale of postage stamps usually given to licensed stamp vendors, or in other words be appointed licensed stamp vendors.

(b) The next grade to be allowance Post Offices with allowances commencing at £10 per annum, and increasing in accordance with a fixed scale proportioned to the value of the work performed. Offices to continue in this grade until a revenue of at least £200 per annum is reached. With this class of office it is to be stipulated that, when any persons outside the immediate family of the Postmaster are employed in Postal work, such as the delivery of correspondence, or telegrams, or indeed in any capacity, they shall receive the rate of payment usually made for similar work in the locality, and that the usual conditions of labour in the locality shall be observed. Postmasters when undertaking work involving the employment of such assistance must report to the Deputy Postmaster General of the State concerned the wages they propose to pay and the working conditions which are to be observed.

(c) When an annual revenue of £200 per annum is reached such offices are to be placed under the Contract System, and in connection with that system the minimum salary of a Postmaster, or, as is usually the case, Postmistress, must be £65 per annum with quarters, and a sufficient allowance for lighting and other necessary and incidental expenses. The wages of all persons employed are to be fixed by the Department and inserted in the contract, and to be such as are usually paid for similar services in the locality.

2. While approving of the foregoing as general rules for the Department, the Postmaster General recognises that there must be variations in some special cases, which must be determined by the Minister as occasions arise. For instance where the business is being satisfactorily conducted by an officer of the Railway Department, or other State officer, it may be desirable to continue it even though the revenue of an allowance, or even of a Contract Office is exceeded, and such cases must be dealt with from time to time on the merits of each case. The conditions for contract offices have been already laid down, they have been worked satisfactorily and are to be continued.

3. The Minister will be glad of any remarks you may be in position to offer, with view to improving the arrangements herein set forth.

4. Please note and act accordingly and take steps to bring into operation forthwith the provisions above referred to with regard to the terms of employment in connection with Allowance Offices.

Robt. T Scott. Secy.

Source: Department of Postmaster-General W.A. Branch Letter Book (2/2/1905 – 17/6/1907). N.A.A. Accession PP 187/1.

Circular Memorandum No 356, G3352/07
Postmaster General's Department
Melbourne, 13th August, 1907

Subject:— Establishment of Receiving, Allowance, Semi-official, and Official Offices, and reduction in status of such Offices

To the Deputy Postmaster General, Perth.

With reference to previous correspondence relative to the procedure to be followed in connection with the establishment of Receiving, Allowance, Semi-official, and Official Offices, and the reduction in status of such offices, I am to inform you the Postmaster General has now approved of the following course being adopted in future in regard to the matter, namely:—

1. Establishment of Receiving Offices. The minimum aggregate number of letters which it is estimated would be despatched from the locality of the proposed Receiving Office must amount to 600 per annum before the establishment of such office is justified; where the number falls below 600 per annum a free bag or private bag should meet all requirements. In the general cases where Receiving Offices in connection with mail services, which latter have to be specially arranged to connect such offices with the general system, the establishment of both mail services and Receiving Office should generally be considered upon the basis of the revenue to be derived from the correspondence of persons who will benefit by both, and facilities of this character should, in the first instance, be granted when the revenue (allowing that increased facilities will create business) is estimated as sufficient to cover the cost of both.

2. Converting a Receiving Office into a Post Office. When the revenue of a Receiving Office reaches £15 per annum, such Receiving Office should be converted into a Post Office apart from any considerations as to the cost of the mail service.

3. Reduction of an Allowance Office to a Receiving Office. When the business and requirements of an Allowance Office have fallen below the conditions which justify its retention at the scale rate of payment for that Class of Office, arrangements should be made to maintain facilities either in the shape of a Receiving Office or a free bag service as circumstances justify, in accordance with Clause 1.

4. Raising Allowance Office to Semi-official Status. In view of the decision to grant Postmasters at Semi-official Offices a minimum personal allowance of £78 (instead of, as formerly, £65) per annum, an allowance office should be raised to a semi-official status only when it is reasonably remote from an official or another semi-official office, and the revenue derived therefrom reaches £200 per annum, and continues at £200 or over for 12 months, and at least £40 of such revenue must be derived from telegraphic business. Under no circumstances should an office be placed in the semi-official grade when the whole or practically the whole of the revenue is derived from the sale of postage stamps and the issue and payment of Money Orders.

5. Reducing Semi-official Office to Allowance Office. In cases where the revenue falls below £180 and remains so for a period of 12 months, the office should be reduced to Allowance Status as soon as arrangements can legally be made for the termination of the agreement with the Postmaster.

6. Raising Semi-official Office to Official Status. In view of the liberal provisions of the Public Service Act with regard to annual increments to salaries of 5th class Postmasters, General Division Assistants and Messengers, and the cost of maintaining Official Offices, Mail Services etc., an Official Office should not be established unless the minimum revenue is reached and continues at such minimum or over for a period of 12 months.

7. Reducing Official Offices to Semi-Official status. As a general rule when the revenue falls to £350 and remains so for a period of 12 months the office should be reduced as early as possible to a semi-official or allowance status, as the circumstances and revenue justify. In exceptional cases, however, where the continuance of such an office at official status is necessary for line repairing purposes, action should be taken to reduce the expenditure by placing in charge of the office a lower grade official.

8. General. In all cases in which it is considered desirable, for special reasons, to depart from the foregoing principles, the facts should be fully set forth and the matter submitted for the consideration of this office.

Please note and act accordingly so far as your State is concerned.

Robt. T.Scott. Secretary.

Source: Department of Postmaster-General W.A. Branch Letter Book. N.A.A, Accession PP 187/1.

Subject: Conversion of Allowance Post Offices into Official Offices.

I am to inform you that the Deputy Commonwealth Public Service Commissioner was recently notified by this office that the arrangements in connection with the establishment of Official Post Offices were not equitable to the Department and did not work out equitably to the Public, also it appeared that while the Department should insist upon receiving a minimum revenue before consent was given to open an official office, the mere fact of receiving that revenue should not necessarily involve the Department in the expense of an official office. The volume of work handled should enter largely into consideration in determining the status of an office. As a result the following procedure to be followed in dealing with unofficial offices has received approval, and I am to ask that you will in future act in accordance therewith.

Basis of Establishment

- (1) When the revenue (as borne out by the business actually transacted) of an allowance office amounts to not less than £300, of which at least £40 is received from telegraphs and telephones, the office may be converted into an official office provided the volume of work performed warrants the alteration. In order to ascertain whether the work performed is of a volume and nature to justify the conversion the Deputy Postmaster-General shall supply the statistics of business transacted to the local Public Service Inspector, who will advise the Deputy Postmaster General whether the work performed warrants the alteration of status and if so, the grade in which the office should be placed as an official office.
- (2) Such offices if classified in Grade VIII or Grade IX will be placed under the charge of a General Division officer designated according to the grade of the office Senior Postal Assistant (in charge) or Postal Assistant (in charge) where telegraphic qualifications are not required as Senior Assistant (in charge) or Assistant (in charge).
- (3) The rates of pay to the officers in charge will be those prescribed by the Public Service Regulations for officers of the abovementioned designations.
- (4) Where quarters are provided a deduction will be made from the officer's salary of an amount not exceeding 10% of such salary.
- (5) Money Order and (if so arranged) Savings Bank business shall be transacted and the officer in charge shall perform any other duties ordinarily performed by an official Postmaster. Telegrams may be delivered, but except under special circumstances a delivery of correspondence by letter carrier shall not be made.
- (6) If the revenue of a Grade VIII office for a period of twelve months fall below £400, it should be recommended for reduction to Grade IX, and in any case where the revenue falls below £300 the office may be recommended for conversion to non-official status.
- (7) Where found necessary to appoint Assistants at Grade VIII or Grade IX offices, such officers should be transferred to more important offices upon reaching 21 years of age.
- (8) When the revenue of an office exceeds £600 per annum with a minimum of £60 received from telegraphs and telephones, the statistics of business of the office should be forwarded to the Public Service Inspector for advice as to reclassification of the position of the officer in charge as Postmaster in the Clerical Division.

Justinian Oxenham, Secretary.

APPENDIX 3: Technical Matters

Standard Postmarkers and Metal Postal Stamps, 1936

Circular Memorandum No 3/1936
Postmaster General's Department
Melbourne, C.2.
10th July 1936

The particulars and desiderata assembled in this memorandum are circulated with the object of gradually attaining uniformity as far as practicable, when unserviceable equipment is being replaced, in the type of impressions made by the Department on mail matter for various purposes.

I. GENERAL

- (1) Postmarkers and metal postal stamps fall into the following classes :—
 - (a) Hand postmarkers;
 - (b) Machine postmarkers;
 - (c) Metal postal stamps (other than postmarkers) with movable type;
 - (d) Metal postal stamps (other than postmarkers) without movable type.
- (2) To facilitate compliance with the international postal requirement that undelivered correspondence shall be returned to the country of origin, the engraving on postmarkers should include the provision "Aust." as well as abbreviated letters indicating the name of the State thus : — N.S.W. :-Aust.; Vic.-Aust.; Q'ld.-Aust.; South-Aust.; West-Aust.; Tas-Aust.; F.C.T.-Aust. (for postmarkers at offices in the Federal Capital Territory); and North-Aust. (for postmarkers at offices in Northern Australia). [Addendum No. 1. 29th July 1938 changed Northern Australia to Northern Territory.]
- (3) Supplies of "Relief" date stamps should be held at Head Office for temporary issue to an office when it becomes necessary to withdraw an ordinary stamp for repair or renewal or where the stamp may be destroyed by fire. These stamps should have type wheels for day, month and year, and also, where required, time (as provided for in respect of type No. 1 in Drawing C. 975); but in engraving in the upper part of the circle the word "Relief" should be produced instead of the name of an office, and an appropriate numeral should be provided above [Addendum No. 3. 24th June 1953 changed 'above' to 'below'] the type wheels in the position indicated in that drawing.

II. HAND POSTMARKERS

- (1) These comprise postmarkers used at (a) country and suburban Post Offices and (b) the Chief Office.
- (2) The hand postmarkers used at country and suburban Post Offices are of two types, namely : —
 - (a) Postmarkers fitted with wheels indicating time of day. These are for supply only to Post Offices which despatch more than one mail a day to the Chief Office;
 - (b) Postmarkers without wheels indicating time of day. These are for supply to all other Post Offices, and also to Telephone Offices for the cancellation of postage stamps placed on telegrams.
- (3) The hand postmarkers used at the Chief Office are of the following types :—
 - (a) The standard design prescribed in Drawing C. 975, Issue No.2, with varying type wheels according to local needs;
 - (b) Postmarkers for parcels and Second Class Matter which produce impressions by the rolling process.
- (4) The die in all cases should be circular in shape and the engraving should comply with the following :—
 - (a) The outer circle should be 1¼ inches in diameter;
 - (b) The lettering around the outer circle should be separated from it to the extent shown in Drawing C. 975, Issue No. 2;
 - (c) In all hand postmarkers, whether for use at a Post Office or in a Branch of the Chief Office, the name of the office at which they are to be used should be engraved around the top half of the die, and the characters should be of the height shown in Drawing C. 975 except where a variation is necessary owing to the length of the office name;
 - (d) In the case of hand postmarkers used at the Chief Office the following will apply :—

- (i) The letters G.P.O. should appear before the name of the office, e.g. G.P.O. Sydney;
- (ii) An indication of the Section in which the postmarker is to be used should appear in a straight line beneath the name of the office, e.g. –

Name of Section	Abbreviations
Registration	R S
Parcels	P S
City Section	C S
Late Fee	L F
Air Mail	AIR

- (e) In all cases, around the lower half of the die the appropriate abbreviations should appear, vide Section 1 (2) of this circular;
- (f) Postmarkers for use in Branches of the G.P.O. should, when required, bear an identifying numeral. This numeral should appear in the lower half of the die immediately beneath the type wheels;
- (g) The dies should be constructed and engraved in accordance with Drawing No. 975, Issue No. 2, P. Specification No. 666A and P. Specification 667A:
- (h) Circular Memorandum No. 645/1913 is hereby cancelled.

[Added by G. 39/4208, 1st June 1948. Note – The wording to be engraved on hand postmarkers must be set out on the relative order exactly as required and must conform with the provisions of these instructions. The maximum number of letters, spaces and full-stops which can satisfactorily be engraved round the perimeter of a standard hand postmarker is 31 (each space and each full-stop counting as one letter). Where engraving beyond the equivalent of 31 letters etc. is essential in order to meet requirements, the postmarker should be obtained under special quotation and not under the normal contract conditions. S.F.Kellock. for the Director-General.]

III. MACHINE POSTMARKERS

- (1) These comprise postmarkers associated with the Model “G” and Model “D” Universal Machines for treating ordinary postings and “paid” matter.
- (2) The ordinary die should be circular for light duty machines and rectangular for heavy duty machines.
- (3) The “paid” die should be rectangular in all cases.
- (4) Details of the engraving, interchangeable type etc. are given in P. Specifications 628A, P. Specification 629A, and Drawing No. C.A. 680, Issue No. 3.

