

# The Postal Stationery of Queensland 1880 – 1917

## Part 1 – Post Cards & Registered envelopes

**Queensland was established as a British Penal Colony at Redcliffe in 1824; One year later it was relocated to Brisbane. (I was born at Redcliffe, attending for one week at the Humpybong State School)**

**It became a Colony named Queensland (named after Queen Victoria) in its own right in 1860, when the first stamps were issued. The design was the Chalon Portrait of Queen Victoria, engraved by Perkins Bacon.**

**In 1901 Queensland joined the Commonwealth of Australia as one of six States**

**Bernie Beston, FAP, FRPSV, FRPSL. (C)**

**22 October 2020**

# 1838 – 1870 NSW Letter Sheet

- It might be argued that the first Postal Stationery was the 1838 NSW Letter Sheet. Whilst that stationery was confined to use in Sydney it was not actually prohibited from use in any other part of the Colony. The sheet here is used on 20 May 2050 during the stamp issue period.
- *Die used in stationery*

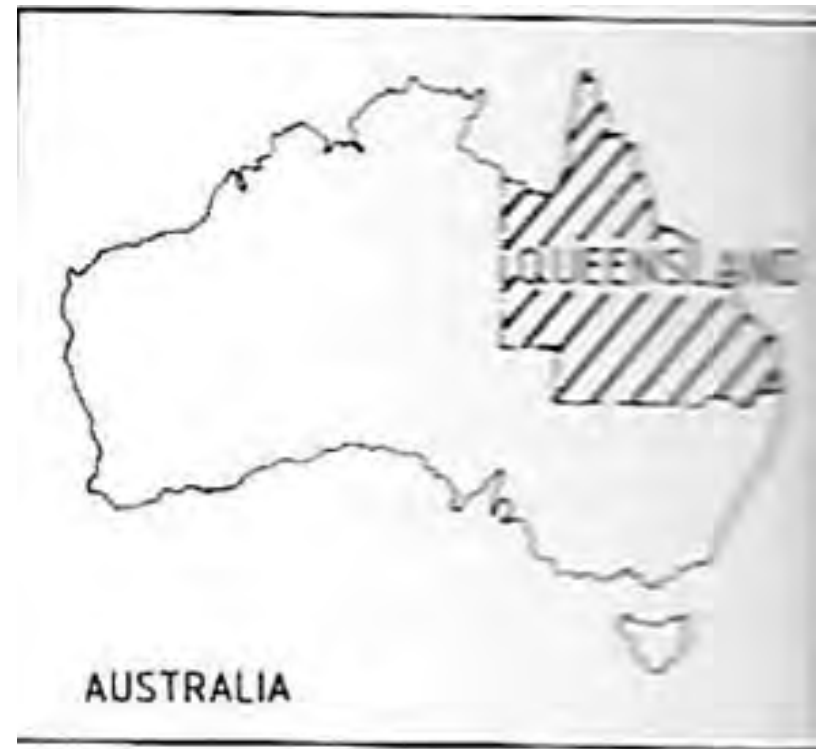
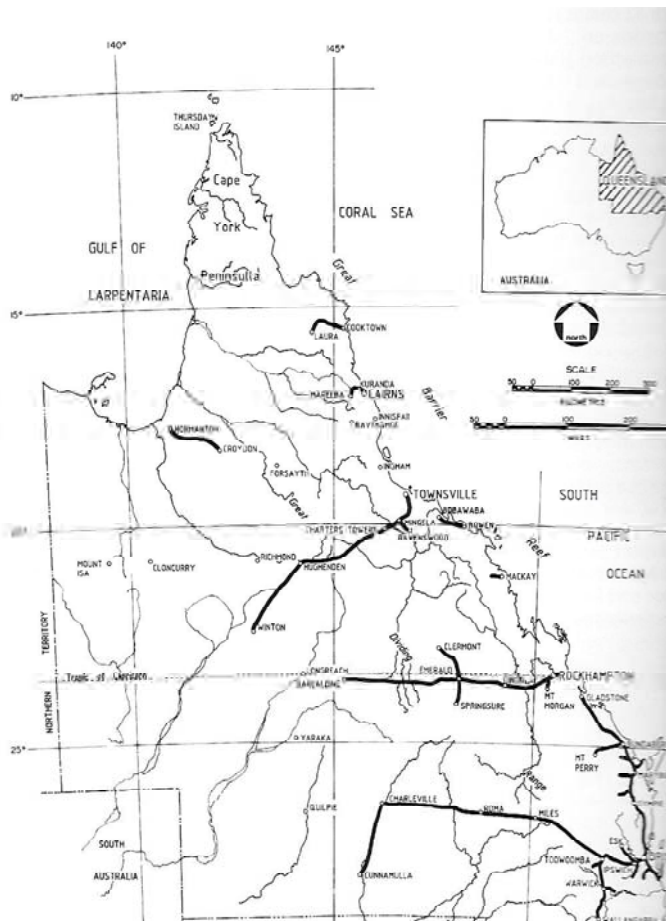
*Stationery*



# Historical Notes

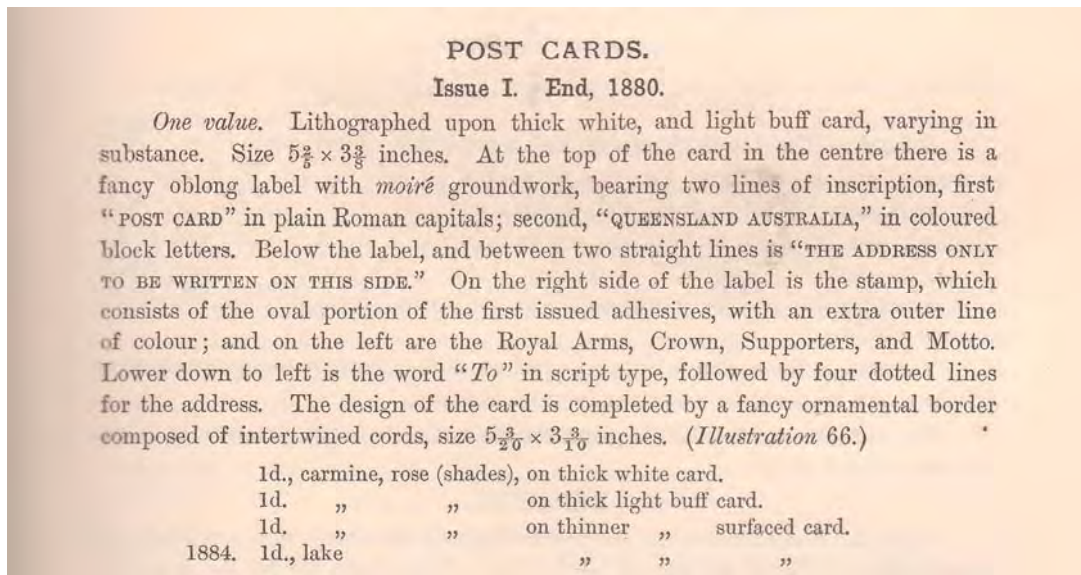
- **The first Chalon Head design was taken from an engraving of Queen Victoria, by Perkins Bacon. The Post Card and Postal Note Act of 1880 authorised the printing and production of stamped postal stationery.**
- **The Printing was under taken at the Government Lithographic Branch in William Street, Brisbane comprised William Knight, George Wight, four Lithographic Printers and four assistants. (next to current Treasury Hotel).**
- **The location was opposite the original 1830 Post Office in William St.**
- **All issues with two exceptions were printed here for the next 37 years**
- **Queensland Postal Stationery was published by Phil Collas in 1979.**

# Colony of Queensland



# 1880 1d Post Card

The card stock was sourced locally, most likely from Webster & Co, Brisbane Stationers. Whilst there is little doubt that the origin was English, there are no records of who their likely suppliers were or what specifications for the card, if any, were issued to Webster's. The first philatelic reference to the card occurred in the 1887 Philatelic Society of London Book, *The Postage Stamps, Envelopes and Post Cards of Australia and the British Colonies of Oceania*. No mention is made of the colour of the printing. This colour was Carmine, same as the stamp.

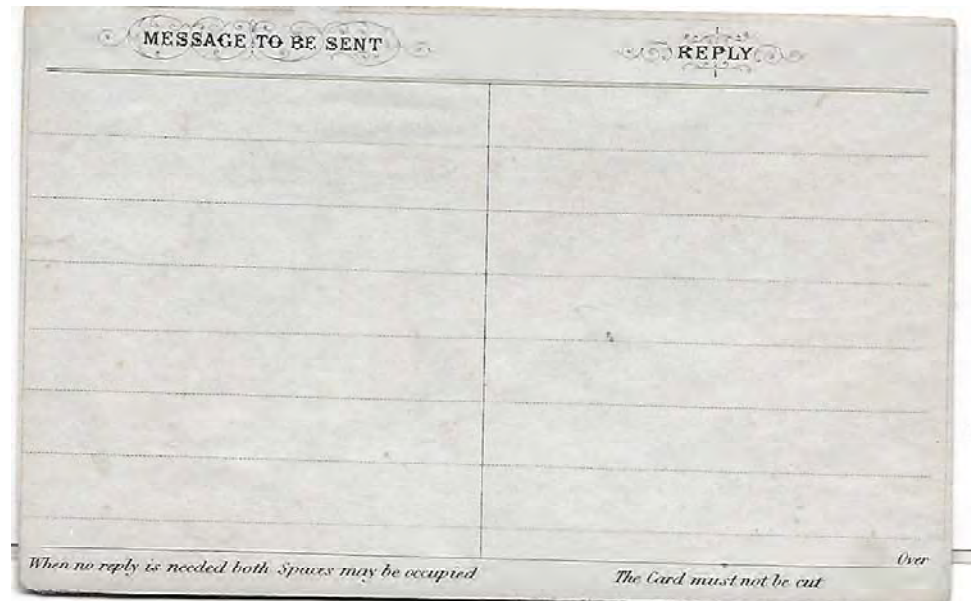
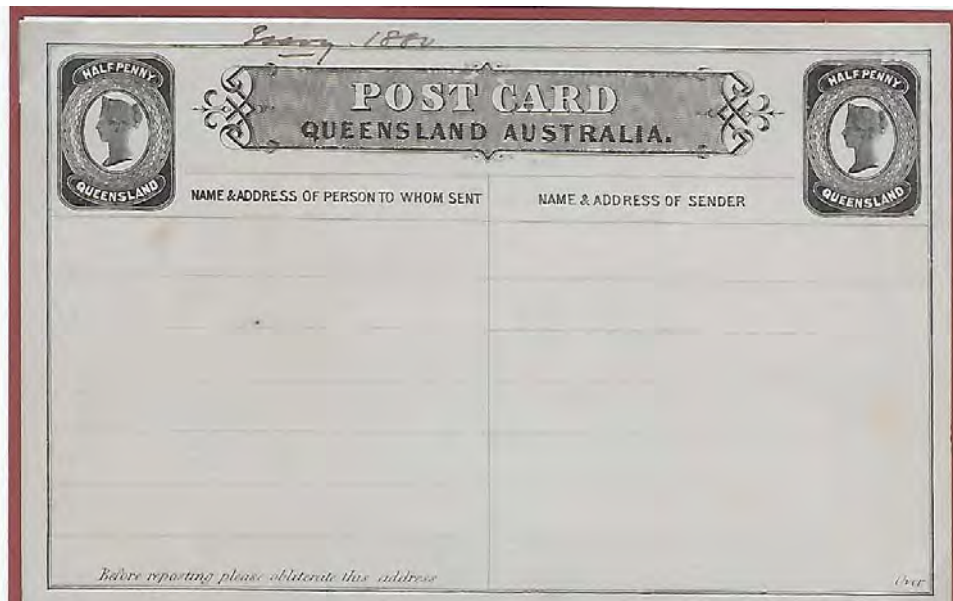


# 1880 First Post Card

William Knight, the Chief Engraver at the Queensland Government Lithographic Branch prepared a ½d and 1d design for the proposed new post card authorised for the first time by the Post Card and Postal Note Act of 1880.

