

# Australian States & Commonwealth

**A**USTRALIAN states (Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania) were separate postal entities. They simultaneously joined the U P U on 1 October 1891, and so were obliged to offer A R service, at least internationally. There is no evidence of pre-1891 A R service. In fact, they did so domestically as well. In general, Australian A R material is even more difficult to find than Canadian and British, except for A R cards.

This mini-exhibit deals only with international use, reducing the size considerably to about ten pages. There is one pre-Vienna A R form known (from any of the states, in this case, NSW). That is not surprising, since the Vienna period began just nine months after they joined the U P U.

While domestically used A R forms are known in the Vienna period and later from most of the states, I could not find any international uses. There are a few A R covering envelopes and A R covers.

In the post-Vienna period, A R cards were introduced around late 1921, but international use is difficult to find, until the 1930s. Later Australian cards had an unusual feature. The backs had a unilingual section if the intended use was domestic, and bilingual section if the use was international.

I managed to dig up a few A R covers in the post-Vienna period, nothing impressive.

## A R timeline

1 October 1891

Joined U P U; first A R form issued (N S W).

1894

Bilateral treaty with New Zealand; A R forms on mail between them were to be prepared in the country of origin, not the country of destination

1 January 1901

Commonwealth of Australia formed; states maintained their postal services and stamps.

2 January 1913

First non-state Australian stamp issued (guess what animal?); state stamps could still be used.

late 1921

A R cards issued

late 1930s

Sesquilingual A R cards issued: these could be used as domestic cards (with the text in English) or internationally (with bilingual French/English text)

## Notes & Observations

- In parallel with Canada, early Australian A R is rare. One pre-Vienna A R form, and I haven't seen any other international uses of A R forms subsequently. (Domestic states' A R forms are available, at surprisingly high prices.)
- States' A R covering envelopes exist (a few are shown here), and so does one using Commonwealth stationery.
- A couple of international use A R covers are known in the Vienna period (both N S W), and even into the 1940s, it is difficult to find them (used internationally; domestic are more readily available).
- So little available material explains why this is a mini-exhibit!

# Australian AR: mini-exhibit synopsis (international use only)

**A**USTRALIAN states joined the UPU in 1891. AR service, especially internationally, seemed to be very unpopular, and hardly any artefacts are known. (Domestic forms, cards, and covers seem to be somewhat more readily available).

Pre-Vienna for Australian states means the nine-month period before 1 July 1892, and as far as I'm aware, there is precisely one AR item (illustrated in White), an NSW AR form to Germany, shown here.

In the Vienna period, there are several covers known (two from NSW are shown), but no (international) use AR forms, and a few covering envelopes (shown). Post-Vienna, covers become a little easier to find (but not that much); several are shown. AR cards used internationally are not common, and a handful are shown.

And that's about it.



*Australian AR handstamps. Left and right general issue; middle one used at Hobart (1923)*

# Australian international AR service

## Pre-Treaty of Vienna AR form (NSW)

Mailed less than two weeks after all Australian states joined the UPU (1 October 1891), initiating AR service. Properly signed and returned from Germany. *Only reported AR item from any Australian state in the pre-Vienna period.*

Timbre d'affranchissement. 84 5437

ADMINISTRATION DE LA NOUVELLE GALLES DU SUD.  
POST OFFICE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

Stamp of the various offices, to be affixed here.

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION**  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY

d'un objet recommandé adressé à } M. *J. Schleisinger*  
of a registered article addressed to ..... } *Berlin W. Leipzigerstrasse 100*

Timbre du bureau d'origine.

Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adresse et  
The undersigned acknowledges that a registered article addressed as above, and

provenant de\* } M. *L. von Kocumovich*  
sent by \* ..... } *Hurstville*

Stamp of office of origin.

Timbre du bureau distributeur.

a été dûment livré le *Berlin 17 novembre* 1891.  
was duly delivered the ..... 1891.

Signature† du destinataire. *J. Schleisinger*  
of the addressee.

Signature† du chef du bureau distributeur.  
of the Chief of the Delivery Office.

Stamp of delivering office.