IV. METAL POSTAL STAMPS WITH MOVABLE TYPE

- (1) These comprise stamps for such purposes as : –
- (a) Unclaimed articles at Poste Restante;
 - (b) Dead Letters received at Chief Office;
 - (c) Mail matter “called” to Postmen in Mail Branch;
 - (d) Unknown boxholders’ mail in capital cities;
 - (e) Express service and other matter received in Box Room at Chief Office.
 - (f) Stamping advertising matter passed “Free” by Customs.
 - (g) Mail permits issued by Superintendent of Mails.
- (2) The following examples demonstrate the principles which should be observed in determining the engraving in the upper half of stamps in this group, the engraving around the lower half to be as indicated in Section I (2) of this circular, and a distinguishing numeral included under the type wheels if required.

<u>Purpose for which stamp is used.</u>	<u>Engraving.</u>
(a) Unclaimed articles at Poste Restante.	– Name of capital city and “UNC” above type wheels.
(b) Dead Letters received at Chief Office.	– Name of capital city and “DLO” above type wheels.
(c) Mail matter “called” to Postmen in Mail Branch.	– Name of capital city and “C to P” above type wheels.
(d) Boxholders’ mail in capital cities not known.	– Name of capital city and “N K” above type wheels.
(e) Express service and other matter received in box room at Chief Office.	– Name of capital city and “B R” above type wheels.
(f) Stamping advertising matter passed “Free” by Customs.	– Name of capital city and “P C” above type wheels.
(g) Mail permits issued buy Superintendent of Mails.	– Name of capital city and “S M” above type wheels.

- (i) The letters G.P.O. should appear before the name of the office, e.g. G.P.O. Sydney;
- (ii) An indication of the Section in which the postmarker is to be used should appear in a straight line beneath the name of the office, e.g. –

Name of Section	Abbreviations
Registration	R S
Parcels	P S
City Section	C S
Late Fee	L F
Air Mail	AIR

- (e) In all cases, around the lower half of the die the appropriate abbreviations should appear, vide Section I (2) of this circular;
- (f) Postmarkers for use in Branches of the G.P.O. should, when required, bear an identifying numeral. This numeral should appear in the lower half of the die immediately beneath the type wheels;
- (g) The dies should be constructed and engraved in accordance with Drawing No. 975, Issue No. 2, P. Specification No. 666A and P. Specification 667A:
- (h) Circular Memorandum No. 645/1913 is hereby cancelled.

[Added by G. 39/4208, 1st June 1948. Note – The wording to be engraved on hand postmarkers must be set out on the relative order exactly as required and must conform with the provisions of these instructions. The maximum number of letters, spaces and full-stops which can satisfactorily be engraved round the perimeter of a standard hand postmarker is 31 (each space and each full-stop counting as one letter). Where engraving beyond the equivalent of 31 letters etc. is essential in order to meet requirements, the postmarker should be obtained under special quotation and not under the normal contract conditions. S.F.Kellock. for the Director-General.]

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- (1) These comprise postmarkers associated with the Model “G” and Model “D” Universal Machines for treating ordinary postings and “paid” matter.
- (2) The ordinary die should be circular for light duty machines and rectangular for heavy duty machines.
- (3) The “paid” die should be rectangular in all cases.
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 - (a) Unclaimed articles at Poste Restante;
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 - (d) Unknown boxholders’ mail in capital cities;
 - (e) Express service and other matter received in Box Room at Chief Office.
 - (f) Stamping advertising matter passed “Free” by Customs.
 - (g) Mail permits issued by Superintendent of Mails.
- (2) The following examples demonstrate the principles which should be observed in determining the engraving in the upper half of stamps in this group, the engraving around the lower half to be as indicated in Section I (2) of this circular, and a distinguishing numeral included under the type wheels if required.

<u>Purpose for which stamp is used.</u>	–	<u>Engraving.</u>
(a) Unclaimed articles at Poste Restante.	–	Name of capital city and “UNC” above type wheels.
(b) Dead Letters received at Chief Office.	–	Name of capital city and “DLO” above type wheels.
(c) Mail matter “called” to Postmen in Mail Branch.	–	Name of capital city and “C to P” above type wheels.
(d) Boxholders’ mail in capital cities not known.	–	Name of capital city and “N K” above type wheels.
(e) Express service and other matter received in box room at Chief Office.	–	Name of capital city and “B R” above type wheels.
(f) Stamping advertising matter passed “Free” by Customs.	–	Name of capital city and “P C” above type wheels.
(g) Mail permits issued buy Superintendent of Mails.	–	Name of capital city and “S M” above type wheels.

(3) The quotation marks should not of course appear in the impression, and the stamps should in other respects conform with the principles prescribed for hand postmarkers, with type wheels varying according to local requirements. Wheels to indicate time should only be included where they are essential for efficient treatment of the mail matter concerned.

V. METAL POSTAL STAMPS WITHOUT MOVABLE TYPE.

(1) These comprise stamps used for miscellaneous purposes not directly associated with date stamping, such as "taxing" insufficiently prepaid mail, endorsing articles posted on board ship "Paquebot" (at Chief Offices where the volume of matter does not justify machine stamping for the purpose), "late fee" endorsements, customs duty to be paid, etc. etc.

(2) Consideration is being given to the issue of standard designs for such of these stamps as are in common use. In the meantime, should additional supplies of existing stamps in this group require renewal, it is desirable that the order should specify a width of engraving which will not tend to unnecessarily disfigure mail matter.

(H. P. Brown). Director-General

Hand Postmarkers, Provision and Maintenance, 1969

1. GENERAL.

1.1 Hand postmarkers are provided by the Postal Services Division, through the Supply Branch, to Official and Non-official Post Offices and Mail Exchanges for use by personnel cancelling stamps on mail matter or for the stamping of papers and documents requiring proof of issue of receipt.

1.2 Revolving type hand postmarkers are provided similarly and are used for the cancellation of stamps on parcels where the volume of other articles mail matter is large.

1.3 The Engineering Division is responsible for the maintenance of hand and revolving type hand postmarkers.

1.4 Spare maintenance parts such as type wheels, locating screws, spindles, handles and felt ink rollers should be held in Store associated with the Service Centre.

1.5 Contracts are entered into annually by the D.A.D.G., Supply Branch, for the supply of spare parts, listed under the Serial 513, to meet the estimated requirements of the Commonwealth. The felt ink roller used on the revolving type hand postmarker is item 71 of Serial 518 and provision of spares of this item for hand postmarkers should be included with the requirements of that serial.

2. TYPE OF HAND POSTMARKERS IN USE.

2.1 Hand postmarkers with movable type.

(i) Type 1 – For use in offices where, in addition to the Office Name and the State in which the office is located, postcode, time and date cancelling impressions are required over the postage stamps on letters or on other documents.

(ii) Type 2 – For use in offices where, in addition to the Office Name and the State in which the office is located, postcode and date cancelling impressions only are required over the postage stamps or on other documents.

(iii) Type 3 – For use in offices where, in addition to the Office Name, the State in which the office is located, and the Country of Origin, postcode, date and the word PAID impressions are required in lieu of postage stamps on bulk posted mail.

(iv) Relief Postmarkers.

(a) Type 1 – For general use in offices where the name of the State in which the office is located, time, date and the word RELIEF cancelling impressions are required over postage stamps on letters or on other documents.

(b) Type 2 – For general use in offices where the name of the State in which the office is located, date and the word RELIEF cancelling impression are required over postage stamps on letters or on other documents.

(c) Type 3 – For use in offices where the name of the State in which the office is located, the country of origin, date and the words RELIEF PAID are required in lieu of postage stamps on bulk posted mail.

Relief hand postmarkers are issued to offices for emergency or temporary use when office hand postmarkers are withdrawn for repairs or are otherwise not available.

(v) Revolving Type – For use in offices where, in addition to the Office Name and the State in which the office is located, time and date cancelling impressions are required over the postage stamps on parcels and other article mail matter.

2.2 Types 1-2-3 and relief hand postmarkers are manufactured and engraved in accordance with drawing BBC 512 and A.P.O. Specification 666.

2.3 Revolving type hand postmarkers are manufactured and engraved in accordance with drawing BBC 513 and A.P.O. Specification 666.

2.4 All hand postmarkers are furnished with the same type of type wheels.

3. ENGRAVING.

3.1 (i) The wording to be engraved on hand postmarkers will be set out on the relative order to the contractor exactly as required and in accordance with the provision of this Engineering Instruction.

Office names will be as set down and spelt in the Post Office Guide.

(ii) The following abbreviations are to be used where applicable.

<u>State</u>	<u>Abbreviations</u> For types 1 and 2 and Revolving Postmarkers	For type 3 Postmarker
Australian Capital Territory	ACT	ACT – AUST
New South Wales	NSW	NSW – AUST
Victoria	VIC	VIC – AUST
Queensland	QLD	QLD – AUST
South Australia	S – AUST	S – AUST
Western Australia	WA	W – AUST
Tasmania	TAS	TAS – AUST
Northern Territory	NT	NT – AUST

(iii) A further list of standard abbreviations is shown on drawing BBC 5196.

(iv) In the case of Chief Offices of the State the letters GPO shall be engraved before the name of the office.

(v) In the case of City Offices, other than Chief Offices, the name of the Office only is required, e.g. Haymarket NSW; Russell St VIC.

(vi) Typical examples of impressions made by hand postmarkers are shown in Appendix 'A' and on drawings BBC 512 sheet 2 and BBC 513 sheet 2.

3.2 (i) For types 1, 2 and 3 the maximum number of characters and spaces which can be accommodated satisfactorily around the perimeter of a standard hand postmarker is 31, each space counting as one character.

(ii) Where engraving beyond the equivalent of 31 characters or spaces is essential in order to meet special requirements the hand postmarker shall be obtained under special purchasing arrangements and not under collective schedule purchasing procedures.

3.3 (i) For types 1 and 2 (except relief postmarkers) the engraving shall consist of the name of the office in the top half of the circle and the abbreviation for the State name together with the relevant Postcode in the lower half of the circle.

(ii) When required the appropriate abbreviations for the name of the Section in which the hand postmarker is to be used may be engraved in a straight line beneath the name of the office and above the date line.

(iii) In offices where several hand postmarkers are used an identification number may be engraved in the lower half of the circle beneath the date line.

(iv) For types 1 and 2 relief hand postmarkers the word RELIEF shall be engraved in the top half of the circle and the appropriate abbreviation for the State in the lower half of the circle.

(v) An identification number shall be engraved on all relief hand postmarkers in the lower half of the circle beneath the date line.

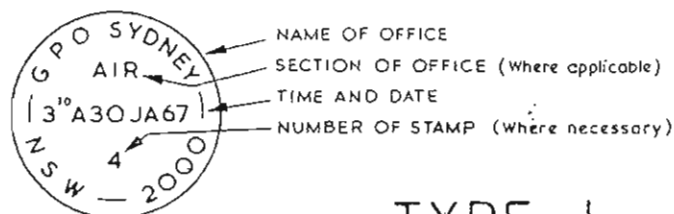
- 3.4 (i) For type 3 hand postmarkers the engraving shall consist of the name of the office in the top half of the circle with the appropriate abbreviation for the State and Country of origin in the lower half of the circle together with the Postcode. See para. 3.1 (ii).
- (ii) The word PAID shall be engraved in a straight line beneath the name of the office on the type 3 postmarker and above the date line.
- (iii) For type 3 relief hand postmarkers the word RELIEF shall be engraved in the top half of the circle and the appropriate abbreviation for the State and Country of Origin in the lower half of the circle. For identification numerals see para. 3.3 (v).
- 3.5 (i) For revolving hand postmarkers the maximum number of characters and spaces which can be accommodated satisfactorily in one line is ten.
- (ii) Where necessary the office name can be accommodated on two lines and can be hyphenated.
- (iii) Where more than one revolving hand postmarker is used an identification number may be engraved midway between the State name and the Office of Origin on a pad located centrally over the space occupied by three cancelling bars as shown in Appendix 'A'.
- 3.6 (i) Type wheels are manufactured in accordance with drawing BBC 512 and may be moulded nylon or fabricated from steel and engraved in accordance with A.P.O. Specification 666.
- (ii) Type wheel sets used in hand and revolving postmarkers are described in detail on the relevant drawings.