The ½d Essay was in black and utilised the unissued ½d stamp design of William Bell, Sydney.

*Only 3 recorded;*



# 1880 First Post Card

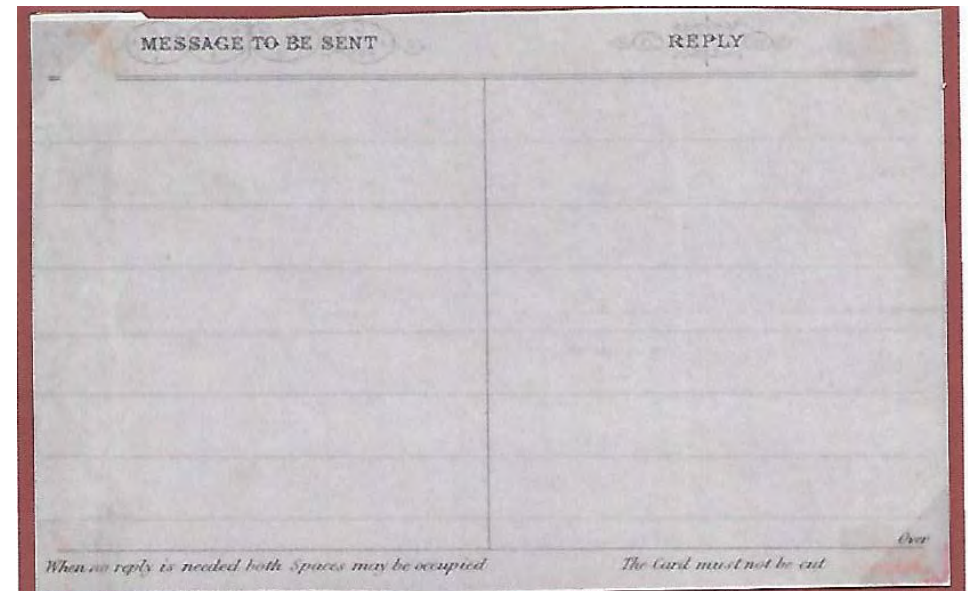
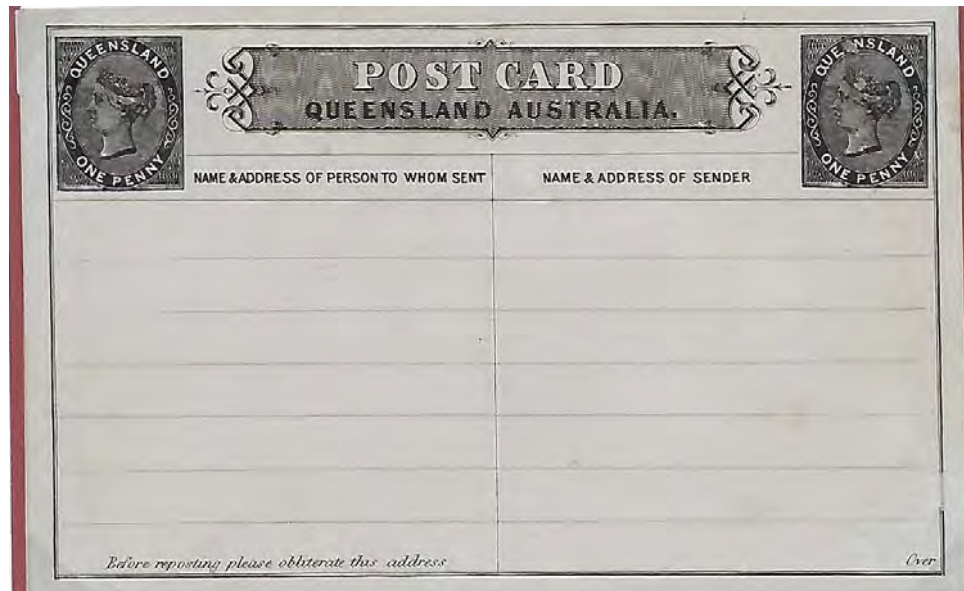
- Note the designs of William Bell was initially prepared with an incorrect Q for Queensland which was corrected for the Card Essay



# 1880 1d Unissued Post Card

1d Card in black was prepared with the 1879 (Die 1) 1d stamp. It too was engraved by William Bell. Only two examples are known.

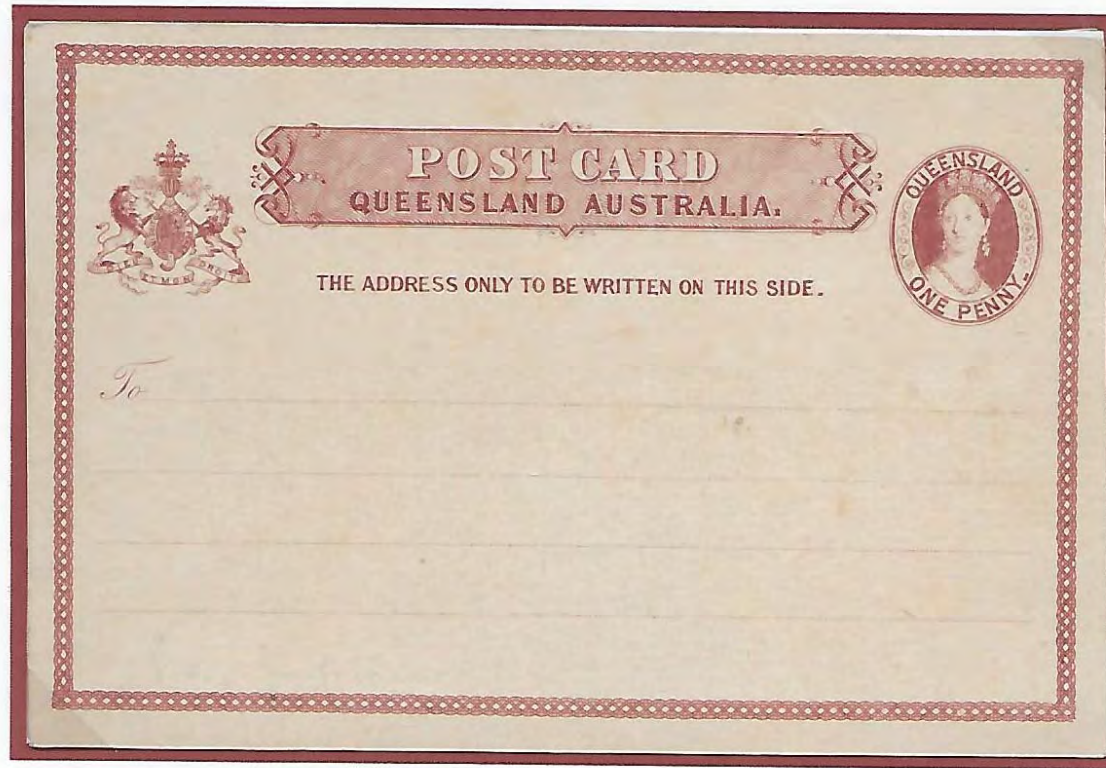
*Only 3 recorded; one formerly in Australian National Archive was stolen circa 2003 & sold Abacus Auction in 2020*





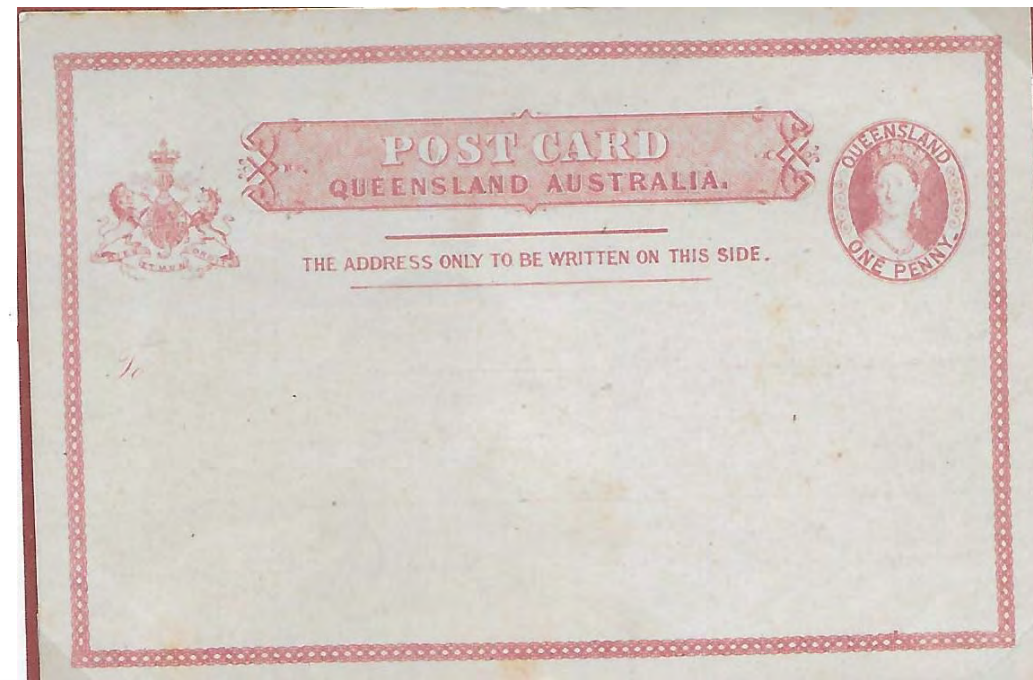
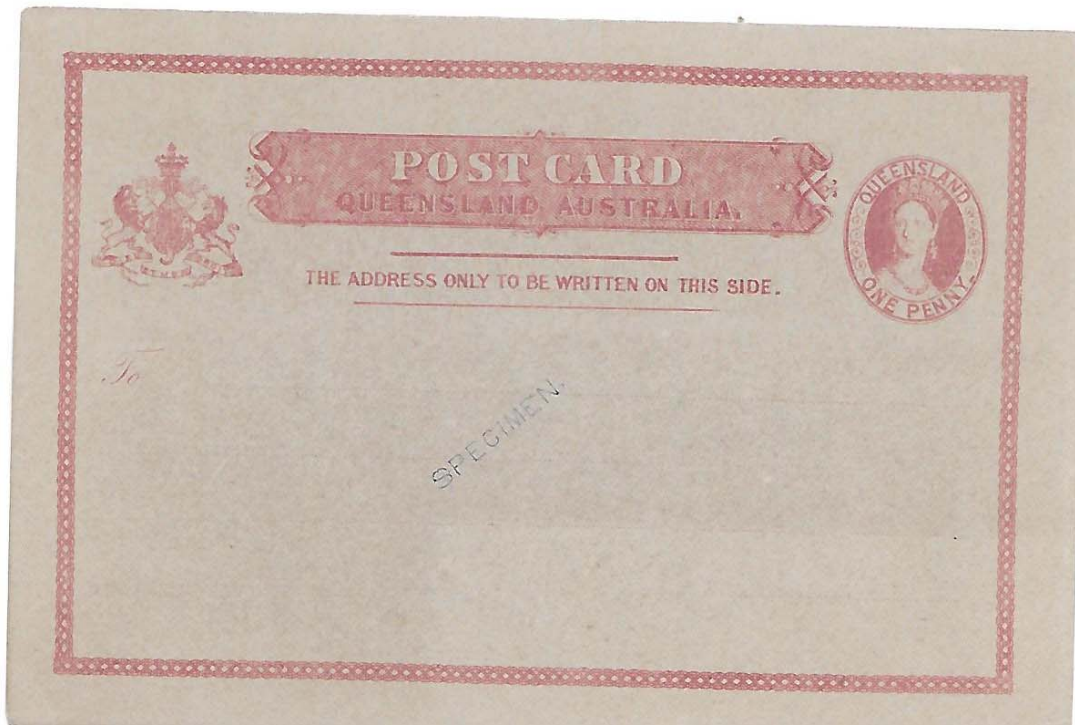
# 1880 1d First Post Card with Perkins Bacon Chalon Queen Victoria portrait