\* Le nom et l'adresse complète de l'expéditeur de l'objet recommandé doivent être inscrits sur cette feuille par le bureau d'origine.  
\* The name and full address of the sender of the registered article must be entered in this form, at the Issuing Office.

† Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le permettent, par le chef du bureau distributeur, puis être mis sans enveloppe et renvoyé sous recommandation par le premier courrier.  
† This acknowledgment must be signed by the addressee, or, if the postal regulations of the country of destination permit, by the Postmaster of the Delivering Office. It should then be enclosed in an envelope and returned, registered, by first mail, to the office of origin.

10a 756—91

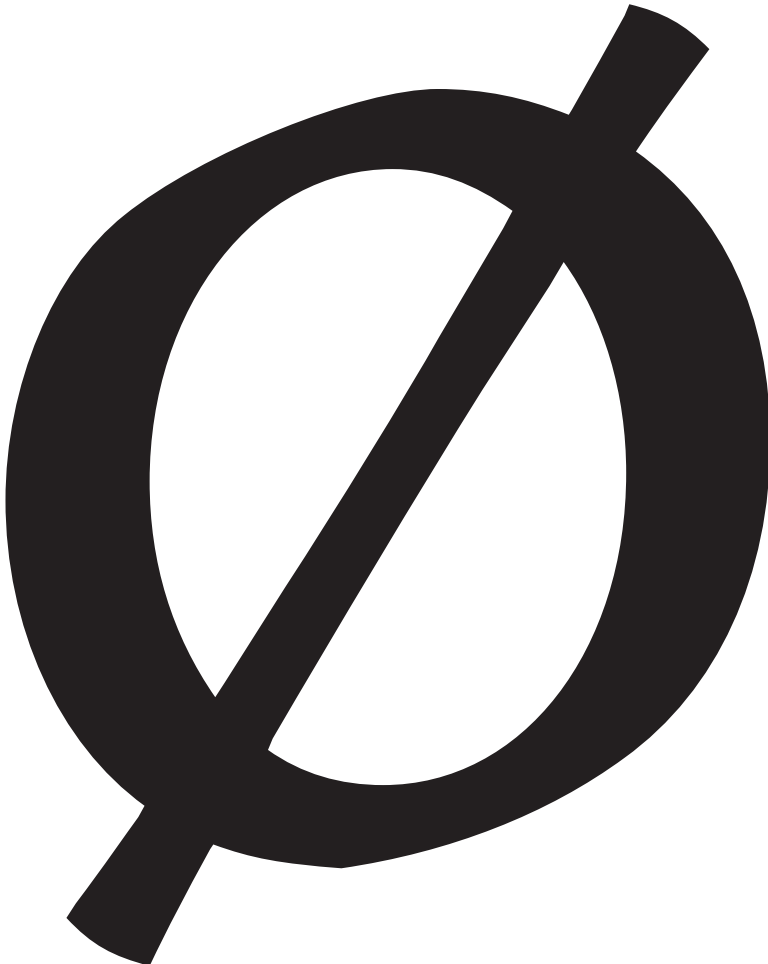
Sydney to Berlin, 12 October 1891. Illustrated in White (p 150).

- AR fee paid on form using 2½d stamp

- Returned under cover

# Treaty of Vienna period AR forms

None known used internationally.