4. MAINTENANCE.

- 4.1 (i) Maintenance and repairs to postmarkers is arranged by District Postal Managers who are responsible for the issue of a Relief postmarker to the particular office during the time the office postmarker is being serviced.
- (ii) District Postal Managers are also responsible for forwarding any badly worn or defective postmarkers to the Service Centre for destruction.
- (iii) A record of all postmarkers destroyed at the request of District Postal Managers shall be kept at the Service Centre to permit a reconciliation of holdings of postmarkers to be made.
- 4.2 (i) On return to the Service Centre all postmarkers shall be completely dismantled, thoroughly examined and defective parts discarded.
- (ii) All usable parts shall be thoroughly cleaned before re-assembly as follows:–
- (a) Steel Parts. Immerse for a short time in kerosene or a solution of 1 part phenyl disinfectant to 4 parts of water, then scrub clean. Rinse in a fresh clean batch of the solution being used then wipe dry before use.
- (b) Nylon Parts. Dip in mineral turpentine and immediately scrub clean. Rinse in a fresh clean batch of mineral turpentine then wipe dry before use.
- (DO NOT APPLY HEAT TO NYLON WHEELS TO SPEED DRYING PROCESS)
- (iii) Check the handle carefully for soundness and if suspect replace with a new one.
- 4.3 (i) Collect all parts for re-assembly and make a test run of the type wheels to ensure they are arranged correctly and in accordance with the assembly details shown on the appropriate drawing.
- (ii) Steel type wheels have not been purchased for some considerable time but where stocks of spare serviceable wheels are held they should be used to make up sets wherever possible.
- (iii) When it becomes necessary to replace a complete set of wheels, nylon wheels should be used.
- (iv) Steel wheels and nylon wheels should not be intermixed in any one postmarker.

APPENDIX A

TYPICAL IMPRESSIONS FROM HAND POSTMARKERS



TYPE 1

ISSUED TO ALL OFFICES WHERE
TIME AND DATE ARE REQUIRED



TYPE 2

ISSUED TO ALL OFFICES WHERE
DATE ONLY IS REQUIRED



TYPE 3

ISSUED TO ALL OFFICES
WHERE BULK MAIL IS POSTED

FIG. 1.

APPENDIX A (CONTD)

TYPICAL IMPRESSIONS FROM REVOLVING TYPE HAND POSTMARKERS

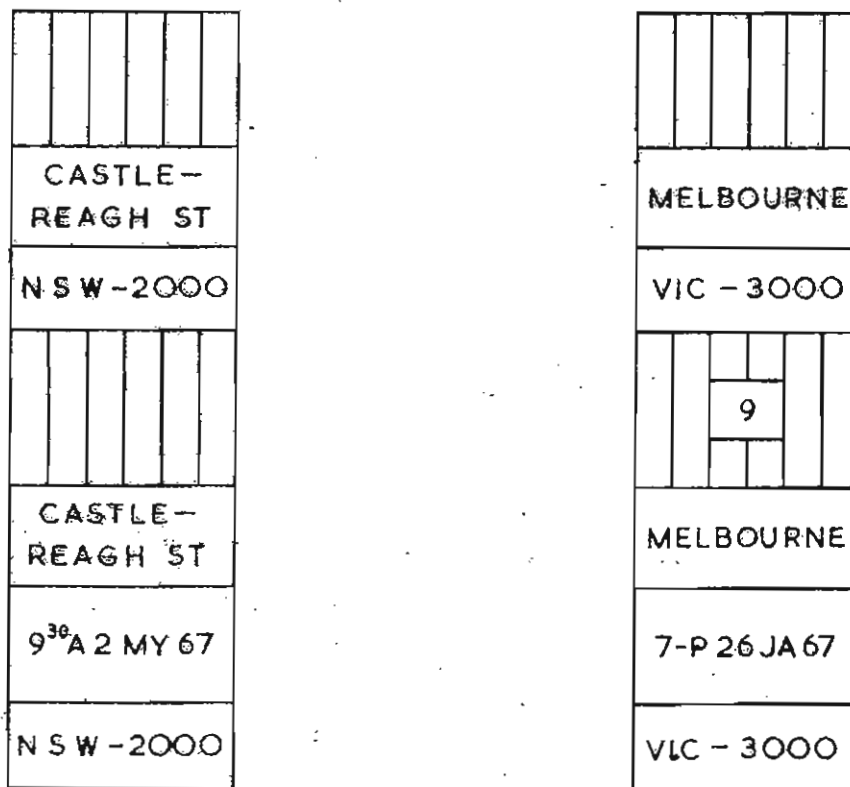


FIG. 2.

The making of postmarkers, 1976

Myrna Hooker, (*Black Swan*, September 1976, 8).

As a result of an inquiry about how the metal postmarkers (obliterators or cancellers) were made, some research was conducted on the subject. A visit to the Postal Workshops in Melbourne (though not easy to gain admittance) was very helpful and it was possible to watch each phase of the engraving and making of a postmarker being carried out.

The order for postmarkers is received from the Supply Branch of a particular State on a form headed Contract No. / Type No. / Quantity. The town names are checked with a list of Post and Telegraph Offices, to ensure correct spelling.



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

There are three general types:

Type 1 is used in offices where time and date are required.

Type 2 is used where date only is required.

Type 3 is used in offices where quantities of bulk postage articles are received.

The 'body' is made in Sydney and comprises of a mixture of metals made into a blank circle with an oblong hole cut out across the centre to take the date wheels. Holes are drilled in the sides to take the pin which holds the date wheels in place and one in the bottom in which to screw the handle.

The 'body' is then put on to a Pantograph machine to be engraved. Three different size letters, according to the length of name of a town, are used in a circular plate (template) and three or four different stylus' are used to engrave the 'body'. (Fig 1). The circle where the name is to be engraved is called the 'meat'. The largest stylus is used first, together with the largest cutter for engraved letters. The cutter is moved, from right to left, around raised letters on the Pantograph and the 'meat' is cut away. Any letters which are not clearly defined are then trimmed by hand.

'PAID' or Operator's number are added if required (Fig 2) but these pieces of metal are cut out if not required.



Fig 1

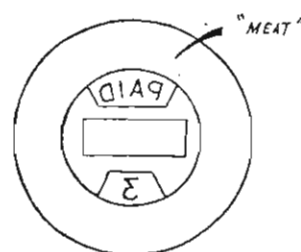


Fig 2

When the engraving is finished the postmarker is sprayed with a fine metallic sand to prevent rusting of metal. It is then subjected to a great heat after which it is put into cooling oil.

Plastic wheels are put together to make the date and inserted into the opening and held in place by a strong pin. Finally an impression of the finished postmarker is put into a 'Sequence Book' and checked for any mistakes. It is then sent to the District Postal Manager in the State from which the order came, for distribution to the appropriate post office.

APPENDIX 4: Handstamp Suppliers, Colonial Period

Most of the very early postal handstamps used in Western Australia are thought to have been carved in wood by George Stedman Watts. (See above, pages as 5 and as 6). Possible exceptions are PA PO 2a and PA PO 2b which bear a close resemblance to an Adelaide marking and may have been made by Edward Manning in Sydney. (*Philately from Australia*, March 1981). The evidence for Watts is twofold; he was a known professional wood carver and the *Government Gazettes* for 3 December 1841 and 14 January 1842 record that he was paid £22 10s 0d in November 1841 for "Stamps for Public Service".

The introduction of adhesive postage stamps in 1854 raised the need for obliterators. The numbered grids are known to have been made locally by John William Althea Bowra, a watchmaker, whilst the Void Grids and the Perth SDS 1 were made in England by J. Francis of 51 Myddleton Street, Clerkenwell.

A local engraver, W. Miller, made date stamps for Northam, Newcastle, Boyadine and Lacepede Islands (not seen), Roebourne, (not seen), and Moojebup (not seen), in the period 1878-81. *Black Swan*, (December 1976, 8: December 1977, 3).

On 14 April 1891, W.F. Wiedhoft, 55 Mount [unclear], Clerkenwell, London, wrote to the Postmaster General in Perth offering to supply date stamps on very cheap terms. An order was despatched on 26 June 1891 and an unrecorded number of cds and the account for £6 17s 0d were received on 17 August 1891. Correspondence Registers held by National Archives (PP23/1) reveal that the following datestamps (Types 3 and probably Dx) amongst others unstipulated, were supplied by Wiedhoft in the period 1892-1896.

1892: Smith's Mill, Mingenew.

1893: Karridale, Cue.

1894: Fremantle, Coolgardie, Northam, Cottesloe, Coolgardie, Cranbrook, Mt Magnet, Wongamine, Geraldton.

1895: Savings Bank Perth, Coolgardie, Registered Letter Office Perth, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Kanowna, Fremantle.

1896: Bullabulling, Yalgoo.

The Western Australian Museum Collection has a Wiedhoft datestamp box with this label inside the lid.



APPENDIX 5: Handstamp Suppliers, Commonwealth Period

Post and Telegraph conferences were held in preparation for a Commonwealth Post Master General's Department, but little archival documentation has been found. Standard procedures were discussed and in place because Bamboo Creek, for example, was downgraded from a colonial Post and Telegraph Office to a Commonwealth Allowance Office (or Non-Official Post Office) on 1 March 1901, the inauguration date of the new Commonwealth Department. A set of Commonwealth regulations was also certainly drawn up. The question of datestamps must also have been discussed and a decision taken to adopt Queensland's single dateline wheeled format as standard. The first of this type came to Western Australia in 1904 coinciding with a period of administrative uncertainty caused by the premature retirement of a disgruntled Deputy Postmaster General, Richard Sholl, on 18 July 1904. His replacement, Richard Hardman was appointed on 3 February 1905. This may explain why Colonial loose-type postmarkers, with the date in two lines, remained in use and why new ones were issued in Western Australia for a number of years.

The late George Owen, ARNP, started the serious collection and study of Western Australian postmarks in 1946 and he devised a classificatory system reserving numerals for Colonial types and letters for Commonwealth types. The criteria were first published in *Black Swan*, June 1977 and again in *Black Swan*, December 1984 and March 1985. The wording and style of the lower inscription, followed by date line features are crucial. Owen also relied on the height of the letters in the lower inscription but this is now known to be irrelevant. The problem being that neither he nor anyone else at the time realized that the major suppliers utilized some form of pantographic scribe that allowed the basic text of, say, 'WESTERN AUSTRALIA', to be extended or compressed, both horizontally and vertically, at will. Whilst the style of individual letters was preserved, the height of the letters produced could, and did, vary greatly.

Owen originally classified the chronological sequence of basic types as A, B, C and D according to the lower inscriptions of WESTERN AUSTRALIA, WESTⁿ AUST, W.A. and WESTⁿ AUSTRALIA, respectively. Unfortunately, two subsequent discoveries upset this scheme. Firstly, it emerged that Type D actually came before Type B, and secondly, it was recognised that the early Type C's were a response to long office names and not part of the generic Type C's that commenced around 1917 with BULLARING being the earliest usage found thus far. The long name cds were therefore excluded from Type C and re-classified as Type CL, with the suffix standing for 'long'.

Once the original sequence of A, B, C, D changed to A, D, B, C, it became necessary to consider the question of revising the classification. Owen, in consultation with colleagues, decided that it was not worth changing merely to conform to a linear alphabetical sequence. The decision to leave Types A, B, C and D as they stood was subsequently endorsed by the Western Australia Study Group and has been retained as a matter of policy for its publications.

Starting in 1904, annual tenders for the manufacture and supply of datestamps were called for in the *Commonwealth Government Gazette*. A list of these covering Types A, D, B, C is given below and it may be noted that tenders were not necessarily called every year. The successful tender also had to be formally gazetted. Some datestamps were obtained prior to a contract being let and others at 'present contract rates' after a contract had expired. At least in Western Australia, some datestamps were obtained under non-contract conditions.

The first notice specifically for Western Australia appeared in the *Commonwealth Government Gazette* on 16 July 1904, page 846.

Postmaster-General's Department,
11th July, 1904.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Supply of Steel Date Stamps, Brass Seals, and Type

Tenders will be received at the office of the Acting Deputy Postmaster-General, Perth, up to Noon on Saturday, 13th August, 1904, for the supply and delivery of Hardened Steel Date Stamps, Brass Office Seals, and Hardened Loose Type, for a period of ten months, from 1st September 1904.

Copies of general conditions, conditions of Tender, special conditions, and tender forms may be obtained upon application at the General Post Office, Perth (where samples may be seen), and at the General Post Offices, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Hobart.

Tenders indorsed "Tender for Supply of Steel Date Stamps, &c.," must be addressed to the Acting Deputy Postmaster-General, Perth, and, if sent by post, must be registered, and the postage thereon prepaid.

HUGH MAHON.
Postmaster-General

The *Commonwealth Government Gazette*, (5 November 1904, 1182) reveals that the inaugural tender for Western Australia failed to attract a satisfactory datestamp supplier.

Postmaster-General's Department
28th October, 1904.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

It is hereby notified, for public information, that the tender of Messrs. Cumpston and Mason has been accepted for the supply and delivery to this Department, in Western Australia, of 25 Brass Seals, at 6s. each; 500 Hardened Loose Steel Type, at 6d each. Also to engrave the name of the office on steel daters, as occasion requires, at 6d. per letter, for a period of nine months from 1st October, 1904.