Essay in pale Carmine colour similar to issued colour



# 1880 1d First Post Card issued 28 October 1880

Only cards of the 1880 and 1888 series were overprinted specimen for UPU



# 1880 1d Post Card

The Government announced that a Reply Card version (being two conjoint impressions of the same card one above the other, both printed on the same side of the card , neither folded not perforated ] of the 1d card was to be placed on sale. No such card have been recorded except one held in the Archive (until stolen). This was sold at the Abacus Sale in 2020. It is thought that the double Reply card were not released for sale, but cut in half, utilised as the UPU SPECIMENS or for advertising by commercial firms.

**Earliest recorded use is 19 November at Toowoomba**



# 1880 1d Post Card

**TYPE 1:** A thin acidic card with a shiny surface in off white to buff shades issued 1880 -1881.  
printed in carmine, salmon or orange

**TYPE 2:** Thick card with a coarse blotting paper finish in pale white to buff shades issued prior to 1886  
printed in lilac-red, salmon, lake and lilac-rose in sizes up to 150 mm X 98 mm.

**Type 3:** A Thin shiny white or buff card issued circa 1885 printed in rose, salmon pink, carmine or orange

<b>Print Quantity</b>	<b>1880</b>	<b>33,666</b>
	<b>1881</b>	<b>60,720</b>
	<b>1882</b>	<b>64,720</b>
	<b>1883</b>	<b>90,120</b>
	<b>1886</b>	<b>121,360</b>
	<b>1887</b>	<b>154,980</b>
	<b>1888</b>	<b>189,920</b>

# 1880 1d Post Card

Various colours and dates of issue were described by Collas.

Collas allocated colours for certain years.

It my opinion it is impossible to allocate any particular colour to any particular year with certainty.



# 1880 1d Post Card

- The card was only valid for use within the Colony of Queensland and any other destination required additional postage added



# 1880 1d Post Card

The 1d card rate was only applicable to Queensland destinations



# 1880 1d Post Card Ipswich November 1904





# 1888 1d Post Card - 1d Card

## part of a set of 3 cards – 1d, 2d and 3d

A set of three cards were printed by the Government Lithographic Branch from the 2d die of Queen Victoria by Bradbury Wilkinson, London. Four different setting of the 1d value which were printed six up on one plate.



Rose on buff

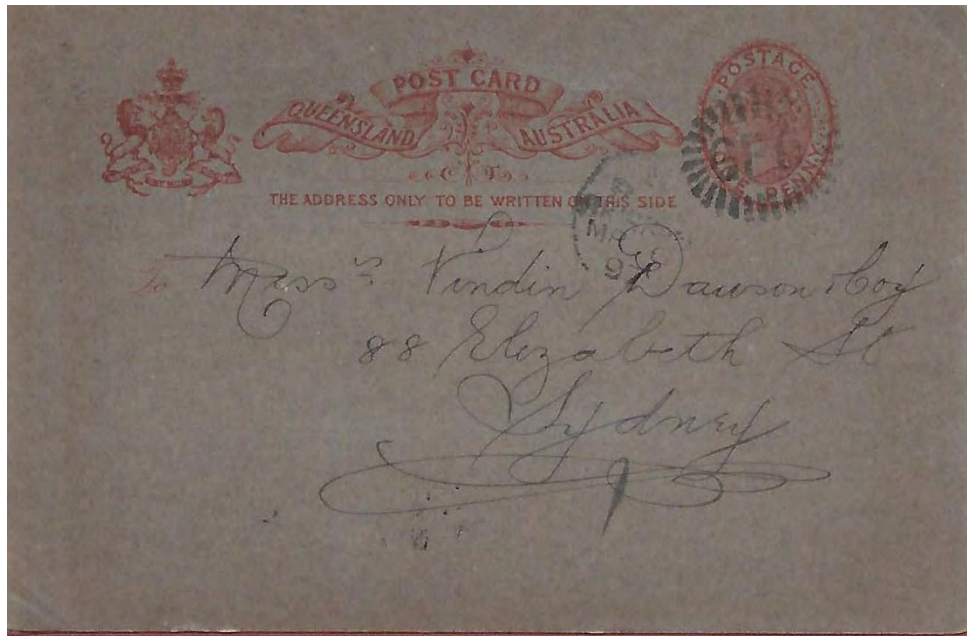
SPECIMEN for UPU  
in violet  
20 mm X 4 mm



# 1888 1d Post Card

The size of the card is generally 117 mm X 79 mm; This card is 141 mm X 90 mm. (24 mm height difference). Compare it with Card to Perth 10 May 1896.

Cards used to the other Colonies are rare, especially WA & Tasmania



# 1888 2d Post Card

The 2d card was issued on 20 December 1888. It was intended to pay for the transmission of a card to United Kingdom via the direct route from 1 January 1889; and via Torres Strait from 1 August 1889.

The postcard rate to the United Kingdom was reduced to 2d by any route in May 1891; and again to 1½d from 1 October 1891 (in accordance with UPU regulations) – 12 May 1891 posted Thursday Island

SPECIMEN for UPU  
In violet  
22 mm X 4 mm



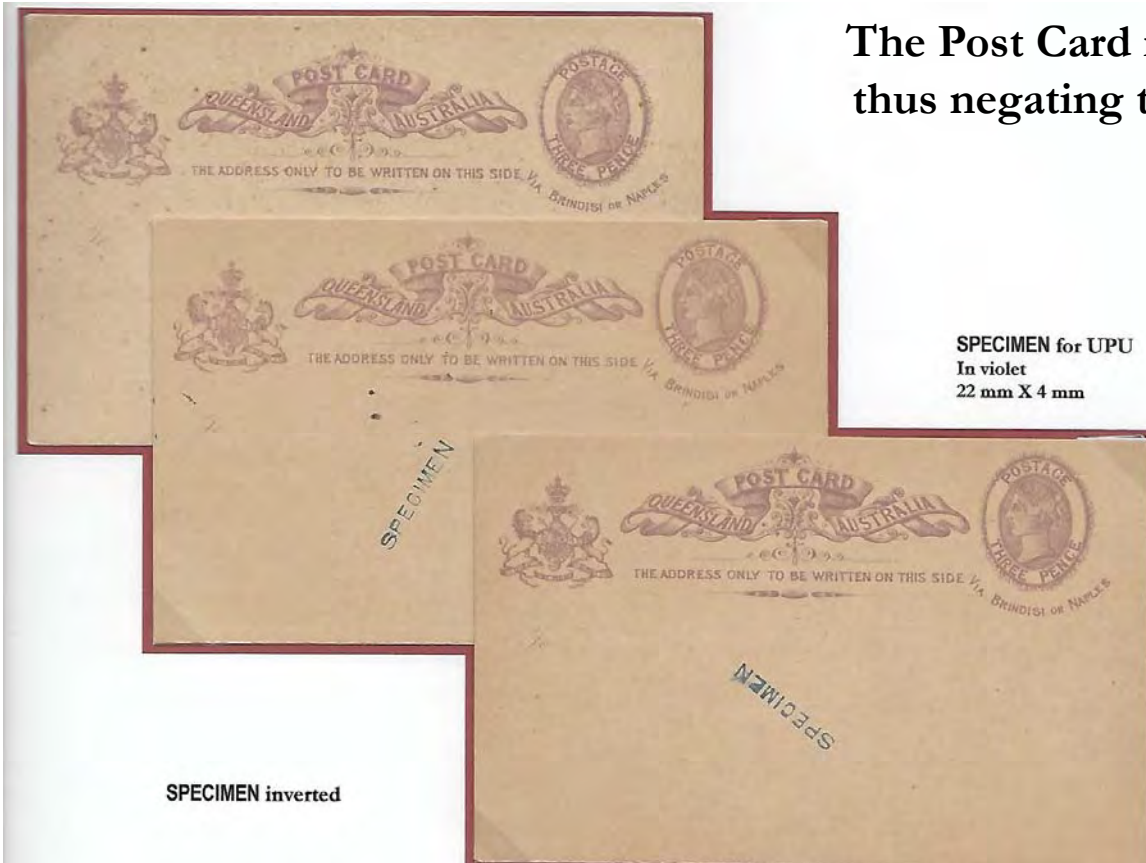
Toowoomba to UK 12 January 1890



# 1888 3d Post Card

The 3d value was intended to pay for a quicker transmission to United Kingdom via Continental Europe, by way of ship to Naples or Brindisi in Italy, and thence by rail across Europe.