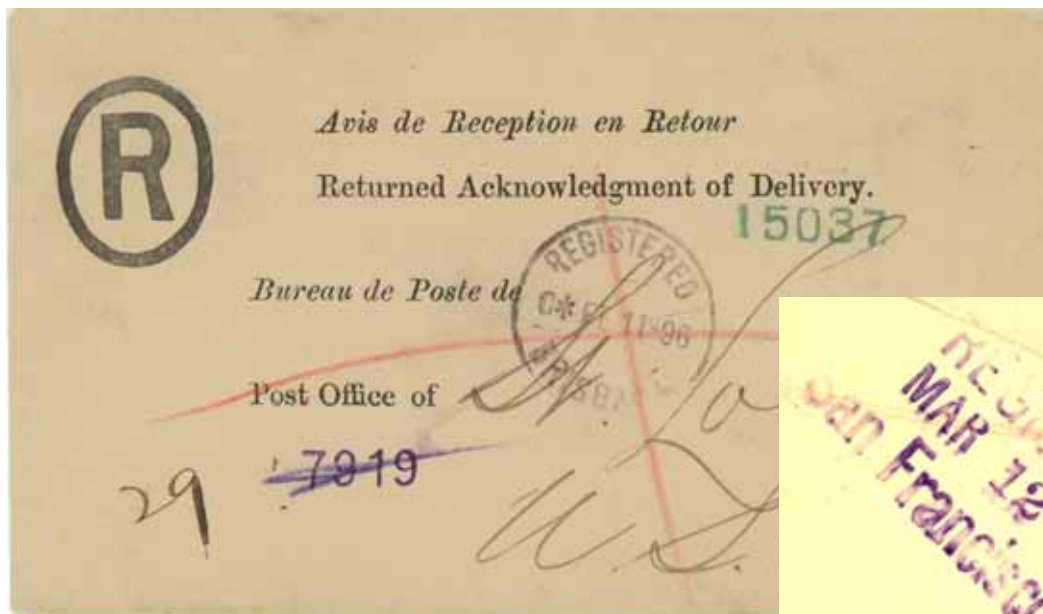
## AR covering envelopes

None known pre-Treaty of Vienna; several in Treaty of Vienna period

### Queensland, Vienna period



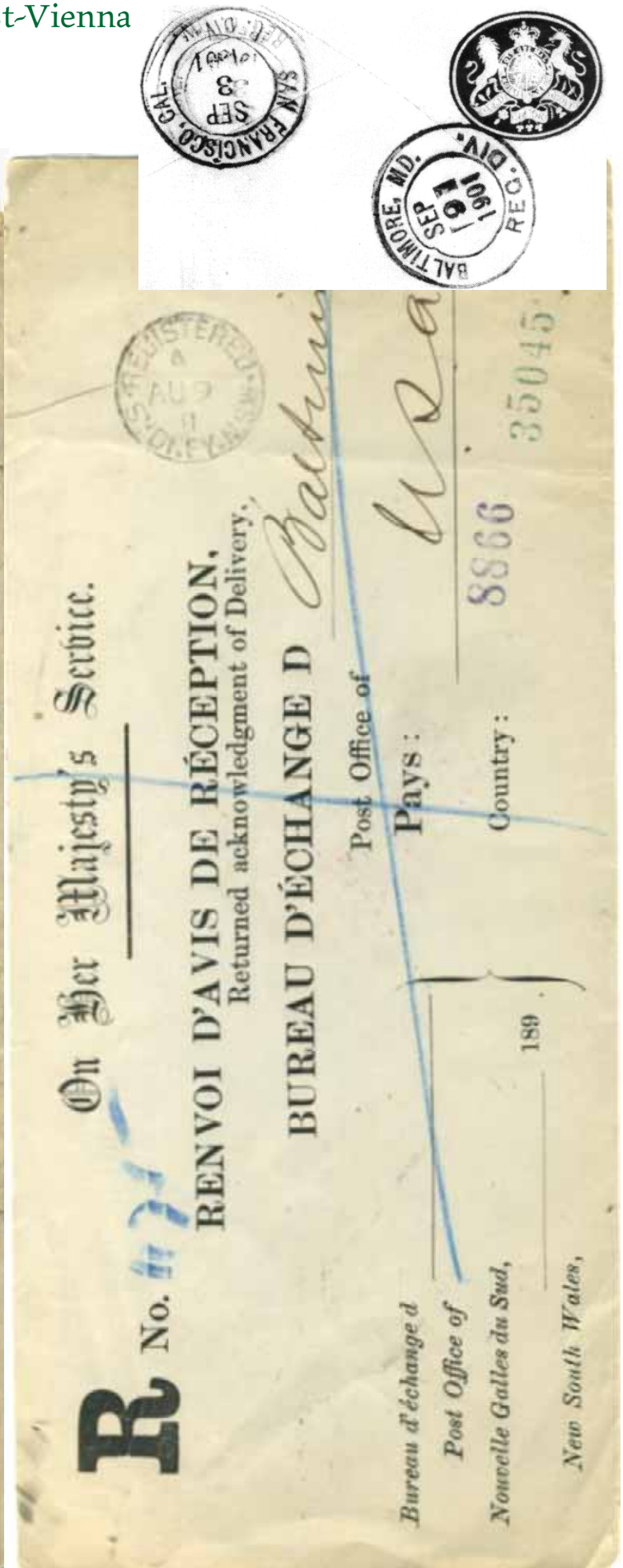
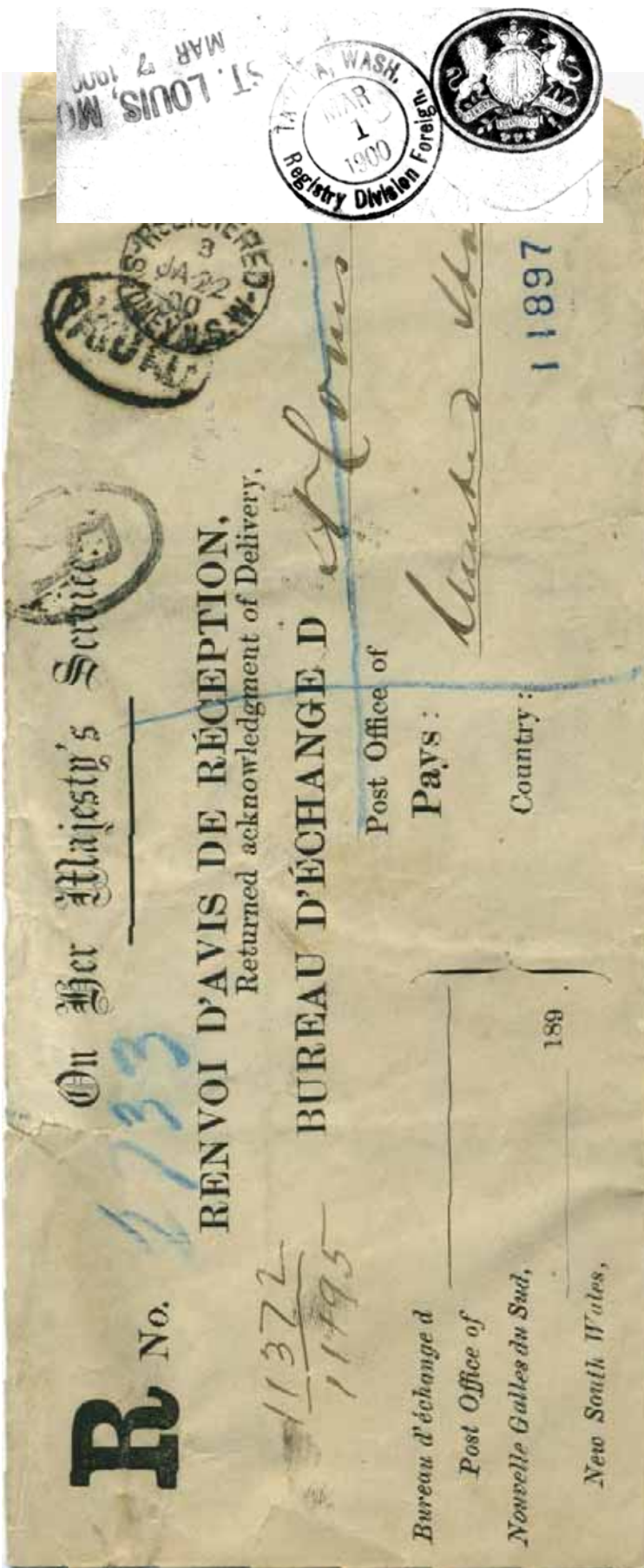
Brisbane–Southampton, 1893. Would have contained a Queensland AR form in this period. No printed identification of Queensland, except the red coat of arms on reverse.



Brisbane–St Louis, 1896. Similar printing, but on slightly different paper (although the difference may be due to sulfurization).