SYDNEY SMITH
Postmaster-General

In order to attribute datestamps to a particular supplier it is necessary to recognize the various sub-types within the four basic types, A, B, C and D. Such detail was considered to be too specialized for inclusion in the general listing in *Postal Markings Illustrated* but is given below.

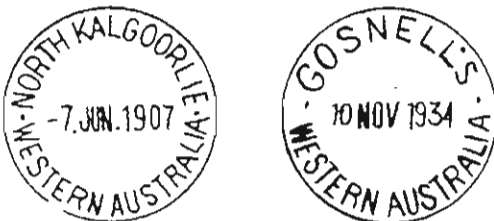
WARNING. The illustrations in *PMI* are the primary source material for what follows and it must be understood that some illustrations are imprecise or incorrect and that therefore, some cds may be erroneously identified! All attributions other than AiiiT are implied by the evidence. The date shown after an office name is the earliest recorded usage. In some instances this can be years after the probable issue of the cds. Some contracts appear to have been completed well after they have formally terminated.

Type A: 'WESTERN AUSTRALIA', from 1904



Type AiT: Perth only, two of. Diameter 25mm. Time at left.

A25T-a, known 17-03-04, was in use at Perth GPO well before the first tender was called in July 1904. A25T-a and A25T-b both show time at left and were made by Watson, Ferguson, 110 Queen St, Brisbane.



Type Aii: 3 letter month, 4 figure year.

Five cds are on record, the earliest usage of which is Geraldton, known 4-02-05. The other four are Gosnells, known 17-04-05, Burracoppin, known 19-09-06, North Kalgoorlie, known 6-06-06, and South Kalgoorlie, known 3-05-10. These were wholly engraved by Cumpston and Mason, 450 Hay Street, Perth, following the failure of the 1904 Tender to attract a datestamp supplier. Commercially available blanks were used. The 3 letter month, 4 figure year format was unusual but note that at least eight cds with this dateline format were supplied to New South Wales in the period between its contracts with Twemlow and Falk in 1906. (Tobin, 1983, 47). See Types Avii(a), Avii(c), Aviii, and AixT for similar lettering style.



Type AiiiT: Ship Room Perth only, two of. Diameter 27mm. Time at right.

A27T-a, with Perth, is known 22-02-05, whilst A27T-b, without Perth, is known 3-04-06. These are the only cds for which the supplier can be confirmed. One of the handstamps is inscribed GEO TWEMLOW / SYDNEY. Twemlow's business was located at 24 Imperial Arcade, Sydney.



Type AivT: 2 letter month, 2 figure year. Diameter 25mm. Time at left.

Supplied under the 1905 contract, let on 3-03-06, to Watson, Ferguson, with office names by Cumpston and Mason. There is one pre-contract example used at Perth MRR, known 24-01-06. This could have been a contract sample. The earliest contract cds usage recorded is at Kalgoorlie, known 31-07-06.

30 contracted for: 1 + 24 + 5 PAID in lieu, supplied.

Pre-contract:		Claremont	25-05-07	Nungarra	20-04-07
Perth MRR	24-01-06	Coolgardie x 2	3-08-06	Perth	22-10-06
		Fremantle x 3	1-08-06	Perth	23-06-08
Contract:		Kalgoorlie x 2	31-07-06	Perth Reg	4-11-07
Albany	15-10-07	Malcolm	23-03-07	Subiaco	12-09-06
Boulder	21-08-06	Murrin Murrin	20-05-07	Waroona	25-11-07
Brookton	7-09-15	Northam	7-01-07	York	8-10-06
Busselton	18-01-23	North Fremantle	14-01-07	York	8-02-18



Type Av: 3 letter month, 2 figure year. Diameter 25mm.

Supplied under the 1905 contract, let on 3-03-06, to Watson, Ferguson, with office names by Cumpston and Mason. Watson, Ferguson supplied three datestamps prior to this 1905 contract: Beverley, known 15-07-05, Davyhurst, known, 24-08-05, and Port Hedland, known 19-09-05. These were probably speculative trade samples. The earliest contract cds usage recorded is at South Bunbury, known 2-05-06.

70 contracted for: 3 + 68 supplied.

Pre-contract:		East Perth	25-06-10	North Greenbushes	13-01-07
Beverley	15-07-05	Eucla	31-12-06	Nullagine	23-12-20
Davyhurst	24-08-05	Eyre	3-09-09	GPO Perth (Parcels)	15-02-10
Port Hedland	19-08-05	Gabarintha	3-10-06	P.P. Perth	20-08-10
		Greenbushes	14-05-07	Protheroe	5-12-15
Contract:		Greenbushes	22-03-15	Ravensthorpe	12-10-06
Aberdeen St Perth	27-10-11	Gwalia	?-05-07	Roelands	24-12-06
Albany	22-08-06	Hamelin Pool	27-05-09	South Boulder	22-04-07
Applecross	13-12-07	Harris	15-09-06	South Bunbury	2-05-06
Armadale	4-09-06	Higginsville	25-08-06	South Greenbushes	17-01-07
Baker's Hill	?-09-07	Hines Hill	3-08-07	Stake Well	8-08-06
Balladonia	8-02-07	Katanning	23-08-06	Tenterden	28-10-06
Barrambie	13-10-06	Kirupp	8-10-06	Wagin	?-08-06
Bedforddale	12-11-07	Kundip	15-04-07	Wellington Mills	5-12-06
Belmont Park	26-07-07	Lake Grace	23-03-18	Widgemooltha	27-09-06
Beria	23-04-07	Laverton	8-10-06	Wodgina	9-10-06
Bickley	23-02-25	Lunenburg	11-03-07	Wyndham	27-08-06
Bridgetown	25-06-06	Menzies	31-10-07	Wyola	5-08-07
Busselton x 2	15-12-06*	Merredin	30-12-06	Yallingup	10-09-06
Carnarvon	14-06-07	Minginew	10-06-06	Yarloop	7-02-07
Coolup	31-05-21	Mooliabeenie	11-02-07	Yerilla	29-08-07
Cue	1-10-06	Mullalyup	3-09-06	York	22-08-06
Day Dawn	12-08-06	Mundabullangana	26-04-11	Yormaning	4-12-06
Donnybrook	3-09-07	Nangeenan	12-08-06		
Doodlakine	2-10-06	Narrogin	4-08-06		

* Incorrect date in *PMI*.



Type AviT: 2 letter month, 2 figure year. Diameter 26-30mm. No separators.

Supplied under the 1906 contract, let on 9-02-07, to Twemlow and Stone, Sydney, with office names by Cumpston and Mason, Perth. There is one pre-contract example used at Fremantle, known 3-01-07. This could have been a contract sample. The earliest contract cds usage recorded is at Kanowna, known 16-05-07.

20 contracted for: 1 + 16 supplied. Twemlow was having difficulty fulfilling his contracts and his 1905 NSW contract was cancelled on 25 June 1906. (Tobin, 1983, 43).

Pre-contract:		Gingin	16-10-07	Midland Jct	12-06-07
Fremantle	3-01-07	Goomalling	13-11-07	Sandstone	28-05-07
		Greenbushes	14-09-07*	Sharks Bay	5-08-08
Contract:		Kanowna	16-05-07	Watheroo	27-02-08
Bamboo Creek	20-05-11	Leederville	7-08-08	Yalgoo	24-06-08
Berrigrin	8-06-08	Lennonville	30-10-07		
Broad Arrow	19-11-07	Marradong	4-06-08		
Cottesloe	1-12-07				

* Time at right.



Type Avii(a): 2 letter month, 4 figure year.

Three cds, wholly engraved by Cumpston and Mason are recorded. Moora, known 20-10-06, Paddington, known 3-12-06 and Burnakurra, known 7-12-06. For some unknown reason, promulgation of the AO status of the latter office was delayed until 1-05-07.



Type Avii(b): 2 letter month, 4 figure year.

Supplied under the 1906 contract, let on 9-02-07, to Twemlow and Stone, with office names by Cumpston and Mason. The earliest contract cds usage recorded is at Capel, known 22-02-07.

80 contracted for: only 35 supplied. Twemlow was having difficulty fulfilling his contracts and his 1905 NSW contract was cancelled on 25 June 1906. (Tobin, 1983, 43).

Hamilton Road Fremantle was made SO status on 15 July 1908 and was issued with a Type Avii(b). This is recorded for one date only, namely 4-09-08. Cumpston and Mason obviously had difficulty with the long office name. The next time they were required to engrave a long name, ST JOHN'S BROOK MILL, which opened as an AO on 15 September 1909, they created more space by engraving 'W.A.' rather than Western Australia, thus creating Type CL, see below.

Arrino	29-06-07	Gullewa	29-06-07	Midland Jctn	19-08-07
Balla Balla	24-10-12	Hamilton Rd Ftle	4-09-08	Mulga Queen	8-03-08
Bayswater	?-?-07	Hay Street East	31-01-12	Mundaring Weir	21-10-07
Boulder MOO	26-06-09	Ida H 2 arcs	11-04-07	Onslow	10-07-07
Capel	22-02-07	Kellerberrin	4-01-08	Parkerville	23-10-07
Caversham	30-06-15	Kelmscott	1-02-08	Sandy Creek	23-09-08
Collie	14-08-07	Kulyalling	3-04-08	Smiths Mill	7-11-07
Cottesloe Beach	9-09-09	Kurrawang	9-01-08	Subiaco	20-06-07
Diorite King	8-06-09	Lawlers	10-08-07	Waterfall	18-11-08
Dowerin	12-05-08	Maddington	8-05-09	Yaloginda	11-08-08
Gindalbie	9-07-08	Malcolm	8-04-09	Yarri 2 arcs	?-08-07
Grn'bushes Timb Mill	10-04-08	Maninga Marley	?-10-07		



Type Avii(c): 2 letter month, 4 figure year.

The following were wholly engraved in Avii format by Cumpston and Mason in later years.

Big Brook	13-01-15	Kojonup	6-09-22	Pinjarra	18-06-49
Bilbarin	3-07-21	Pinjarra	19-12-22	Shackleton	18-02-18
Burbidge	27-08-22				



Type Aviii: 2 letter month, 2 figure year.

No tenders were called between 1918 and 1925 but there is a large cohort of some 235 cds from this period, all unexpectedly in Type A, which had long been abandoned. The use of Type A, the uniform pattern, and the lettering that appears to be the pattern used for Types Aii in 1905, Avii(a) in 1907 and Avii(c) in 1915, but in a greater variety of formats as might be expected over such a lengthy period of production, all indicate Cumpston and Mason. The earliest usage recorded is Ajana, known 17-03-18 and the sub-type was supplied to a number of offices opening in the mid to late 1920s. Ajana and Binnu were probably refitted with 3 letter months.

Acton Park	5-10-23	Black Snake	17-12-25	Chidlow	15-11-20
Ajana	17-03-18	Bodallin	7-06-24	Circle Valley	18-02-28
Aldersyde	15-04-24	Borden	23-09-24	Claymore	8-11-21
Allanson	13-12-24	Bowelling	27-06-22	Cornervale	archival
Allanson	18-05-21	Bowgada	15-10-23	Courtney	22-10-24
Ambergate	4-06-25	Boyndlie Park	1-10-25	Cowaramup	12-10-28
Amphion	23-05-23	Brockman	6-06-24	Dardadine	30-11-29
Appadene	20-12-27	Brucedale	25-02-24	Dellerton	22-07-27
Argyle*	30-08-21	Bruce Rock	31-12-31	Derby	17-03-27
Australind	3-03-31	Buckingham	18-12-22	Diamond Tree	20-06-27
Baldivis	archival	Bulla Bulling	29-03-24	Dixvale	21-05-27
Balkuling	27-01-25	Bullsbrook	3-12-24	Doorawarra	11-10-30
Bardoc*	25-02-22	Bulyee	4-05-29	Dowerin	30-05-22
Bassendean	29-07-24	Bunbury	6-05-22	Dukin	10-12-27
Belka	7-09-21	Calcarra	archival	Duranillan	24-10-21
Bellevue	20-05-21	Capel	17-01-23	Duranillin	12-10-24
Bendering	28-04-26	Cape Naturaliste	archival	Eastbrook	6-11-22
Benjinup	12-08-24	Carbunup	13-10-24	Ellensbrook	18-06-24
Beria	4-06-20	Carlisle	22-01-53	Emu Hill	24-08-22
Beverley	9-10-24	Carlisle North	2-03-46	Ewington	7-07-21
Bicton	23-08-21	Camarvon	4-12-23	Fortescue	11-08-23
Binnu	28-04-33	Celebration	30-12-20	Gabbin	30-10-24