The Post Card rate was reduced to 2d via any route in May 1891, thus negating the purpose of the card – Bne 28 November 1889



SPECIMEN for UPU  
In violet  
22 mm X 4 mm



SPECIMEN inverted

# 1891 1d Reply Post Card

## Issue Dates

**14 October 1891 (cream); May 1892 (pale brown);**

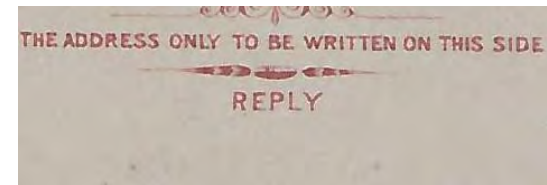
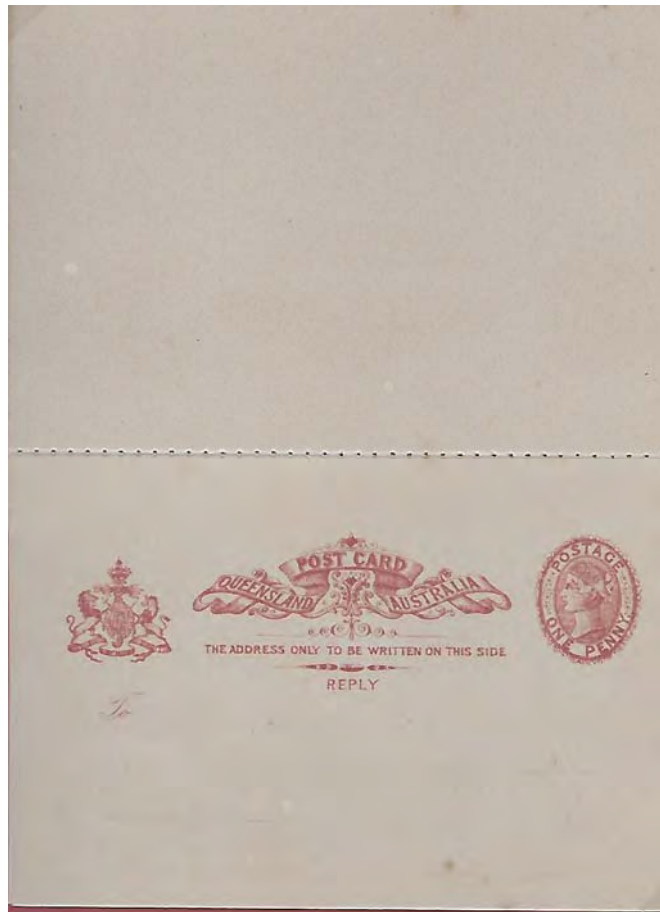
**November 1899 ( clean cream); November 1904 (pale brown)**

**There are seven different setting of the word REPLY as well as other variations of card stock, length of text, position of Coat of Arms and perforation.**

**The later cards were printed on an off white stock of superior quality.**

**It is most likely that the cards were printed on the one plate with 6 or 8 up, and a different Dies was used for each cards. In some cases used copies are very rare. e.g. Types C and G.**

# 14 October 1891 1d Reply Post Card Type A



# 1891 1d Reply Post Card

Type A: Perforation: 6      Length of Heading: 112 mm    Word REPLY: 2 mm X 10mm

- Type B: Perforation: 10    Length of Heading: 108 mm    Word REPLY: 2 mm X 10 mm    L & Y are spaced
- Type C: Perforation: 10    Length of Heading: 107 mm      Word REPLY: 1.5 mm X 10 mm    L and Y are 1/2mm apart
- Type D: Perforation: 10    Length of Heading: 112 mm    Word REPLY: 2 mm X 10mm    L and Y are 1 mm apart
- Type D:    Perforation: 6    Length of Heading: 111 mm    Word REPLY: 1.5 mm X 10mm    L and Y are 1/2mm apart
- Type E: Perforation: 6      Length of Heading: 111 mm    Word REPLY: 1 mm X 6.5 mm    identical to 1 1/2d card
- Type F: Perforation: 6      Length of Heading: 112 mm    Word REPLY: 2 mm X 10 mm    L and Y are 1/2mm apart
- Type G: Perforation: 12      Length of Heading: 112 mm    Word REPLY: 1 mm X 6.5 mm    identical to 1 1/2d card

A.

B.

C.

D.

E.

F.

G.



# CIRCA 1904 1d Reply Post Card

- Type G Letter Card showing the importance of knowing postal rates.

1895 used to Austria at 1½d card rate

1911 used to Camerouns, at printed matter rate

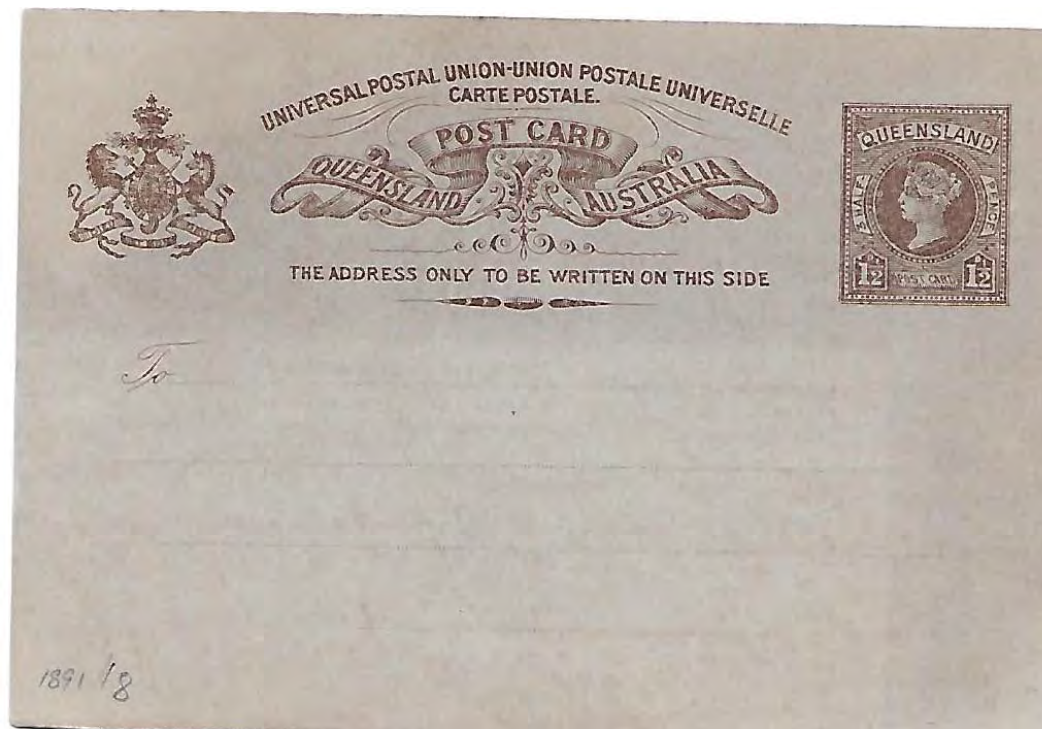




# 1 October 1891 1½ Post Card

Introduced to meet the Universal Postal Union requirements for a 1½d foreign rate post card

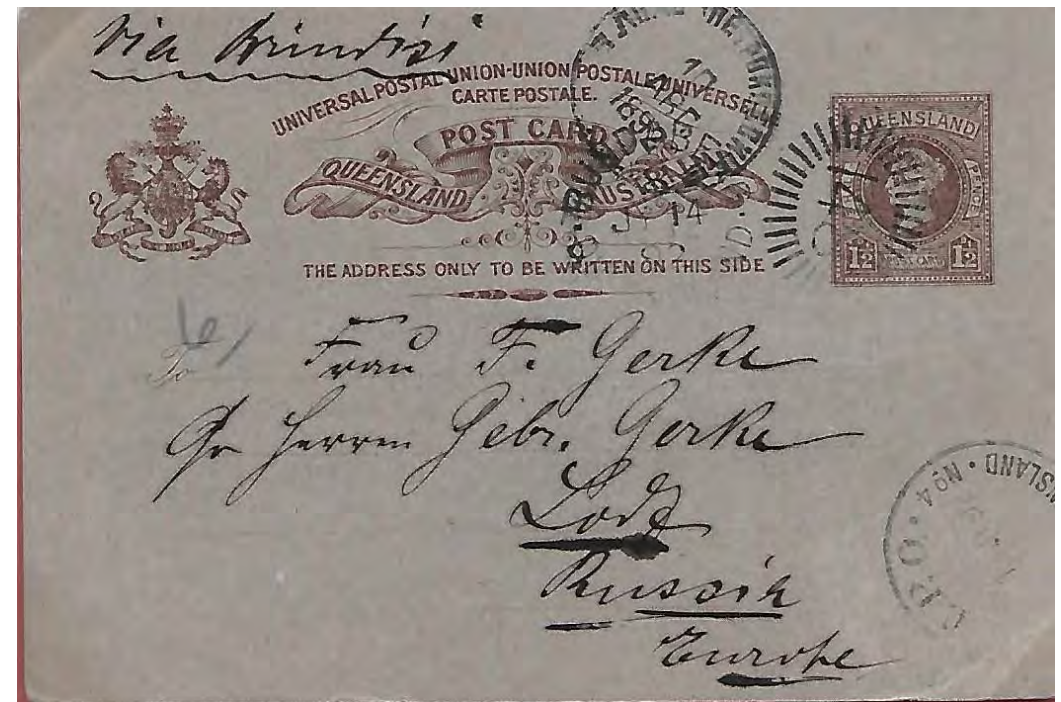
There are four different settings of this card, which were printed in one sheet eight up



# 1 October 1891 1½ Post Card

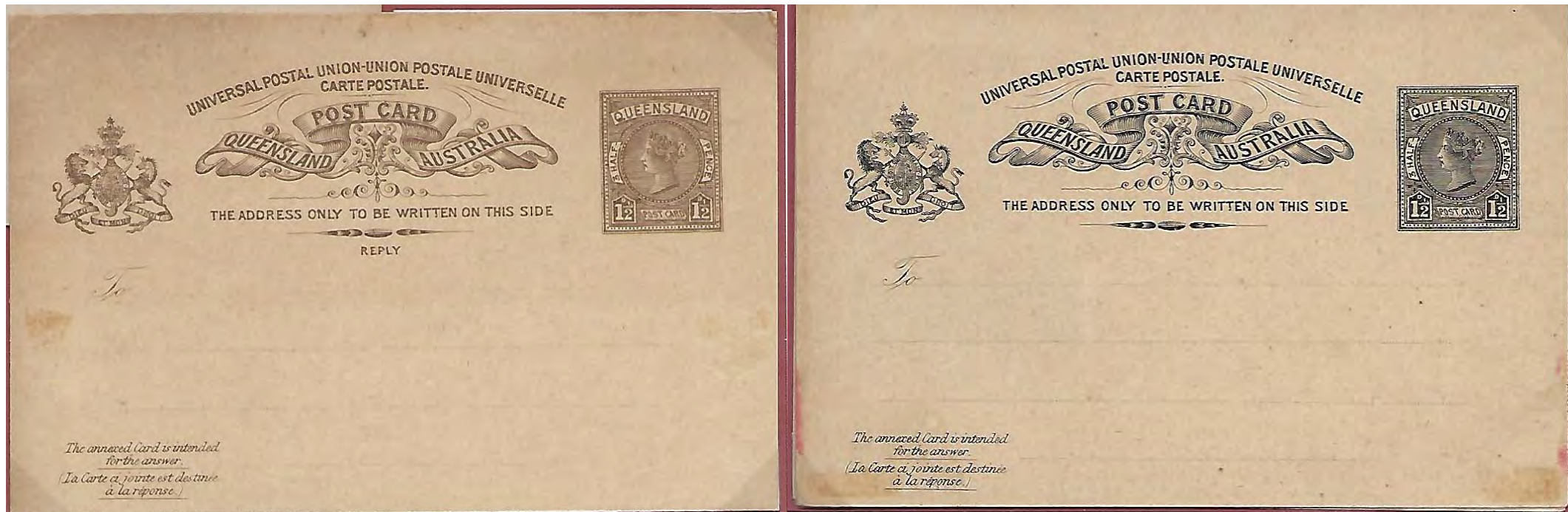
**SPECIMEN in Italics from Printers Book  
Non UPU Specimen**

**Usage to Russia 1892**



# 1 October 1891 1½ Reply Post Card

- Essays in Green, Pale Brown, violet, black, carmine, salmon and bistre



# 1 October 1891 1½ Reply Post Card

This flaw does not appear on the single card



R flaw

# 1 October 1891 1½ Reply Post Card

- There are 4 different setting of the Stamp Dies recorded by Collas. I have found no others.