New South Wales covering envelopes, post-Vienna



Sydney to St Louis and Baltimore, 1900 & 1901. Appears to be the same form envelope. Would have contained US AR form. Left one has oval PAID ALL HS.

# Covering envelope, Commonwealth of Australia



Melbourne–Milwaukee, 1916. No printed indication of origin, except Victoria (State) at the bottom. Returned as registered matter (many other entities stopped registering returned AR forms well before this date). Via Vancouver (BC).

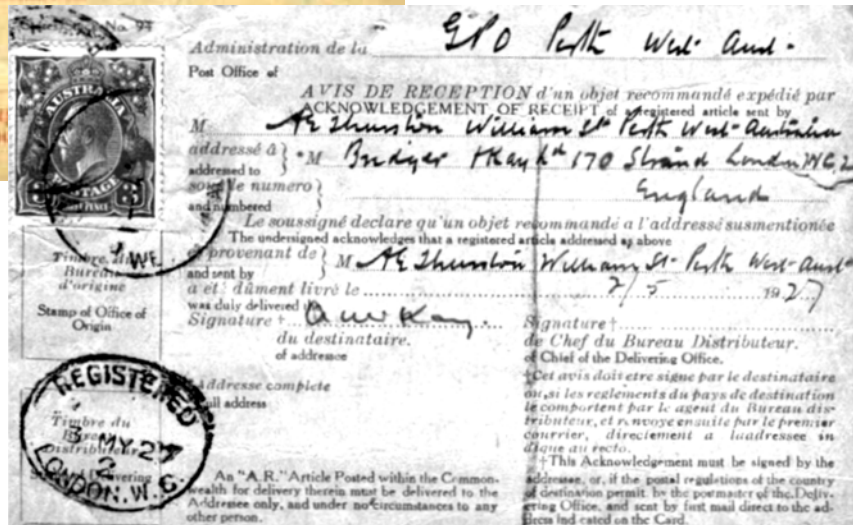
# AR cards, international use



Perth (WA) to Germany, 1926.

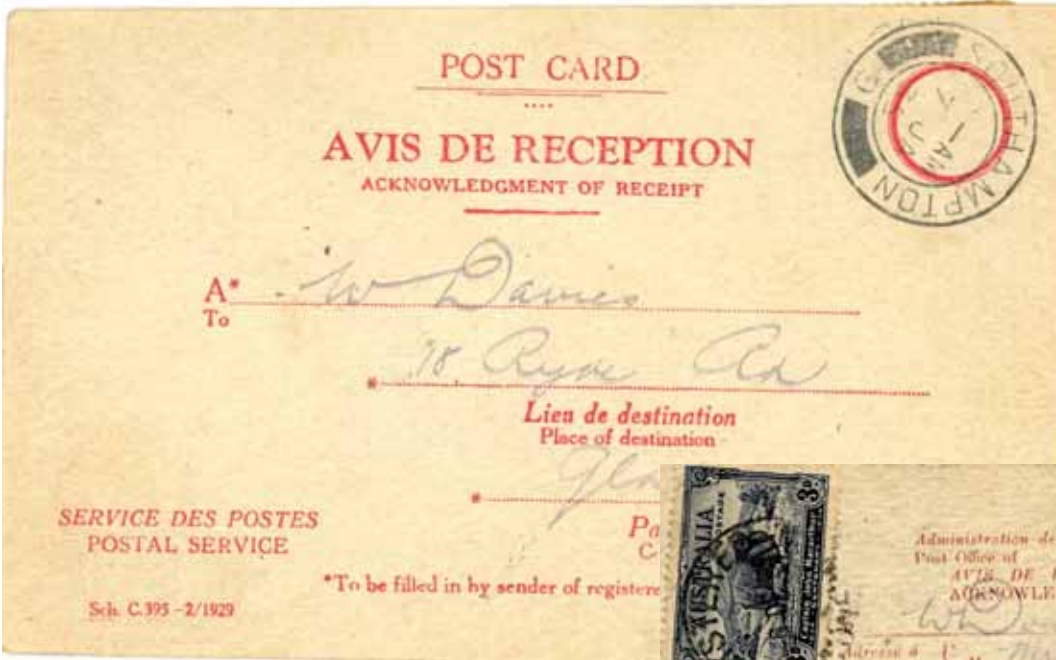


Perth to London, 1927. Different printing (italic *A* versus calligraphic *A* in *AVIS DE RECEPTION*, and other differences).