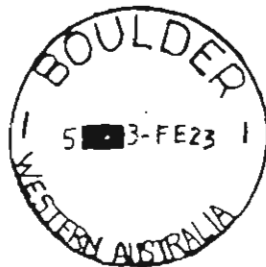
Galena	25-01-21	Mt Fraser	8-10-23	Shark's Bay	25-09-22
Gilgering	30-03-22	Mt Lawley	1-05-30	Shotts	14-02-22
Gingin Brook	18-11-26	Mt Monger	18-07-23	South Beach [Ftle]	22-06-28
Glenarty	19-08-24	Muckenbooding	2-10-24	South Coogee [Cge Sth]	10-05-46
Gnarabup	18-12-24	Muja	19-07-27	South Kumminin	15-10-25
Gnow's Nest	27-08-23	Mundabullangana	26-04-11	South Kunnunoppin	14-07-43*
Golden Hope	4-09-24	Nalkain	9-12-31	Spencer's Brook	26-09-21
Goomalling	4-06-19	Nanga Brook Bush Ldg	25-01-29	Swanbourne	25-03-35
Gooseberry Hill	13-03-23	Narambeen	30-09-22	The Lakes	30-11-66
Gorge Creek	1-11-24	Nembudding	2-12-21	Three Rivers Station	17-03-30
Granite Hills	27-06-24	Newcarnie	?-05-22#	Toolibin	11-04-24
Great Hope Valley	3-06-24	Newdegate	17-06-27	Treesville	27-02-22
Group 88	?-?-27	Newlgalup	15-08-23	Tuckanarra	22-10-21
Group 96	18-09-25	New Norcia	22-08-21	Turkey Point	5-10-30
Gutha	2-12-25	Nillup	30-10-24	Tutunup	17-04-23
Gwalia	10-09-24	No 2 State Mill Dwellg	14-02-20	Uduc	27-04-29
Hay St West	11-05-23	No 7 Pump Stm	?-?-25	Upper Swan	15-12-20
Herne Hill	14-08-28	Noman's Lake	?-?-26	Vasse	27-03-23
Highbury	30-06-27	Norlup	13-04-23	Victoria Park	27-08-18
Holden's	1-09-19	Nornalup	12-09-35	Wagerup	?-?-24
Hollywood	29-10-29	Northcliffe	18-05-24	Walgoolan	4-11-24
Hotham	16-05-25	North Dandalup	23-01-23#	Walliston	15-06-21
Hutt	archival	North Perth	24-02-31	Welbunging	18-12-24
Indarra	archival	Nukenburu	8-11-22	Wellard	8-12-23
Ive's Find	29-11-21	Nullagine	23-12-20	West Guildford	?-09-20
Jarrahsbank	1-09-24	Nungarin	28-10-24	White Hope	31-10-21
Jarrahdale	10-04-19	Nuralingup	?-05-22	White Peak	12-01-24
Jingalup	14-04-23	Oakford	3-03-25	Willyabrup	8-06-23
Kendenup	27-09-21	Oldbury	14-11-25	Witchcliffe	11-11-27
Kondut	10-11-29	Palgarrup Mill	10-09-21	Woodanilling	21-10-21
Korbel	18-04-24	Palgarup Mill	9-05-23	Woolgangie	17-06-29
Kudardup	11-01-27	Palmyra	28-06-27	Worsley	?-08-27
Kununoppin	17-09-20	Parker's Road	9-08-25	Wubin	20-10-21
Lake Clifton	2-08-21	Parkerville	24-10-24	Wurarga	15-02-22
Lanark	3-03-24	Peak Hill	31-10-29	Wyalkatchem	4-04-22
Lancefield Wood Line	archival	Perth Registered	8-02-25	Wyalkatchem	21-05-24
Latham	27-09-28	Perth Registered	8-04-26	Wyening	21-10-24
Leederville	24-01-21	Perth St Georges Tce	24-08-27	Yalgoo	7-01-26
Lennox	21-03-25	Piawaning	6-11-23	Yalyallup	12-05-24
Leonora	6-01-22	Piesseville	10-01-25	Yandanooka	7-11-21
Linfarn	24-01-27	Pindar	6-12-23	Yarding	archival
Lower Chittering	archival	Pintharuka	21-05-25	Yarrabubba	30-03-21
Mandogrup	27-08-23	Plavin's Mill	15-11-26	Yellowdine	17-02-22
Manjimup	28-02-23	Point Denison	26-01-37	Yelverton	9-12-27
Marble Bar	12-01-21	Qualeup	18-02-27	Yoongarillup	9-09-24
Mardella	?-01-30	Quindanning	11-05-23	York Street Perth	archival***
Margaret	15-02-25	Red Lake	27-08-27	Yoting	8-08-23
Marling	5-01-25	Reliefs:			
Marmellup	22-01-25	Postal (A-G) Dept	1913-58	# Incorrect date in <i>PMI</i> .	
Marne	10-01-25	Postal (F,G) Dept	1924-54	* Names are upside down.	
Maroondah	1-06-26	See also (H-M)	1938-55	** 'AUSTA'.	
Maxicar	archival	Riverside	1-08-22	*** Large 'Y', 'S' and 'P'.	
Mayanup	21-04-39	Rivervale	4-11-24		
Maylands	4-12-18	Roleystone	23-09-35		
McLeod's Creek	18-08-20	Rosa Brook	15-05-23		
Menang	archival	Rosa Glen	23-07-25		
Merkanooka	21-11-24	Rossmith	16-12-25		
Middlesex	9-07-24	Ruabon	21-02-23		
Middleton Beach	26-03-32	Sabina Vale	17-10-24		
Miling	?-03-24	Salmon Gums	31-03-27		
Mitchelldean	22-05-23	Scaddon	27-10-24		
Mount Helena	30-06-27	Serpentine	15-12-24		



Type AixT: 2 letter month, 2 figure year.

Nine cds with Aviii lettering engraved by Cumpston and Mason. The earliest usage is recorded at Kalgoorlie, known 4-02-20.

Boulder	archival	Northam	14-03-23	# Time shows PM rather than P.
Bunbury	2-03-23	Pemberton	23-06-23	Not illustrated in <i>PMI</i> .
Geraldton	24-02-26#	Perth	26-02-21	* Incorrect date in <i>PMI</i> .
Kalgoorlie	6-09-28*	Victoria Park	10-12-27	



Type AxT: 2 letter month, 2 figure year. Diameter 32-34mm.

On 12-07-17, a contract was let to C.G.Roeszler and Son, 264 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, for the unusual numbers of 36 cds, 4 TIME and 4 PAID. It is thought that, as a result of war-time shortages, Perth decided to have an odd assortment of incomplete, unissued handstamps, finished and put to use. Three of the four paid cds have been identified and are dealt with below. One of the four time cds is believed to be that from Boulder, inscribed WESTⁿ AUST^a, which was presumably intended to be Type DT and probably came from Watson, Ferguson. The other three are large Type AT's, supplier unknown, from Boulder, known 3-02-23. Albany, known 21-03-24 and Subiaco, known 9-04-21. See Type Ci for 34 of the 36cds. Quindanning Type D was probably one of the other two.

Albany	21-03-24*
Boulder	3-02-23
Subiaco	9-04-21*

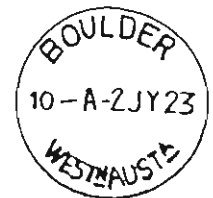
* Large W and A

Type D: 'WESTⁿ AUSTRALIA', from 1908

Type D was introduced by Watson, Ferguson for their 1907 contract and continued in use through the 1908 non-contract period and beyond. Cumpston and Mason did the office names. A total of 206 cds (146 x Dii and 60 x Diii) of the 200 contracted for by Watson, Ferguson under the 1907 Contract [100] and its 1908 repeat [100] have been identified.

Two apparently distinct lettering styles, Patterns, I and II, were in use at more or less the same time. Compare, for example, the compressed lettering on DiT(a), (see Geraldton, known 29-11-08) with the expanded lettering on DiT(b), (see Bunbury, known 5-08-08). These may represent two different patterns but they are treated here as different settings of the one pattern. Many of the Watson, Ferguson cds wore quickly, particularly in the lower lettering, see Fremantle for example. The size and position of the ⁿ varies considerably.

Type DiT: Supplied by Watson, Ferguson during the 1908 non-contract period. Two different types of base were used. One produced 26-27mm diameters with the date line extending into the sides and consistently showing pattern I, whilst the other produced 28-29mm diameters with the date line confined to the central portion and consistently showing Pattern II. The earliest dates of usage overlap.



Type DiT(a): 26-27mm. Date line extends to sides, no separators. Pattern I. Twenty one cds are recorded with the earliest usage being Geraldton, known 29-11-08.

Aberdeen St	30-11-09	Katanning	12-11-14	Perth TPO	13-01-10#
Aberdeen Street	7-11-12	Kukerin	25-08-15	Pinjarra	11-12-08
Beaufort St	26-04-16*	Kwobrup	24-10-13	Toodyay	16-03-15
Boulder	24-07-17**	Northam	29-12-08		
Darlington	22-10-15	Northam	8-09-20		* refitted with 3 letter month
Fimiston	10-11-09	North Perth	24-02-31		** AUST ^a Incorrectly shown as
Geraldton	29-11-08	Perth	23-09-09		Type B in <i>PMI</i> .
Gwalia	12-09-09	Perth	20-10-09		# See <i>Black Swan</i> , Dec. 2001, 88
Kalgoorlie	8-10-09	Perth TPO	17-09-09		



Type DiT(b): 28-29mm. Date line confined to centre, separators. Pattern II. Eight cds are recorded with the earliest usage being Bunbury, known 5-08-08.

Bridgetown	9-03-10	Cottesloe	21-05-10	Kanowna	20-08-09
Bunbury	5-08-08	Esperance	25-06-10	Moora	2-06-10
Collie	14-12-10	Guildford	12-09-09		



Type Dii: 3 letter month. Supplied under the 1907 contract by Watson, Ferguson, with office name by Cumston and Mason, during and beyond the 1908 non-contract period. A total of 146 cds have been identified. The earliest usage being Pingelly, known 9-01-08. In this sequence Cue, Dattening, Derby, Perth Rail, Pingin and Waterloo have arcs at the sides whilst Ballidu, Bremer Bay and Norseman (-b) have dashes. Quindanning has AUSTR^A.

Abbotts	23-06-10	Israelite Bay	13-03-13	Pickering Brook	?-??-16
Aberdeen Street Perth	7-11-12	Jandakot	8-01-12	Picton Junction	21-08-08
Ardath	25-02-19	Jarrahdale No 6 Mill	13-11-08	Piesse	1-09-21
Arthur River	1-04-09	Jarrahdene Mill	12-04-09	Pingelly	9-01-08
Baandee	31-10-10	Jennacubine	20-10-09	Pingin (arcs)	31-03-08
Babakine	18-09-20	Jolimont	10-09-26	Pintharuka	7-03-18
Badgebup	28-01-14	Kanowna	30-07-08	Port Hedland	17-06-08
Balingup	23-07-08	Kenwick	6-12-21	Preston Valley	16-05-08
Ballidu	1-07-15	Kojonup	3-02-09	Quairading	8-10-08
Bayswater	27-05-20	Koojan	27-03-08	Quindalup	5-07-09
Beenup	11-08-08	Kwelkan	12-04-15	Quindanning#	16-08-17
Berkshire Valley	20-01-22	Lakeside	2?-11-14	Redcliffe Park	6-12-22
Blackboy Hill	16-04-15	Leonora	18-05-08	Roebourne	3-04-09
Boyup Brook	25-01-10	Lion Mill	7-10-09	Roebourne	1-08-16
Bremer Bay	4-08-09	Lord St Perth	13-12-29	Roslyn Farm	12-10-08
Brisbane St	11-09-11	Lowden	15-05-09	Rottnest	13-04-10
Broad Arrow	14-07-10	Ludlow	11-10-10	Sandstone	4-09-09
Broomehill	25-08-08	Mallina	?-10-10	Sandstone MOO	8-10-08
Bunbury	3-06-08	Marble Bar	27-02-09	Sawyers Valley	28-08-09
Burswood	14-12-12	Meekatharra	1-05-09	Southern Cross	27-11-15
Cannington	16-08-12	Midland Junction	15-05-14	Strawberry	1-04-09
Carlindi	18-07-35	Morgans	23-04-08	Swan View	?-02-28
Comet Vale	3-11-09	Mount Barker	25-10-08	Tambellup	25-05-09
Coorow	3-11-09	Mount Magnet	30-05-08	Tammin	3-04-08
Corinthian	3-10-13	Mt Sir Samuel	8-08-08	Three Springs	11-02-10
Crowther	12-09-08	Mullalyup	19-12-22	Torbay Jnct	14-05-08
Cuddingwarra	8-07-08	Mullewa	19-12-22	TPO Trans	11-02-15
Cue (arcs)	2-01-11	Mummballupp	21-08-09	Upper Preston	24-06-08
Dalwallinu	1-11-23	Mumballup	28-07-29	Wagerup	23-10-09
Dangin	11-11-08	Mundijong	22-08-08	Walkaway	30-11-08
Darkan	?-05-08	Murgoo	26-07-08	Wanneroo	29-06-20
Dattening (arcs)	20-12-24	Nallan	14-10-12	Warrawoona	6-08-12
Denmark	22-09-09	Nanga Brook	17-08-09	Waterloo (arcs)	1-01-09
Derby (arcs)	24-07-08	Narra Tarra	19-06-09	Waterous Mill	18-06-08
Desdemona	9-02-09	Newlands	3-07-08	Welshpool	10-05-24
Dongarra	21-12-08	Newtown	17-03-10	West Subiaco	?-04-10
Dumbleyung	19-07-10	Noggerup	13-10-09	Whim Creek	24-08-09
East Chapman	7-07-21	Norseman	26-04-08	Wilga	2-10-23
Eradu	23-01-18	Norseman	19-03-14	Wiluna	30-07-08
Errol's Find	24-12-08	Northam	5-10-09	Wokalup	5-03-10
Fremantle Customs	4-09-08	North Beach	14-07-28	Wonnerup	12-01-08
Geraldton	1-12-08	Nyabing	8-02-13	Woolgar	17-06-08
Gmbuses Ti Mi	2-01-13	Osborne Park	28-11-13	Wyndham	24-11-21
Greenough	18-03-08	Pantapin	21-10-24	Yarling	12-09-09
Greens Landing	16-04-13	Pth P Rest UNC	19-10 11	Yorkrakine	29-11-09
Group 123	3-10-28	Perth Post Rest	21-04-10	Youanmi	27-02-15
Hay River	11-08-08	Perth Rail (arcs)	14-10-15		
Hoffmans Mill	13-02-09	Perth Registered	18-11-09	# AUSTR ^A	
Hopetoun	12-09-08	Perth Registered	23-12-09		
Ingleton	29-05-31	Perth Registered	13-01-10		



Type Diii: 2 letter month. No contract was let for 1908 but the 1907 contract for 100 cds with office name by Cumpston and Mason was repeated without going to tender. Some 60 cds have been identified. The earliest usage being Trafalgar, known 20-09-09. Some were not issued until the 1918-1925 non-contract period.