# 1910 1d Post Card

without the word ADDRESS on white card



# 1910 1d Post Card

with/without the word ADDRESS on cream card with additional postage

Sold with Commonwealth  
½d George V



Mailed with added Queensland  
½d stamp May 1911



# 1910 1d Post Card with the word ADDRESS

Settings of the word ADDRESS

1. The distance of ADDRESS from Commonwealth of Australia

2. Position of the word ADDRESS in relation to the word OF above it.

- i. beneath O
  - 1a. 4 mm
- ii. Between O and F
- iii. Beneath F
  - 1b. 6 mm





# 1910 1d Post Card

with the word ADDRESS on white card –  
showing different positions of ADDRESS

POST CARD.  
QUEENSLAND.  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
ADDRESS.



QUEENSLAND.  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
ADDRESS.

POST CARD.  
QUEENSLAND.  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
ADDRESS.



QUEENSLAND.  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
ADDRESS.

POST CARD.  
QUEENSLAND.  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
ADDRESS.



QUEENSLAND.  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA  
ADDRESS.

# 1910 1d Post Card

2. with the word ADDRESS on white card – Line under W of COMMONWEALTH



# 1910 1d Post Card with the word ADDRESS

- ADDRESS Card printed on cream card stock



1910 1d Post Card  
with the word ADDRESS on white card

**SPECIMEN from Madagascar Archive – The 1910 cards were not overprinted SPECIMEN, but postmarked at Brisbane (for UPU)**



# 1910 1d Post Card

without the word ADDRESS on cream card      Two versions of the words  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

• Thick lettering

Thin lettering



# 1910 1d Post Card

## US Fleet Card – Card printed in Melbourne

- The layout of the card is copied from the NSW 1906 Post Card
- The word STAMP has been added for Queensland stamp to be printed



# 1910 1d Post Card

## US Fleet Card – Maroon Proof & issued Vermillion card

Maroon Proof



Issued vermilion card



# 1910 1d Post Card

Additional words

“*The address only to be written only on this side*”

- Essay in blue

Essay in black



**Peculiar added wording “Date stamp on reverse side”**

**3 other colours of this Essay are recorded**

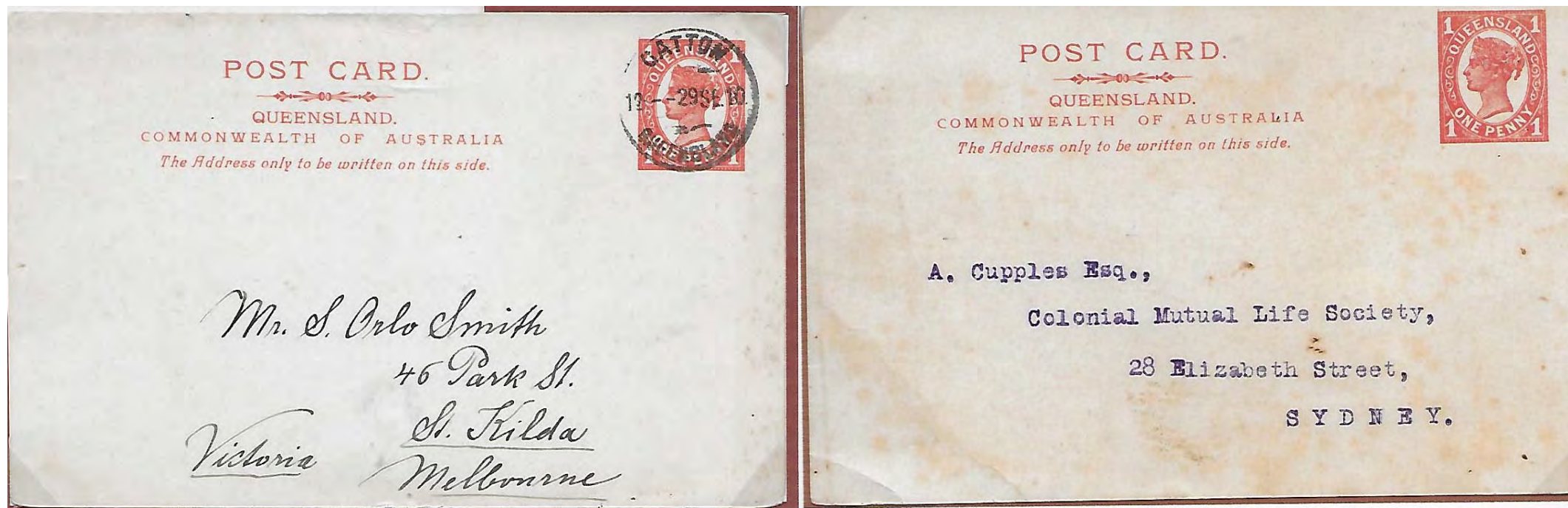


# 1910 1d Post Card

Additional words

“  
The address only to be written only on this side  
”

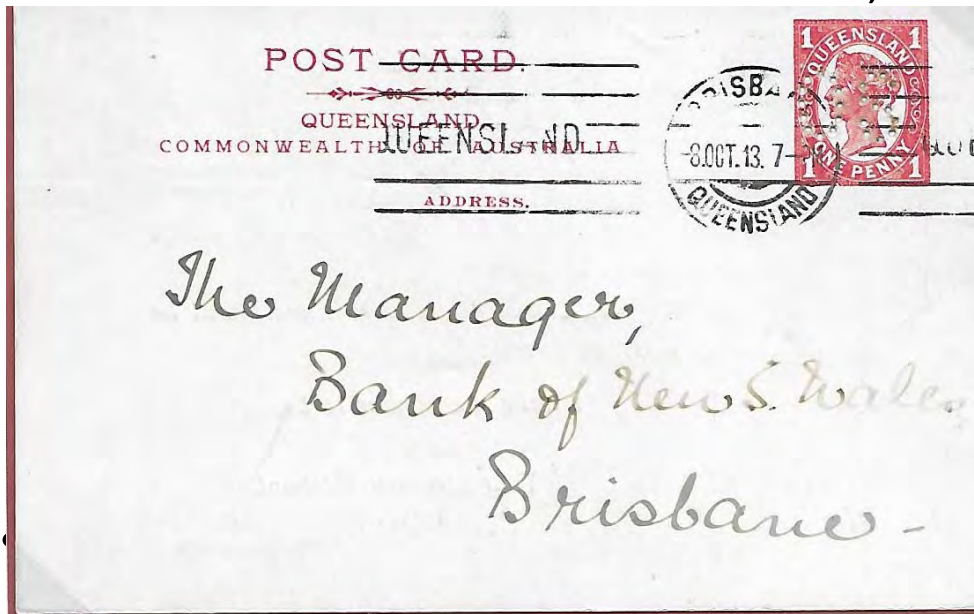
- Four used cards known, one undated; the others 29 September 1910, 23 June 1910 and 16 March 1910



# 1910 1d Post Card

## Stamp perforated OS for Department of Lands

- Used at Brisbane 8 October 1913; 15 July 1914; 5 November 1914



Five used copies known; no mint recorded, as would be expected

# 1910 1d Post Card

## 1917 1d Commonwealth issue perforated OS for Department of Lands

- Reverse side of card showing W. Gordon Graham as Under Secretary November 1914 and in Commonwealth period 2 July 1917

Please quote  
Ref. No.

Department of Public Lands,

Brisbane, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1917

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> ult and to state that the subject referred to therein will be dealt with as early as practicable.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient servant,

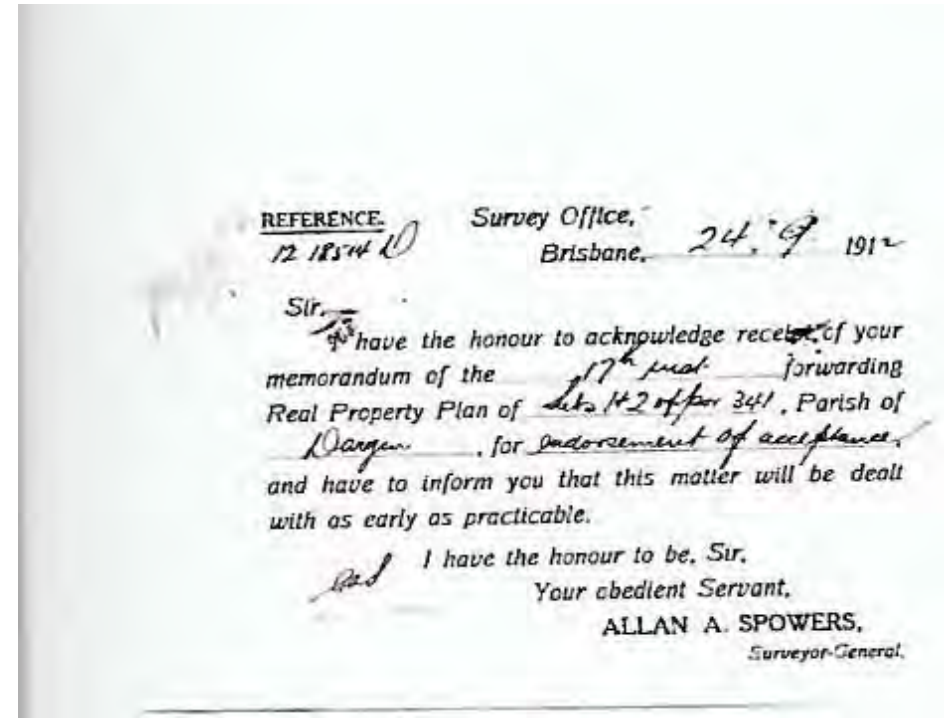
**W. GORDON GRAHAM,**  
Under Secretary



# 1910 1d Post Card

## 1912 Card used by Survey Office, Brisbane

- 24 September 1912 Card is not perforated OS



# 1910 1d Post Card

1913 Card used by Department of Public Instruction

Ian McMahon has recorded 3 Views on the stamped cards; There are 10 known view on cards with a PAID cancellations and other formular cards