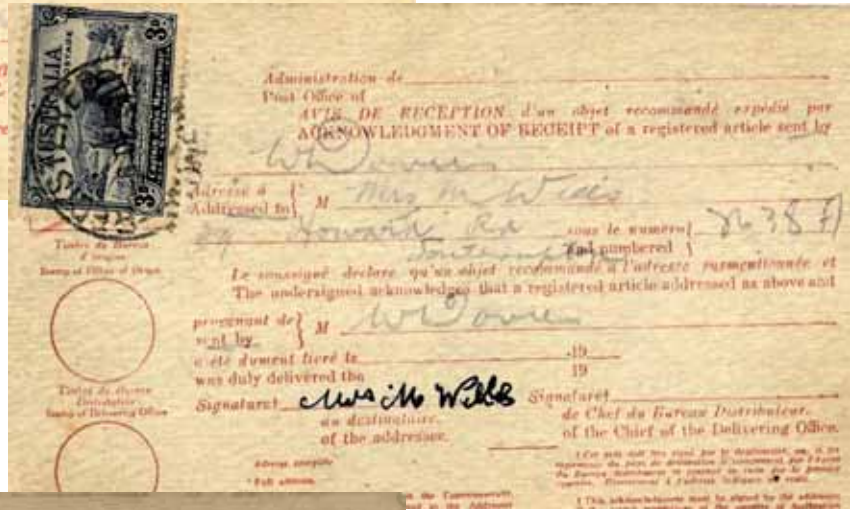




AR cards



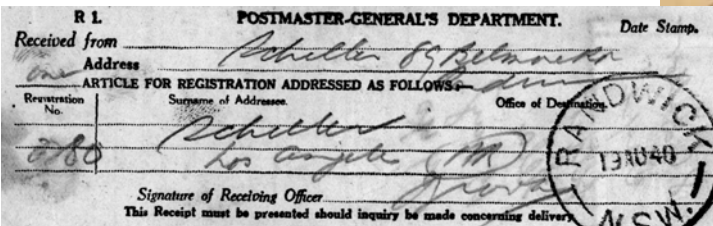
Sydney to Southampton, 1935.



At lower left ↓↓

To be filled in by office accepting article.

Randwick (NSW) to Los Angeles, 1940. Reverse shows unilingual English part for domestic use, and bilingual part for international use. Receipt ↓↓



AR cards

Form R 15 (C.5)

**COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

(AVIS DE RECEPTION)  
**ADVICE OF DELIVERY**

**M. F. SCHILLER.**  
 (Name)  
**89 BELMORE, RD.**  
 (No. of house and name of street, or P.O. Box No.)  
**RANDWICK, N.S.W.**  
 (City or town)  
 (State)

Postal Service  
 (Service des postes)

**PARTICULARS OF ARTICLE**  
 Registered Article (Envoi recommandé)  
 Posted at **RANDWICK,**  
 (Départ. ou bureau de poste de)  
 On **11 July 1941** No. **1506**  
 (Date) (Sous le No.)  
 Sent by **F. SCHILLER.**  
 (Expéditeur) (par M)  
 Addressed to **ELLA. K. SCHILLER.**  
 (et adressé à M)  
**LOS-ANGELES, CALIF.**  
 (et adressé à)  
 Insert "Letter," "Printed Matter," "Parcel," etc., as the case may be. If wrong insert "parcel," strike out "Registered" and insert "Ordinary."

FOR USE AT OFFICES IN AUSTRALIA

The undersigned acknowledges the receipt on \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ of the article described on the other side of this card.

(Signature of addressee)

(Signature of officer by whom delivery is made)  
 NOTE—An A.R. article, posted in the Commonwealth for delivery therein must be delivered to the addressee only. Under no circumstances may it be delivered to any other person.