Albany	27-10-14	Geraldton	10-10-11	Newcastle	16-05-10
Argyle	31-10-10	Gimlet	23-07-12	Nilgey	13-07-26*
Badgerin	6-02-13	Goongarrie	23-11-10	Nippering	21-06-11
Barabup	11-01-16	Halls Creek	25-08-10	Poondina	23-08-16
Barrabupp	13-04-10	Holyoake	23-03-11	Quinns	4-05-11
Bolgart	3-08-17	Ida H	10-05-12	Serpentine	3-07-16
Boulder	21-12-11	Irwin	18-08-10	Southern Cross	10-12-09
Broome	28-10-10	Isseka	9-09-15	Subiaco	16-08-17
Bullfinch	30-01-11	Kalgoorlie	26-01-10	Toodyay	9-07-10
Carnamah	19-02-10	Kalgup	15-05-31	Trafalgar	20-09-09
Claremont	6-03-11	Kookynie	10-11-10	Wagin	8-09-11
Claremont	13-09-12	Maddington	16-12-15	Welshpool	30-10-11
Coomberdale	11-05-10	Menzies	23-11-10	Whittakers Mill	6-07-13
Coorang	19-01-10	Middle Swan	19-01-25	Wickepin	9-09-10
Cottesloe	22-10-09	Moojebing	5-09-10	Wilga	27-06-10
Dardanup	28-12-09	Moulyinning	20-01-23*	Wilga	31-03-11
Desmond	21-09-12	Mukinbudin	12-08-26*	Yuin	17-10-12
Dowerin	17-09-10	Mungalup	12-10-10	Yuna	4-12-10
Fremantle	30-03-11	Nabawah	15-08-11		
Gascoyne Jctn	20-09-22	Narngulu	15-07-10		
Georgina	2-08-11	Narrikup	5-09-10		

* 1918-1925 non-contract period.



Type Div: 3 letter month. The ' has a dot or a small vertical dash below. Supplied by Austin Engraving under the 1915 contract. A total of 26 cds is recorded, the earliest usage being Applecross, known 31-09-15. Five have a version of the 'AUSTRUA' error and Dwarda has a four figure year.

Applecross	31-09-15 (AUSTRUA)	Kathleen Valley	19-07-33
Boddington	15-12-16	Mogumber	9-09-20
Boogardie	14-02-22	Morawa	22-06-17
Buntine	12-09-15	Nangeenan	18-08-17 (AUSTRUA)
Carmel#	15-08-21	Nannup	10-05-18*
Dwarda	27-08-22 (4 figure year)	Nanson	28-04-23
Ellis Creek	20-01-20	Naretha#	13-09-16
Ferguson	archival (AUSTRUA)	Parkston	17-03-20 (AUSTRUA)
Glen Forrest	16-03-23	Pemberton	21-03-16

Perenjori 21-11-16
 Pithara 11-08-17
 Rawlinna 13-10-34
 Southern Cross 27-11-15
 Tammin 8-07-16
 Tarwongup 2-07-39
 Yuin Telegraph archival
 Zanthus 27-01-21 (AUSTRALIA)

The mark below the ⁿ resembles a dash.
 * The date in *PMI* refers to an unconfirmed Type A, whereabouts unknown.

The following pair have large 'W' and 'A' and probably belong here. See also Bix.
 Kalgoorlie Par 11-09-30 (WESTⁿ AUSTRALIA)
 Konnongorring 28-05-20 (WESTⁿ AUSTRALIA)

Type B: 'WESTⁿ AUST', from 1909

The first National tender was called in February 1909 and the contract was let to C.G.Roeszler & Son, 264, Little Collins St, Melbourne with a workplace at 285 Little Lonsdale St. The notable feature as far as Western Australia was concerned was the adoption of the shorter 'WESTⁿ AUST' as standard. The size and position of the ⁿ varies considerably. Roeszler held contracts in 1909, 1910, 1913, 1914, and 1916 during which a total of 395 cds were contracted for but only 255 (129 x Bi + 92 x Biii) supplied.



Type Bi: Dot after AUST. Lettering, tall and compressed. (Compare Bv). A total of 129 cds recorded. Earliest usage is Barton, known 22-12-09.

Arrino	28-02-12	Dalwallinu	23-06-13	Kellerberrin	20-12-10
Augusta	28-05-19	Day Dawn	13-11-11	Keysbrook	13-12-13
Barton	22-12-09	Dinninup	4-06-12	Kondinin	22-06-27
Bencubbin	22-02-23	Doodlakine	8-04-12	Kronkupp	21-10-12
Benjaberring	4-06-13	Dwelliŋgup	11-01-11	Kulikup	26-11-12
Beverley	5-12-12	East Bunbury	20-06-50	Kundip	9-09-19
Bluff Point	24-08-14	East Kirrup	3-09-12	Kunjinn	2-06-13
Boolading	15-04-12	Errols Find	20-12-12	Kununoppin	4-05-12
Boyanup	18-07-12	Fitzroy Crossing	?-??-12	Kurramia	3-10-16
Brookton	30-05-12	Flinders Bay	23-11-27	Kurrawang	14-01-13
Broome	1-02-13	Geraldton	2-03-12*	Lake Bidy	10-09-27
Bruce Rock	28-08-12	Gnowangerup	10-09-10	Lake Grace	11-11-21
Brunswick Jctn	3-02-10	Grass Patch	31-12-12	Lake Grace	22-07-31
Bungulla	?-07-12	Greenhills	22-08-11	Linden	22-01-13
Burbanks	11-03-11	Grosvenor Road	24-08-17	Lyalls Mill	4-08-10
Burges Siding	20-11-11	Group 129	archival	Manberry	archival
Butterfly	?-06-14	Harrismith	1-07-18	Mandiga	27-05-22
Calingiri	24-12-17	Jamadup	1-07-12	Manjimupp	17-07-12
Carbine	11-05-18	Jarrahdale	9-06-13	Marvel Loch	??-01-11
Clackline	16-07-12	Jarrahwod	25-01-13	Maylands	6-12-10
Collie Burn	?-??-12	Jitarning	7-10-20	Meckering	27-10-10
Como	?-04-43	[E] Kalgoorlie	6-02-40	Moolia-beenie	4-02-11
Coongan	16-01-13	Kalgoorlie Rail	13-10-18	Mooliabeenie	2-03-12
Cranbrook	16-02-12	Kalgoorlie	16-03-12	Mornington	22-07-12
Cuballing	29-08-12	Kalgoorlie	16-12-19	Mt Lawley	28-08-13
Cunderdin?	25-09-11	Karragullen	11-06-17	Mt Magnet	10-05-11

Mulikupp	31-05-12	Queens Park	21-10-12	Wannamal	10-08-11
Mulline	22-04-12	Redmond	3-12-12	Waroona	15-07-12
Muntadgin	22-02-26	Rich Meadows	10-12-27	West Leederville	27-08-12
Nannine	1-07-12	Rockingham	6-12-29	Westonia	24-03-24
Narrogin	13-06-12	Shotts	8-02-13	Wickepin	6-01-13
Narrogin	18-11-13	Shotts	18-10-21	Wodgina	17-02-13
Nedlands Park	13-12-11	Southern Cross	20-12-10	Wongan Hills	20-01-11
Nelsons Mill?	13-06-12	Southern Cross	21-11-12	Woorloo	4-12-12
Normans Well	21-05-34	South Perth	2-12-12	Wyalcatchem	26-03-12
Northampton	3-06-11	Stratherne	20-03-23	Yelbini	?-06-18
North Fremantle	13-02-22	Swan Mills	18-02-13	Yonga	10-04-14
Nungarin	15-05-12	Tenindewa	17-12-12	Youanme	23-01-12
Ora Banda	29-04-15	Torbay	22-11-18	Youngs Siding	20-05-11
Palace Hotel?	21-01-16	Trayning	20-11-12	Yunndaga	28-11-16
Palm Creek	15-06-26	Turkey Creek	6-11-17		
Paynes Find	7-10-12	Victoria Park	22-02-12		
Perth Brisbane St	3-10-28	Waddington	2-03-23		
Pindalup	20-11-12	Wandering	13-05-21		

* Incorrect date in *PMI*.



Type BiiT: Dot after AUST. On Bi base. Three recorded. Geraldton, known 2-02-12, Laverton, known 13-04-14 and Subiaco, known ?-03-25.

Geraldton	2-02-12 <i>PMI</i> date 10-10-11 refers to Type D28-b
Laverton	13-04-14
Subiaco	?-03-25



Type Biii: No dot after AUST Lettering, tall and compressed. (Compare Bviii). A total of 92 cds recorded. Earliest usage is Meekatharra, known ?-11-09.

Baddera	2-04-15	Carbup Brook	archival	Copperfield?	21-12-14
Balbarrup	25-02-13	Chidlow's Well	7-07-11	Cossack?	??-07-11
Benjabbering	4-06-13	Collie	3-03-14	Damboring	15-01-29
Benjaberring	11-06-25	Collie	21-04-27	Denninup Vale	2-09-13
Bibra Lake	9-11-48	Collie Cardiff	4-06-14	East Cannington	15-05-14
Byford	5-09-21	Cooglegong	8-01-16	East Kirupp	15-01-14
Canning Bridge	17-06-28	Cookernup	3-08-14	East Mornington	24-01-13

Forest Grove	21-09-26	Margaret River	3-03-14	Round Hill	19-11-12
[G]Ngowangerup	10-09-13	Marrinup	26-02-11	Sandstone	4-08-13
Golden Ridge?	19-10-12	Maya	3-10-32	Scarborough [Beach]	20-05-35
Golden Ridge?	19-11-13	Meekatharra	?-11-09	Spearwood	?-03-32
Grass Valley	12-10-16	Merredin	23-03-13	Stoneville	31-10-27
Group 106	13-03-26	Mertondale	11-10-13	Tardun	21-04-30
Group 120	8-04-26	Mil Camp Ascot	20-10-15	Torbay Junction	20-03-10
Group 131	26-10-26	Mt Erin Siding?	6-09-17	Treeton	10-03-26
Holyoake No 8 Mill	23-03-27	Mt Hawthorn	20-05-31	Tuart Hill	archival
Howatharra	9-04-13	Mt Kokeby	3-03-13	Upper Margaret	1-04-11
Jardee	2-04-27	Muchea	4-05-15	West Collie	4-03-14
Jarrahdene Mill	7-09-10	Newcarrie	29-04-12	West Northam	13-09-58
Kalamunda	2-08-13	New Norcia	15-05-13	Weston	11-06-13
Karalee	?-11-13	Northampton	12-11-13	Westonia	20-09-13
Karridale	9-02-13	North Dandalup	2-04-14	Woogenellup	1-10-30
Korrelocking	8-01-12	Nunagin	21-08-13	Wooramel	8-09-16
Kulin	13-07-27	Ogilvie	23-03-28	Wuraming	30-05-14
Kurrenkutten	3-04-12	Ora Banda	28-10-12	Xantippe	7-04-36
Kurrimia	29-06-12	Overland?	archival	Yandyarra	25-09-15
Lake Brown	16-09-26	Popanyinning	3-09-13	Yilliminning	30-05-12
Leederville	3-01-14	Reliefs:		York	12-08-26
Mahogany Creek	30-05-40	Postal (A,B,C,D) Depart	1921-50	Youanmi	2-02-22
Mandurah	8-06-13	River Street	16-03-19	Yuin Reef	15-11-25

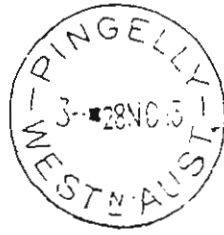


Type BivT: No dot after AUST On Biii base. One recorded, Busselton, known 4-06-23.