# 1910 1d Post Card

## 1910 Card with Printers Imprint in centre

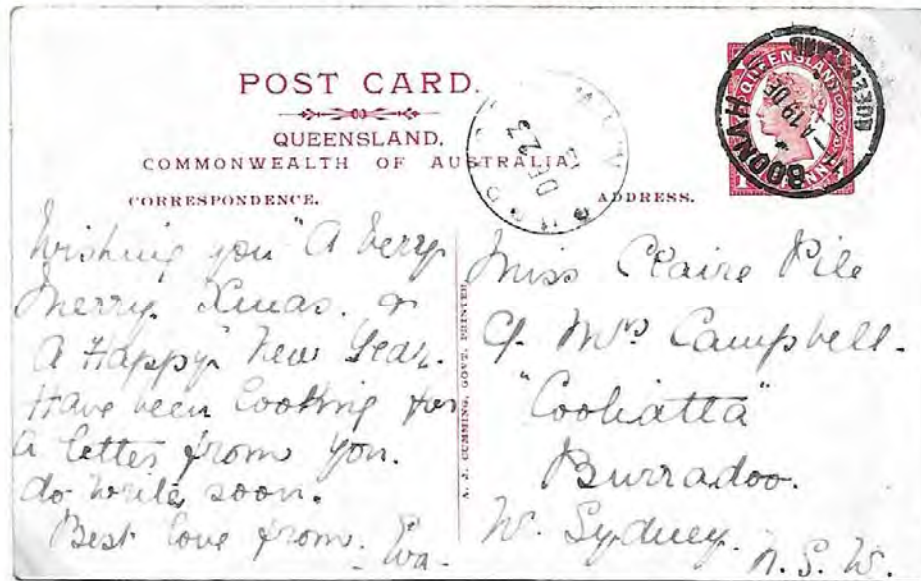
Very rare card in mint condition. Only used copy recorded.  
The same card was used for the 1d black 7 white view cards.



# 1910 1d View Post Card

**“Bundaberg form the Water Tower, South Queensland”.**

**See November 2020 Issue of the Journal for listing of 38 Views by Ian McMahon.**



# 1910 1d View Post Card Unissued Views

Many of these Views are also found on the T & I B Cards

**3 Proofs are known -- Hauling Timber, Neurum Creek, South Queensland (Colour);**

**Customs House Rockhampton (Colour); Hauling Cedar, Atherton- Cairns Railway (Black & White)**

**Proof in colour – without Caption**

**Issued card in black & White - Caption**

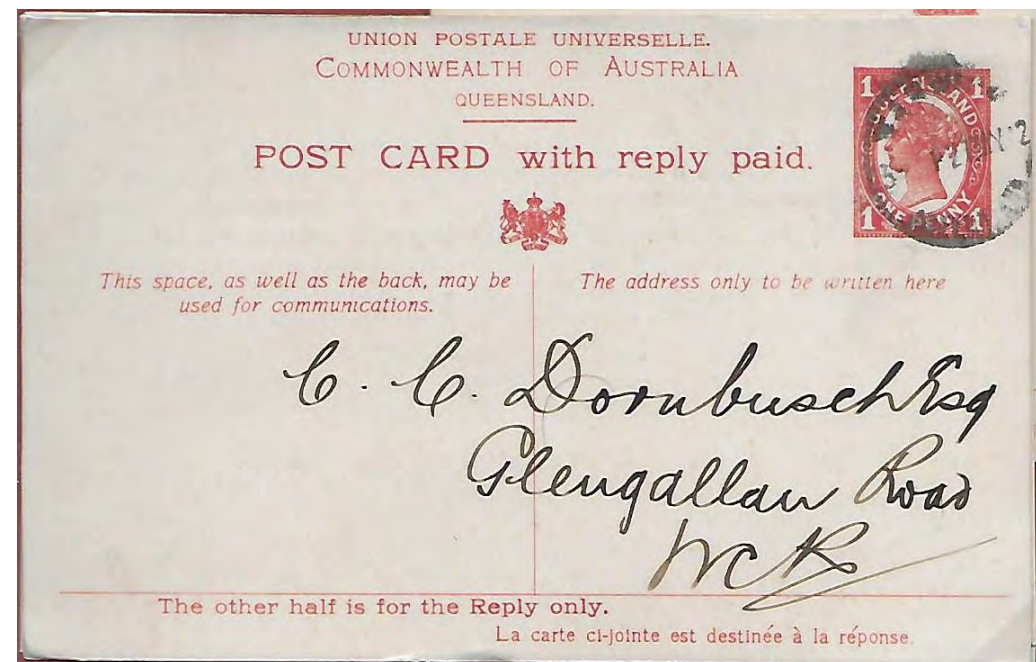


HAULING TIMBER, NEURUM CREEK, SOUTH QUEENSLAND.



# 1910 1d Post Card with Reply Paid

- Known used 1912 and 1913. Very rare card used



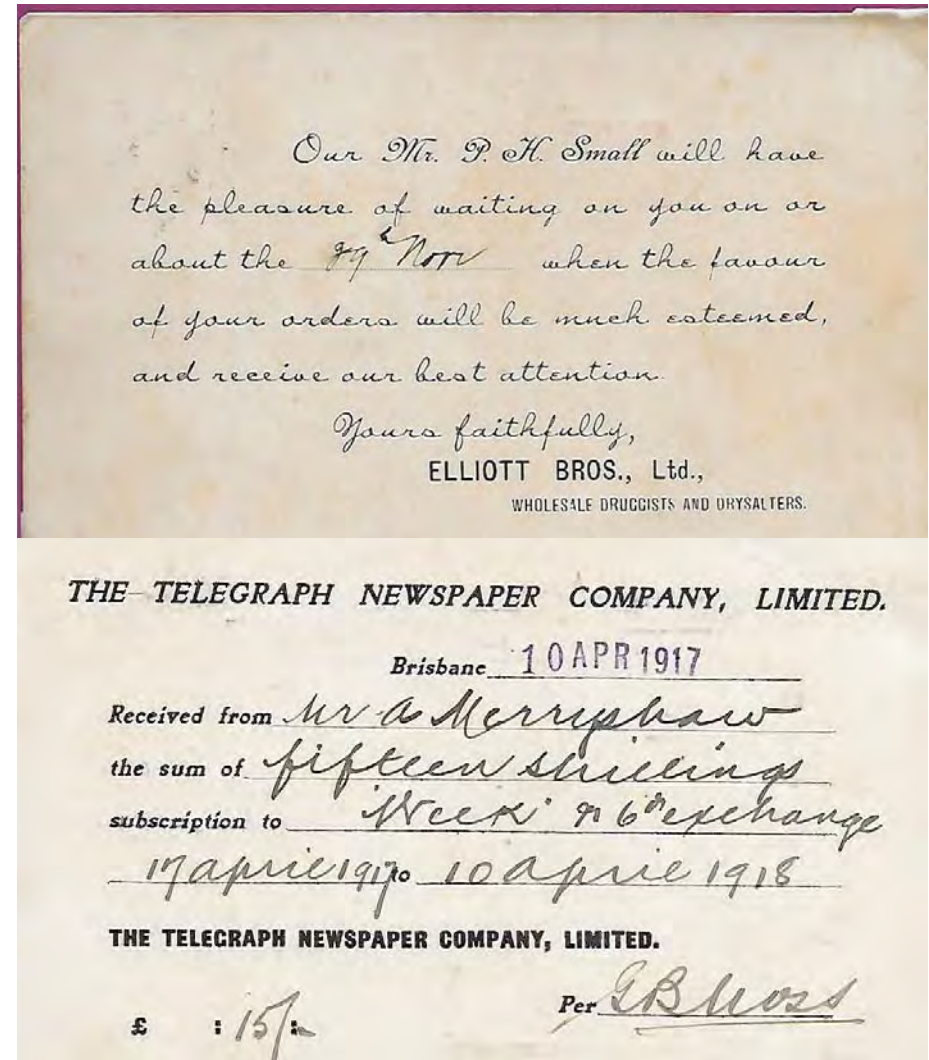
# 8 March 1917 1d Post Card with Reply Paid

- Commonwealth era with the words “with reply paid” obliterated in red; common to all States.
- See Article by John Sinfield in PS Journal.
- All cards were used by either Brisbane Telegraph Newspaper or Elliott Bros Charters Towers



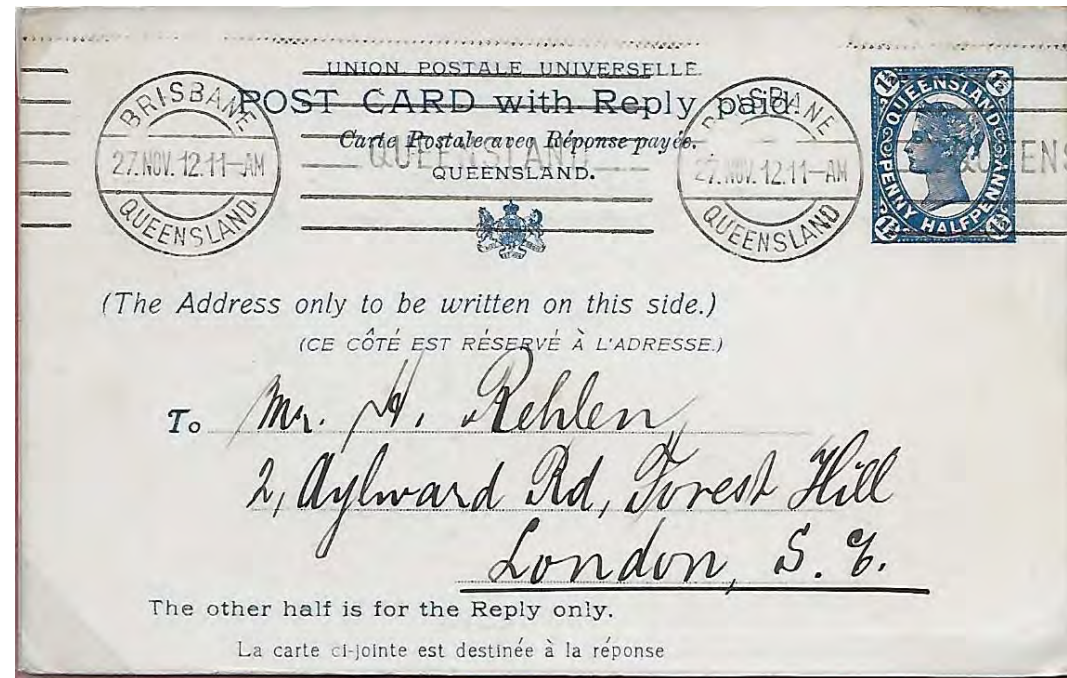
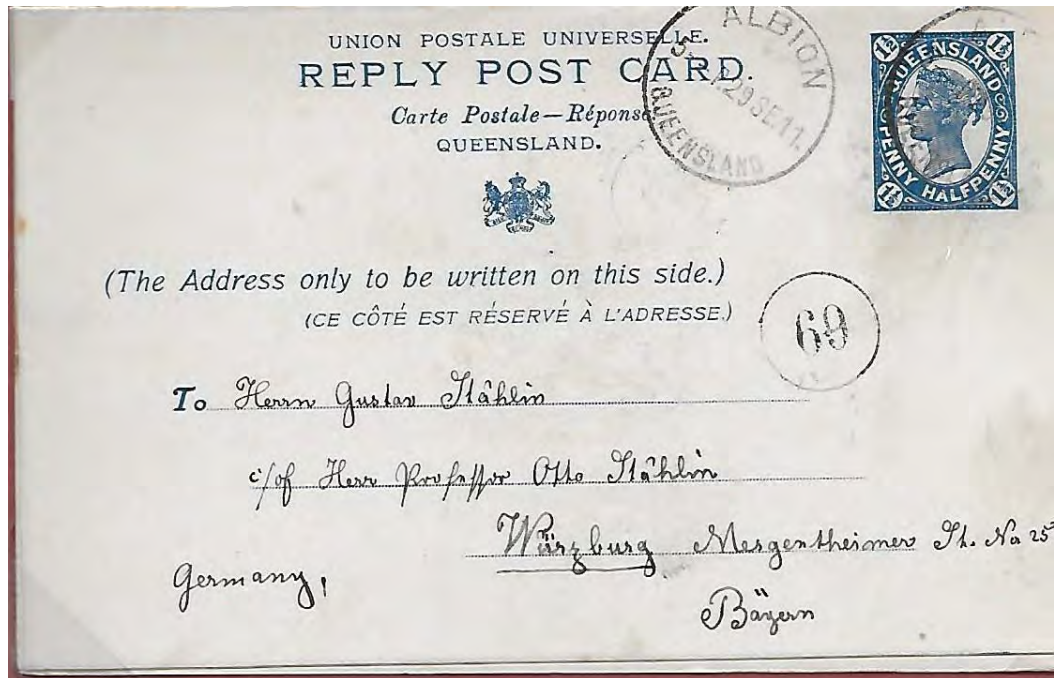
# 8 March 1917 1d Post Card with Reply Paid