Type Bv: Dot after AUST. Lettering, squat and expanded. (Compare Bi). Supplied under the 1911 and 1912 contracts by Quirk and Morton. A total of 150 cds were contracted for but only 33 Bv were supplied. Earliest recorded usage, Carrabin, known 26-02-12

Arrino	?-10-16	Harvey	14-07-14	Mundaring	26-07-16
Benger	13-10-15	Hester	31-05-35	Mundiwindi	7-09-36
Bornholm	15-04-16	Kondinin	22-04-18	Namban	2-07-26
Boscabel	6-03-20	Koorda	14-02-18	Narrogin	31-07-16
Brown Hill	8-06-15	Kulinn	3-06-18	Nokaning	1-11-17
Burekup	30-04-15	Kwolyin	3-06-16	Ongerup	29-07-18
Carrabin	26-02-12	Lake Austin	12-05-31	Siberia	?-??-28
Corrigin	12-11-14	Loongana	22-02-22	Watheroo	24-12-14
Dudin	1-09-24	Menzies	21-03-14	Williams	29-04-14
Dumbleyung	23-10-24	Moora	14-04-14	Winchester	7-12-16
Gunyidi	11-06-17	Mullewa	4-09-14	Yetna	21-04-22



Type BviT: Dot after AUST. On Bv base. Four recorded, Harvey, known 29-07-15, Narrogin, known 31-07-16, Pingelly, known 28-11-13 and Merredin, known 8-04-15.



Type Bvii: No dot after AUST Lettering, squat and expanded. (Compare Biii). Supplied under the 1911 and 1912 contracts by Quirk and Morton. A total of 150 cds contracted for but only 16 Bvii were supplied. Earliest recorded usage, West Perth, known 17-04-15.

Albany	12-03-18	Georgina	29-08-24	Naraling	29-11-19
Brookhampton	13-11-24	Grass Valley	15-05-17	Wagerup?	8-06-16
Collie	20-10-26	Kalgoorlie	3-07-37	Wallal	19-05-20
Coolgardie	1-06-17	Koolanooka	28-10-18	Wandarrie	27-06-29
Coongan	19-05-32	Muradup	26-06-17	West Perth	17-04-15
Edjudina	13-08-23				



Type BviiiT: No dot after AUST On Bvii base. Two recorded, Geraldton, known 9-07-15 and Northam, known 25-01-16.



Type Bix: W and A are larger than the other letters. Supplier(s) not known. Recorded only for East Kondut, known 28-08-29, Goonerup, known 31-08-26, Guildford, known 25-09-27 and Kondinin, known 28-10-26. The latter is incorrectly shown as Type E in *PMI*. See also the archival strike of Rays which may belong here.

Type CL: 'W.A.', from 1909

Type CL: Various styles and sizes, devised for long name offices prior to the advent of Type C. Most, if not all, were engraved by Cumpston and Mason but there is no consistent pattern or style.

St John's Brook Mill, known 28-10-09. Gingin MR, known 19-07-11*. Three Springs MR, known 4-09-11*. Chapman State Farm, known 9-10-11. Moora MR, known 3-05-12*. Moonyoonooka, known ?-06-12. Coghlan Road Subiaco, known 15-07-12. Telegraph Office Boorabbin, known 21-12-12. 30 Mile via Norseman, known 21-03-13. Mornington Mills, known 13-07-14. No 2 State Mill Dwellingup, known 7-02-15. Yealering Lake, known 13-07-15. Sanitorium Wooroloo, known 20-01-19. No 1 State Mill via Manjimup, known 28-11-19.

* THREE SPRINGS MR is a true Type CL, but its shorter companions, GINGIN MR and MOORA MR, are not. As all three were engraved and supplied as a group, it is convenient to keep the group together as Type CL.



Type C: 'W.A.', from 1917?, known 1920

In 1917, a contract was let to C.G.Roeszler and Son, for the unusual number of 36 cds. The introduction of 'W.A.' as the standard lower inscription dates from this contract and 34 {Ci(a) x 11 + Ci(b) x 23} of the 36 cds contracted for, have been identified.



Type Ci(a): Broad lettering. Dot after A. Lettering generally broad. Usage recorded at 11 offices, the earliest of which is Bullaring, (AO 16-07-17) known 1-10-20.

Bilbarin	25-11-29	Mt Satire	archival	Treesville	28-04-36
Bullaring	1-10-20	Myalup	14-03-32	Wiluna	16-08-32
Mollerin	22-10-34	Naretha	archival	Yalgoo	1-02-30
Mt Erin	17-08-29	Nolba	7-12-27		



Type Ci(b): Broad lettering. No dot after A. Lettering generally broad. Usage recorded at 23 offices, the earliest of which is Dwarda, (AO 1-02-17) known 30-08-22.

Clackline	6-10-28	Lomos	13-06-27	Walebing	27-04-27
Cue	15-11-29	Lyons Camp	21-06-29	Wardering	21-12-27
Dwarda	30-08-22	Marchagee	30-06-30	Whelarra	1-10-27
Elgin	18-12-37	Mardie	17-05-32	Yericoin	2-05-29
Erikin	4-07-28	Metricup	27-11-34	Yornup	6-12-29
Gnarming	archival	Northam	7-07-44	Yuna	17-08-29
Kondut	9-08-29	Stirling	archival	Yunderup	23-08-36
Kweda	9-10-34	Toodyay	archival		

No tenders for Western Australia were called between 1918 and 1926 but a large number of Type Aviii were issued during this period. In addition to these, an unknown source (or sources) supplied a number of Type C cds during the same period. Tinkurrin (RO 16-02-18), for example, received one, known 12-01-25. The earliest usage recorded appears to be East Fremantle, known 14-06-20. The 'W.A.' in both is somewhat narrower and this seems to be typical for the general range of national contract cds. More research is needed on this period before a workable classification based on something other than office openings, can be derived. Meanwhile they are included in Type Ciii.

National contracts were re-introduced in 1926 with the successful tenderer being F.W.Wynd, 259 Malvern Road, Malvern, Victoria.

Type Cii: Thin lettering. Recorded for 6 offices, one of which opened in July 1924 and five which opened during September-November 1925. These pre-date the letting of the national contract to Wynd on 21-10-26 but the cds were probably supplied by Wynd because no other cds can be allocated to that supplier.



Cii(a). Thin lettering. Dot after A. Belmont South, known 26-02-37 and Group 77, known 17-01-28.



Cii(b). Thin lettering, No dot after A. Bindi Bindi, known 16-06-31, Cossack, known 5-12-30, Marybrook (b), known 11-05-26*, and Pingrup, known 31-10-29.

*The illustration of Marybrook does not show any dots at all. The status of Marybrook is unclear and this date lies within the period of Marybrook (b). It may be noted that the entry for Marybrook in *PMI* should have been designated Marybrook (b) and that Marybrook (a) was mistakenly omitted. The latter was RO 1-11-23. (R) Woolston ?-11-24 and the Type A25 belongs to Marybrook (a). Woolston, no marking known, was formally closed on 15-10-27, well after Marybrook (b) reopened on 1-10-25.



Type Ciii: WA narrower than Ci. Supplied by E.L.Morton and H.C.Horton and possibly others. A large group of more than 250 supplied over many years. The earliest usage recorded appears to be East Fremantle, known 14-06-20.

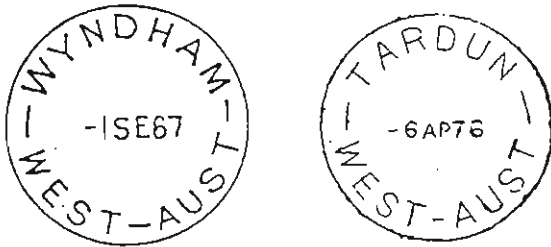


Type CivT: Supplied by Morton or Horton. The earliest recorded usage is Kalgoorlie, known 30-10-24 followed by Fremantle, known 10-02-26. The latter has a large dash between 'W' and 'A' and is the only such example recorded. Of the rest, all but Cottesloe, known 17-12-48, Guildford, known 17-07-28 and Kalgoorlie, known 30-10-24, have a dot after A. Cottesloe (17-12-48) and Nedlands (17-08-44) are PAID.

Albany	1-09-32	Geraldton	3-07-34	Nedlands	28-12-33
Broome	7-03-36	Goomalling	25-01-32	Northam	1-10-29
Busselton	5-08-30	GPO Perth (1)	3-07-37	Northam	9-10-30
Busselton	21-03-31	GPO Perth (2)	4-11-42	Perth	11-05-33
Claremont	5-11-28	GPO Perth (3)	archival	Perth	14-10-33
Collie	26-09-29	GPO Perth (4)	8-02-37	Perth	24-12-34
Collie	21-10-29	Guildford	17-07-28	Perth	7-05-35
Cottesloe Pd/T	17-12-48	Kalgoorlie	30-10-24	Perth	9-07-35
Fremantle	10-02-26	Kalgoorlie	23-07-30	Perth	23-05-36
Fremantle	15-01-30	Kalgoorlie	15-06-37	Perth	29-03-39
Fremantle	7-02-30	Katanning	18-12-32	Perth	14-10-43
Fremantle	6-08-34	Nedlands Pd/T	17-08-44	Wiluna	4-03-31

Type E: 'WEST-AUST', from 1936

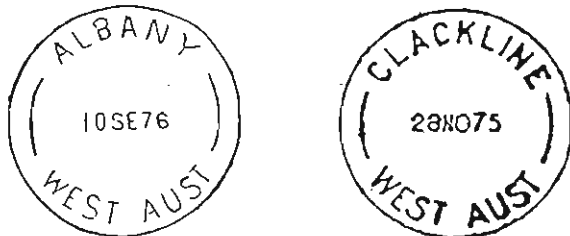
On 10 July 1936, the Postmaster General's Department, advised all States that, to facilitate compliance with an international postal requirement that undelivered correspondence shall be returned to the country of origin, the engraving on postmarkers should include the provision "Aust." as well as abbreviated letters indicating the name of the State. For Western Australia this meant 'WEST-AUST'.



Type E. Made under contract by H.C.Horton, 111 Dandenong Road, Malvern, Victoria.

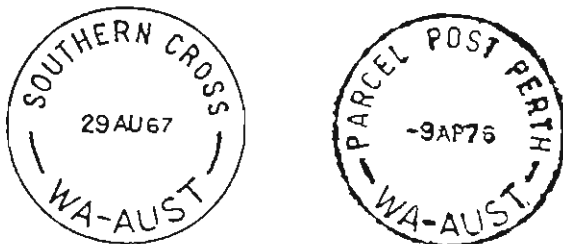
Type Ea: 'WEST AUST', from 1956

On 15 November 1956, the Postal Workshops in Melbourne took over the production of datestamps and made some changes to the Horton model. Type Ea has a smaller date line and rather taller and narrower lettering. There is generally no central dash but there are a few exceptions which do have the dash but display the other relevant characteristics.



Type Ea. Made by the Postal Workshops, Melbourne.

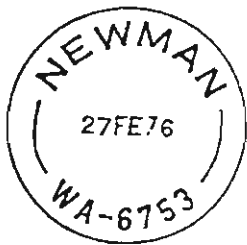
Type F: 'W.A. AUST', from 1962



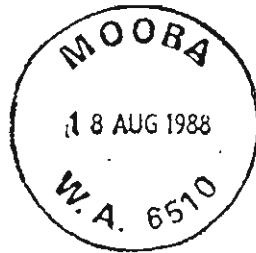
Type F. Made by the Postal Workshops, Melbourne.

Type G: 'W.A. [Postcode]', from 1968

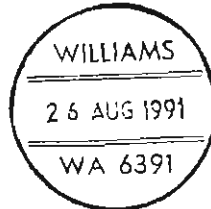
Type G: An extensive series known in steel or rubber. Made initially by the Postal Workshops, Melbourne, this type first appeared in Western Australia in April 1968. Barr Brothers, Engraving Pty Ltd took over production in December 1975. In 1984 a few offices were issued with Type G with minutes showing vertically in the date line. These were supplied by Deakin and Morris Industries.



G31



G32R



G27RS



G30RSL

Type G: Various suppliers and styles.