Reverse side advertisements



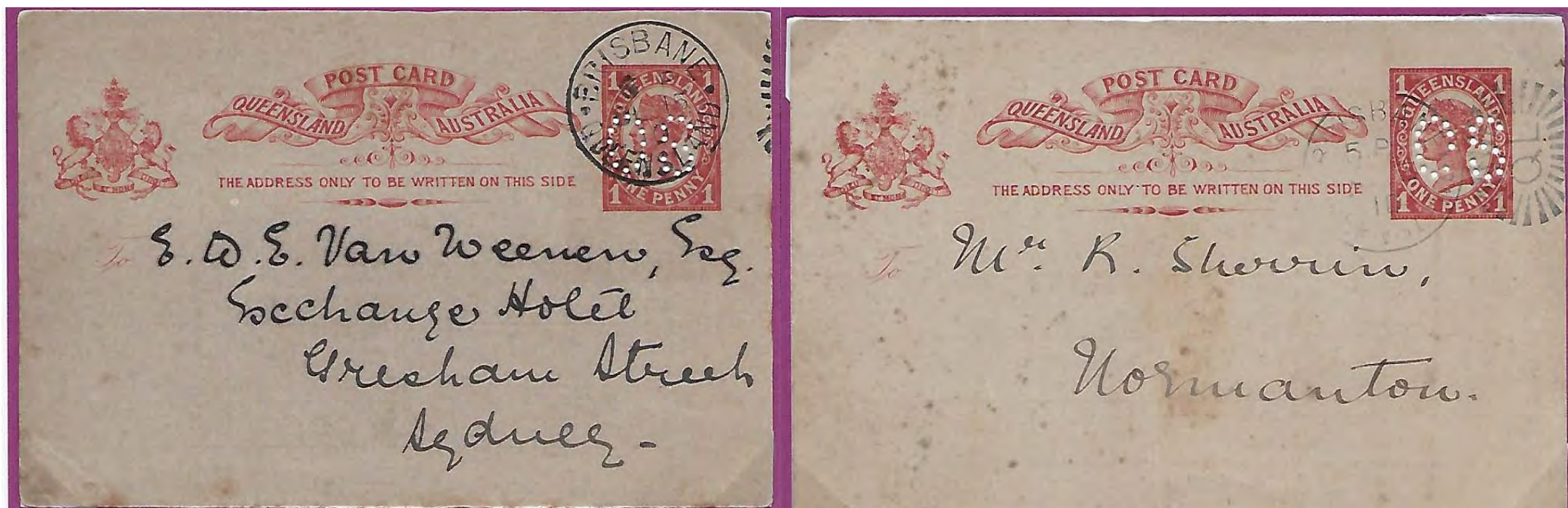
# 1910 1½d Post Card with Reply Paid

- Only 3 genuinely used copies known ; used 1911 to Germany & UK



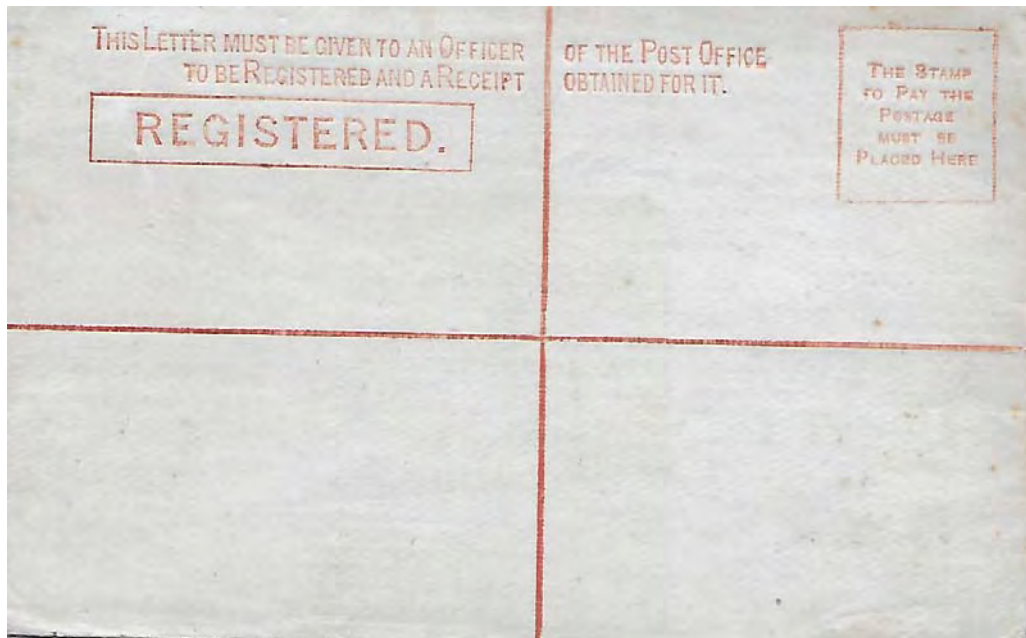
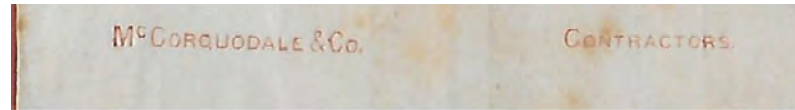
# 1910 1d Post Card for Lands Department A hybrid card using 1911 1d letter Card design

- Four cards are recorded With complete perforations OS - 7 Dec 1910; 15 Dec 1910
  - With missing perforations OS - 3 Aug 1910; 13 Mch 1911



# 2 October 1879 Formula Registered Envelope McCorquodale & Co, London

- Size G sold by the Post Office; less than 5 used copies recorded



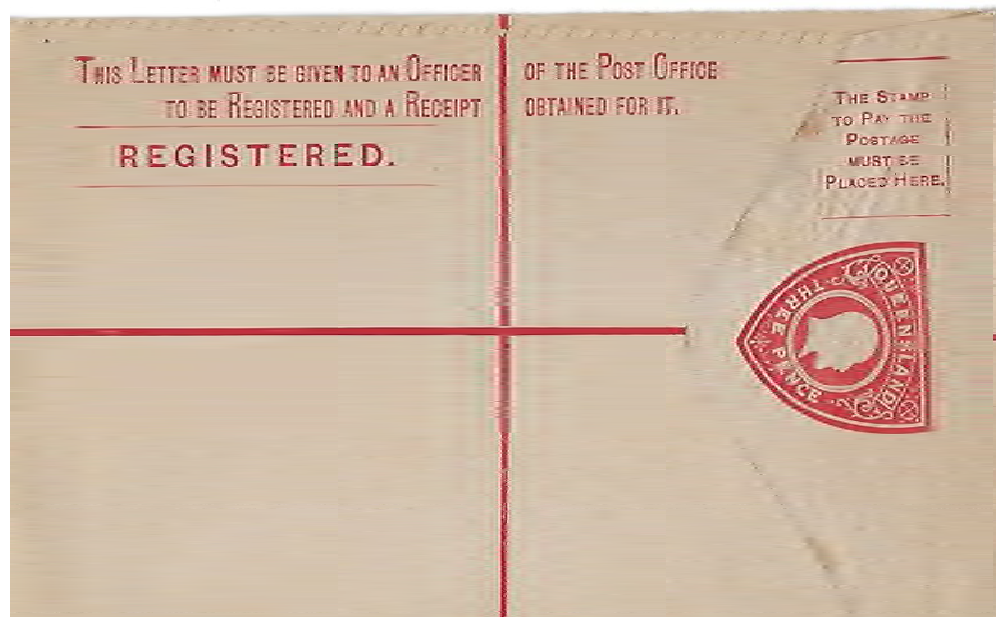
# 1879 Formula Registered Envelope McCorquodale & Co, London