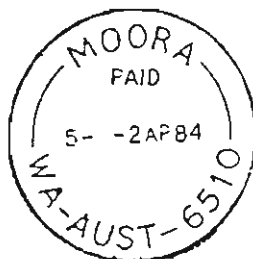
Type H: 'W- or W· AUST- [Postcode]', from 1968



Type H: Made by the Postal Workshops, Melbourne.

Note. There is no Type I to avoid confusion with J.

Type J: 'WA-AUST-[Postcode]', from 1981



Type J: PAID (with or without TIME) only. Made by the Postal Workshops, Melbourne.

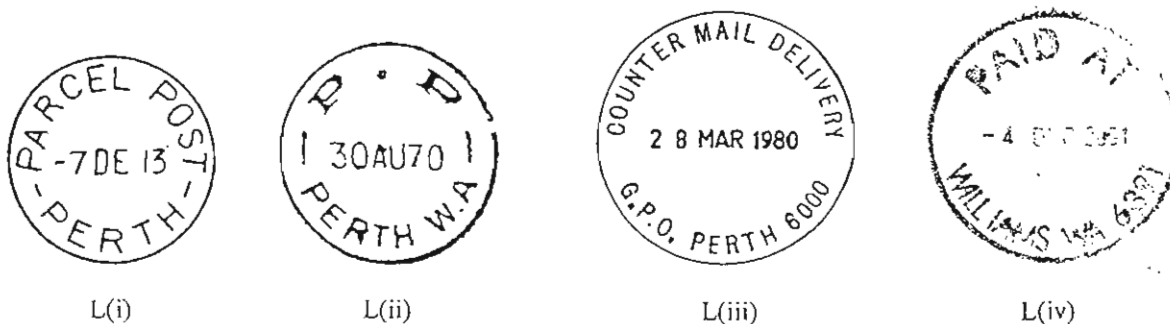
Type K: 'WEST AUST [Postcode]', from 1970



Type K: Made by the Postal Workshops, Melbourne.

Type L: '[Office] ±WA ± postcode', from 1912, 1980

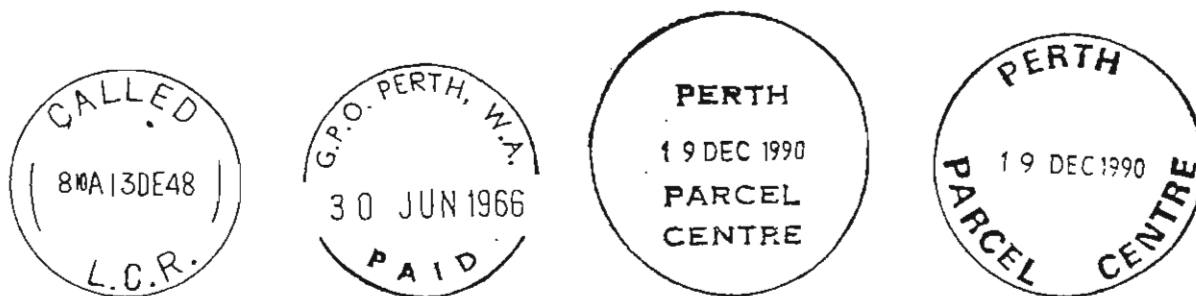
This has turned out to be the least felicitous classification which, with hindsight, might better have been split into its permutations. Some pre-WW1 GPO Section markings were Type L and it re-emerged in the 1980s.



Type L: Various suppliers and styles.

Type M: 'Miscellaneous'

A group for anything that does not fit anywhere else.



Type M: Various suppliers and styles.

Type N: '[Postcode]', from 2000



Type N: Supplier not known.

Classification by the lower inscription has served well whilst Types A-K have been standard issues. It is now becoming increasingly problematic due to haphazard and decentralized datestamp acquisition, and may need to be abandoned. The distinction drawn between steel and rubber has lost its relevance and the suffix R might also be abandoned.

The PAID Handstamps

There are two general peculiarities about the various PAID handstamps supplied to Western Australia, namely that the numbers recorded rarely approach the number contracted for, and that the earliest recorded usage is often many years after the probable time of issue.

PAID handstamps were not required under the 1905 Contract awarded to Watson, Ferguson with office names by Cumpston and Mason but five Type Pd Av PAID handstamps were supplied in lieu of time cds. Two were issued to Perth and one each to Perth GPO (Parcels), Cue and Northam. The earliest usage is 1-08-06 at Perth GPO (Parcels). (Fig 1).

The 1906 Tender was the first to include detailed specifications for PAID handstamps, namely 50 of them. A contract was let to Twemlow & Stone, North Sydney for

50 Steel date stamps, face 1½ inch diameter, with revolving type wheels, showing 1 to 11, and the letter S and D (such letters are required to be used independently of each other, and must therefore be shown separately but on the same band.), day, month, and year. Border and band to be turned for lettering, and the letters "W A" to be engraved on one side of bottom portion of stamps so as to show on the right hand side of the impression. £1 2 6 each. (*Commonwealth Gazette*, 9-02-07, 480).

Cumpston and Mason, Perth, were awarded a contract for 'Engraving name of Office on steel date stamps, as required, and hardening such stamps, 6d per letter.'

This contract produced Type PdW, but only four of the fifty tendered for, have been recorded. Beverley, no dates, Moora, ?-??-06, Geraldton, 14-05-09 and Katanning, 20-11-09 (incorrectly shown as PdX in *PMI*). (Fig 2). The Moora date, if correct, is before the contract was gazetted and probably represents the sample lodged with the tender.

Given the failure of Twemlow and Stone to deliver more than four PAID handstamps, the 1907 Contract repeated the largely unfulfilled requirement for 50 PAID handstamps. No details were gazetted but the conditions were apparently the same as the previous year. The Contract was awarded to Watson, Ferguson, with office names again by Cumpston and Mason. The price increased from 22/6d to 31/- and the lettering from 6d to 7d per letter. (*Commonwealth Gazette*, 17-08-07, 1055).

Watson, Ferguson modified a DiT(a) base to produce Moora Pd D25, known 6-10-49, and a Dii base to produce Donnybrook Pd D25 (Fig 3). They then adopted a significantly different design showing a pair of parallel arcs above and below the date line. This is Type PdX. Some 34 examples have been recorded, with the earliest recorded usage being at Bunbury on 25-08-08. (Fig 4). Cumpston and Mason had to engrave WA above some long office names rather than to the right.

No tenders were called in 1908 but in 1909, the first national contract awarded to C.G.Roeszler and Sons, called for 20 PAID handstamps to be supplied fully engraved as required. (*Commonwealth Gazette*, 5-06-09, 1190). The unit price was £1 12s 6d. Three have been recorded, Wagin, known 3-02-54, Cue, ca1912 and Denmark, archival. (Fig 5). The latter has WESTR². C.G.Roeszler and Sons retained the National Contract for 1910 but PAID handstamps were not required.

Non-contract atypical handstamps, circa 1916-17, (not illustrated here). A single example of what is technically a Type Pd C31T exists for Geraldton, known 8-10-16. This pre-dates the general introduction of Type C but is clearly not Type CL. Northam, 3-02-17 and Kondinin, 4-11-37 have Type Pd L. Katanning has a Type Pd A, 8-07-27, with the 'W' and 'A' larger than the other letters, reminiscent of Konnongorring in Type Dv produced by Austin Engraving for the 1915 Contract. PAID is below the date line.

The next tender for PAID handstamps was called in May 1917 when, as a result of war-time shortages, Perth arranged for C.G.Roeszler and Sons, to complete an assortment of partly finished handstamps including four PAID. Three of these were Type PdA36 originally made by Watson, Ferguson and presumably never finished because of their large diameter. They are known for Kojonup, 11-10-17, Cunderdin, 31-01-30 and Wyalcatchem, 31-07-34. (Fig 6).

There is one PAID handstamp, for Bridgetown in Type A30 which appears to come from the Aviii/AixT sequence made by Cumpston and Mason in the 1920s. (Fig 7).

Subsequent contracts did not specify particular numbers of any type of handstamp but PAID handstamps exist in Types C, E, Ea, F, G, H, J, L and M, some with TIME.



Fig 1.

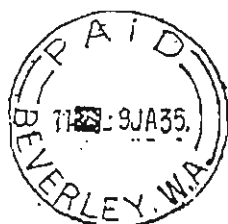


Fig 2.



Fig 3.

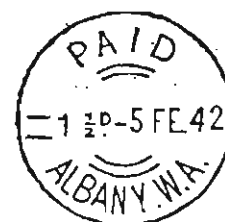


Fig 4a.

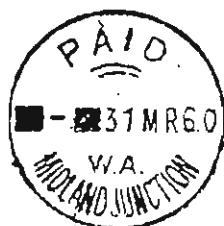


Fig 4b.



Fig 5.



Fig 6.



Fig 7.

Contracts for, or including, Western Australia, Types A-D. (*Commonwealth Gazettes*).

National contracts are shown in bold. * = Engraving of office names. + = approximate quantities.
Sub-types supplied under a particular contract are suggested, but it is not always clear just who supplied what.

Year	Called	Lodge by	Accepted	Awarded to	Cds	Time	Paid	Sub-types?
1904	16-07-04, 846	13-08-04	5-11-04, 1182	not awarded Cumpston & Mason*				
1905	22-07-05, 598	22-08-05	3-03-06, 170	Watson, Ferguson Cumpston & Mason*	70	30	—	Av, AivT
1906	6-10-06, 1222	30-10-06	9-02-07, 480	Twemlow & Stone Cumpston & Mason*	80	20	50	Avii(b), AviT
1907	1-06-07, 826	1-07-07	17-08-07, 1055	Watson, Ferguson Cumpston & Mason*	100	—	50	Dii
1908	Not called.			[Watson, Ferguson?] [Cumpston & Mason*?]				Diii. DiT
1909	20-02-09, 712	30-03-09	5-06-09, 1190	C.G.Roeszler & Son	100	50	20	Bi, Biii
1910	19-03-10, 810	31-05-10	20-08-10, 1421	C.G.Roeszler & Son	75	25	—	Bi, Biii, BiiT
1911	13-05-11, 1432	27-06-11	4-11-11, 2127	Quirk & Morton	75	25	—	Bv, BviT
1912	3-02-12, 115	3-04-12	8-06-12, 1092	Quirk & Morton	75	25	—	Bvii, BviiiT
1913	15-02-13, 416	23-04-13	24-05-13, 1416	C.G.Roeszler & Son	75	25	—	Bi, Biii
1914	9-04-14, 674	27-05-14	27-06-14, 1101	C.G.Roeszler & Son	75	25	—	Bi, Biii
1915	20-02-15, 292	21-04-15	17-07-15, 1356	C.G.Roeszler & Son Austin Engraving*	— +75	+25 —	— —	BivT? Div
1916	2-03-16, 496	3-05-16	1-06-16, 1250	Quirk & Morton C.G.Roeszler & Son	— +70	+6 —	— —	unidentified Bi, Biii
1917	3-05-17, 975	30-05-17	12-07-17, 1468	C.G.Roeszler & Son	36	4	4	Ci, AxT
1918	Not called							
to								
1925								
1926	5-08-26, 1287	31-08-26	21-10-26, 1729	F.W.Wynd			unspecified	Cii
to								
1928	24-05-28, 997	12-06-28	11-04-29, 801	E.L.Morton			unspecified	Ciii, CivT
1929	25-04-29, 943	14-05-29	?	[E.L.Morton?]			unspecified	Ciii, CivT
1930	3-04-30, 618	29-04-30	5-06-30, 1147	H.C.Horton			unspecified	Ciii, CivT
to								
1936								

For subsequent supply arrangements, see Tobin. 1983, 116-117.

In summary;

Twemlow supplied	AiiiT, AviT, Avii(b), Pd W.
Cumpston and Mason supplied	Aii, Avii(a), Avii(c), Aviii, AixT, CL (some), Pd A.
Watson, Ferguson supplied	AiT, AivT, Av, DiT(a), DiT(b), Dii, Diii, Pd A, Pd D, Pd X.
Roeszler supplied	Bi, BiiT, Biii, BivT, AxT (part), Ci(a), Ci(b), Pd B.
Quirk and Morton supplied	Bv, BviT, Bvii, BviiiT.
Austin	Div.
Unknown	AxT, Bix, CL (some).
Wynd	Cii(a), Cii(b).
Morton/Horton	Ciii, CivT.

New format classification

Please add to page 3.



Type ODS 3

New abbreviations

Please add to the list on page 7.

O	Official (PO status)
CPA	Community Postal Agent

New suffixes

S	Segmented (datestamp style)
SL	Straight line (in datestamp)
C	Curved (in datestamp)
TA, TB, TL, TR	Time above, below, left or right respectively.

The current location, status and hours of opening of postal facilities in Australia may be found at

<http://www.auspost.com.au/locations>

A number of erroneous Type allocations and datestamp diameters have been found in PMI. In cases of doubt, please go by the illustration. Datestamp diameters in general should be treated as being accurate to no more than $\pm 1\text{mm}$.

The END. May 2002!