Sizes G, H and H2 were sold by Stationers; H and H2 are recorded used



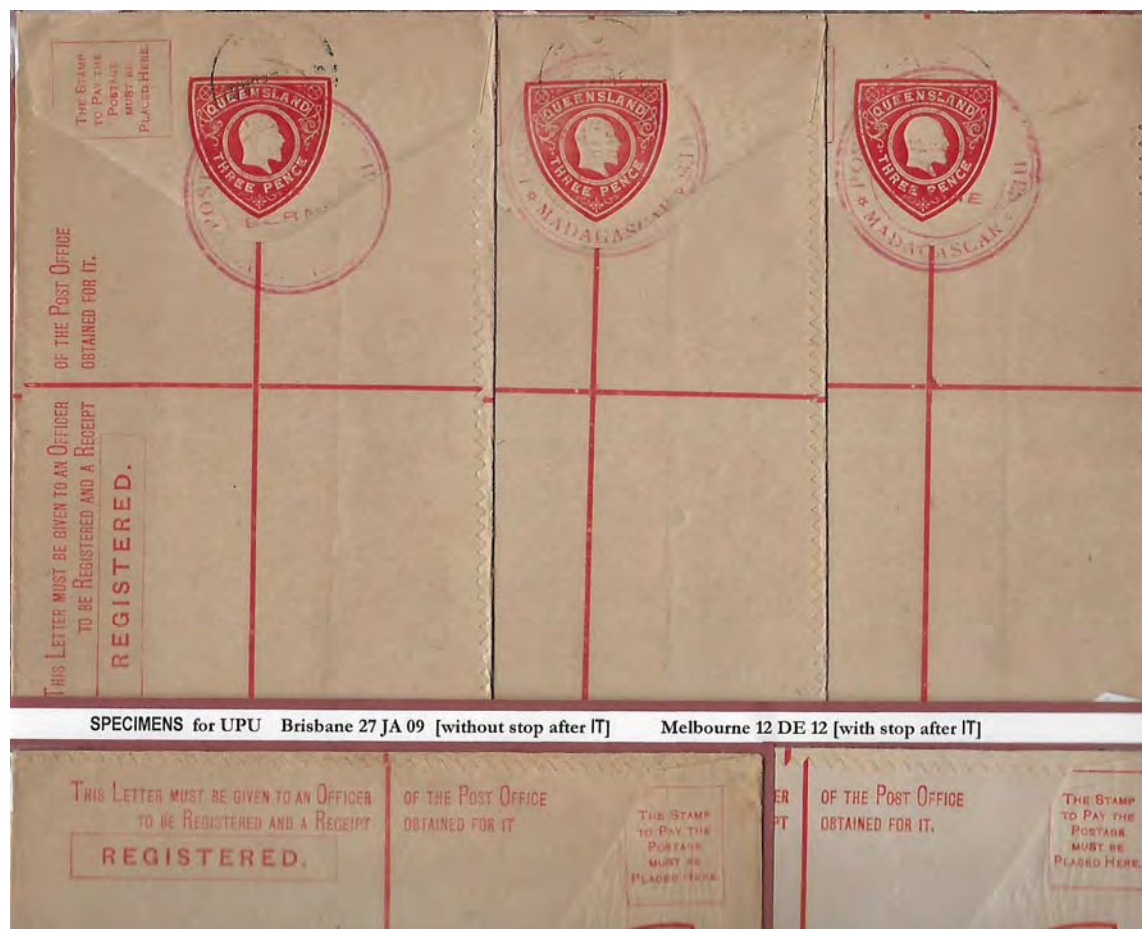
# 1909 3d Registered Envelope McCorquodale & Co, London

- The first stamped envelope issued with 2 formats .....the DOT.
- Two different shades are known

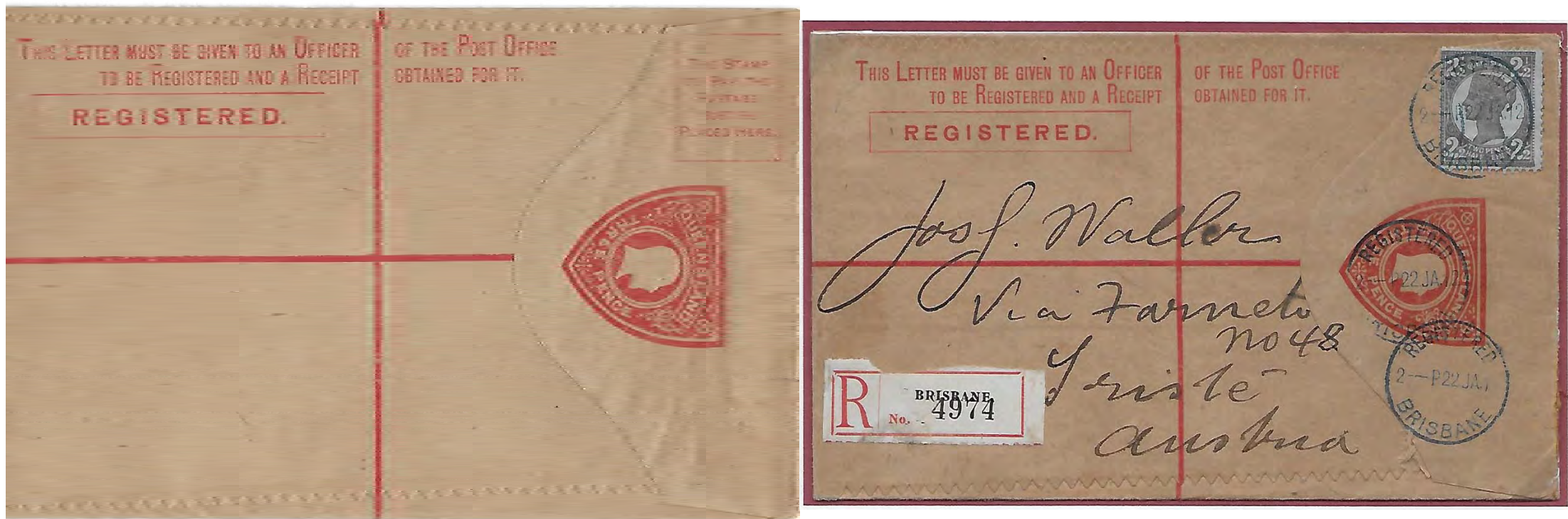




# 1909 3d Registered Envelope McCorquodale & Co – Madagascar SPECIMENS

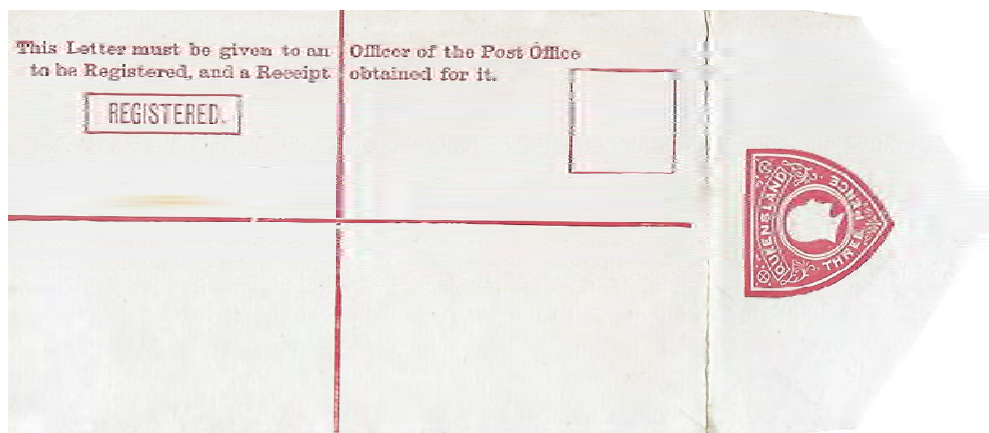


# 1912 3d Registered Envelope De La Rue & Co, London



1913 3d  
Registered Envelope  
Melbourne  
Government Printer

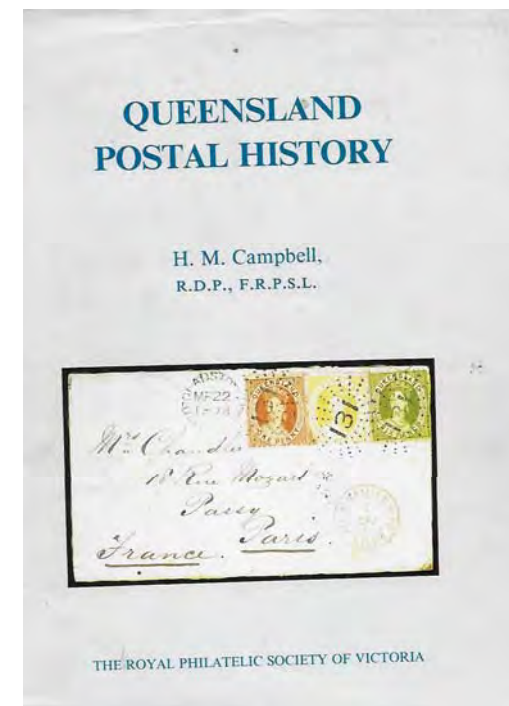
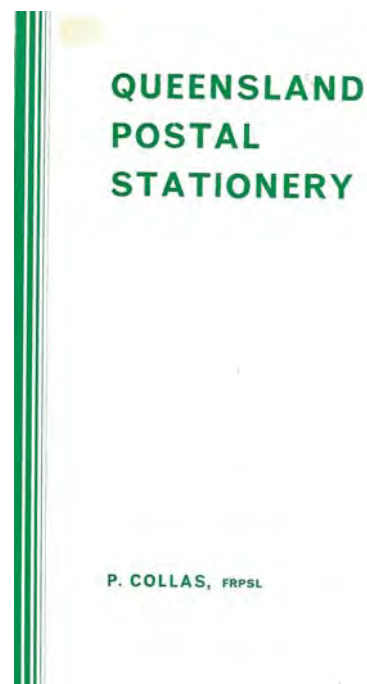
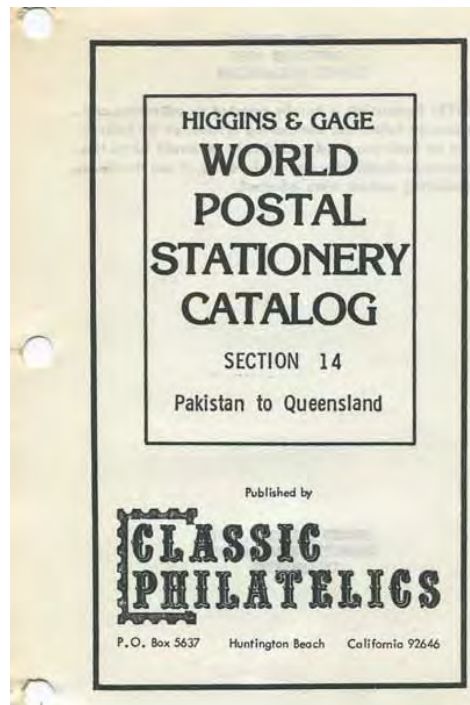
- 6 CTO Examples sold at AP Archival sale
- only 2 mint copies known
- 2 used copies recorded
- A new design was as approved but not issued



# Queensland Philatelic Journals

Whilst Bassett Hull Front Piece states that it includes “Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards, and Telegraph Forms”, this was not the case. A manuscript for the Post Stationery was prepared but never published. References can also be found in Watsons Post Cards, Senf Bros, Scott & Yvert & Tellier Catalogues.

- Bassett Hull; Higgins & Gage; Phil Collas; Hugh Campbell



# The Postal Stationery of Queensland 1880 – 1917

Part 2 – Letter Cards, 1898 – 1906 Post Cards (Views on face), Newspaper Wrappers,  
PTO Envelopes, Cards and Letter Sheets, Telegraph Form and Postal Notes

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE**

**I recommend to all members that they offer to present a  
Presentation on their favourite Postal Stationery.**

**It is an excellent opportunity to review your exhibit and the other  
holding of these same items.**

**I can confirm that it will increase your knowledge and understanding,  
and improve your exhibit.**

**Bernie Beston**

**22 October 2022**