**FOR USE ONLY AT OFFICES OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA**

Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part a été dûment livré le \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature of addressee)  
**AUG 16 1941**  
 (Signature of agent of bureau destinataire)

1) Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

Randwick (NSW) to Los Angeles, 1941. Wording different from that of 1940 card.

At lower left ↓↓

\*To be filled in by sender.

Form R 15 (C.5)

**ON POSTAL SERVICE**  
**SERVICE DES POSTES**

Postmark of office  
 (Timbre du bureau  
 returning advice)  
**MELBOURNE**

**SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS:—**  
 M. **H. PALMER**  
 (Name)  
**20 BANK PLACE**  
 (Street and number or P.O. Box No.)  
**MELBOURNE**  
 (City or town)  
**Victoria.**  
 (State)  
**AUSTRALIA**

**PARTICULARS OF ARTICLE**  
 Registered Article (Envoi recommandé)  
 Posted at **Kialto**  
 (Départ. ou bureau de poste de)  
 On **23/11 1942** No. **1534**  
 (Date) (Sous le No.)  
 Sent by **H. PALMER**  
 (Expéditeur) (par)  
 Addressed to **ALFRED CHARRMION**  
 (et adressé à)  
**Route 4**  
**Marietta, Ohio, U.S.A.**  
 (et adressé à)  
 Insert "Letter," "Printed Matter," "Parcel," etc., as the case may be. If an unregistered parcel, strike out "Registered" and insert "Ordinary."

Particulars of the article and the name and address on right, are to be inserted by the sender.

FOR USE AT OFFICES IN AUSTRALIA

The undersigned acknowledges the receipt on \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ of the article described on the other side of this card.

(Signature of addressee)

(Signature of officer by whom delivery is made)  
 To be forwarded to sender by first mail after delivery.

NOTE—An A.R. article posted in the Commonwealth for delivery therein is delivered to the addressee only. In other countries, delivery is effected in accordance with their own regulations. In some countries, it is the practice for the A.R. card to be signed by an official at the delivering office and not by the addressee.

**FOR USE ONLY AT OFFICES OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA**

The undersigned states that the article described Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné on the other side was duly delivered on **March 16 1942** d'autre part a été dûment livré le \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

1) **Alfred Charrmion**  
 (Signature of addressee)  
 (Signature of destinataire)

1) **Walter J. ...**  
 (Signature of official at delivery office)  
 (Signature of l'agent du bureau destinataire)

1) This advice must be signed by the addressee, or, if the Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou si les regulations of the country of destination so provide, by règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par the official of the delivery office, and returned by the l'agent du bureau destinataire et renvoyé par le first mail to the sender. premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.

Sch. C.2872-8/1940.

Melburne-Belpre (OH), mistreatment in US, 1942. US stamp applied (paying foreign post card rate!) at small Ohio town. All the more inexplicable, since US AR cards almost never had stamps on them, and AR was very familiar in the US.

Card is quite different from predecessors.

**ADVICE OF DELIVERY**  
 (AVIS DE RECEPTION)

**FOR USE AT OFFICES IN AUSTRALIA**

The undersigned acknowledges the receipt on \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_ of the article described on the other side of this card.

(Signature of addressee)

(Signature of officer by whom delivery is made)  
 To be forwarded to sender by first mail after delivery.

NOTE—An A.R. article posted in the Commonwealth for delivery therein is delivered to the addressee only. In other countries, delivery is effected in accordance with their own regulations. In some countries, it is the practice for the A.R. card to be signed by an official at the delivering office and not by the addressee.

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Sch. C.2872-8/1940.

# AR covers

None known in pre-Vienna period

## AR covers, Vienna period

Two of the three nineteenth century international AR covers reported for all Australian States.



Sydney–Montreal, 18 May 1893. Standard Australian AR oval, in use for many decades.

First run, **Canada-Australia Steamship line** (carried on the *Miowera*, Sydney–Honolulu–Vancouver); one other cover to Canada (unregistered) is known from this run.

Rated 3d reg'n, 2½d each for AR & UPU, totalling 8d; stamp is overprinted only 7½d, so shortpaid ½d (no evidence of missing half-penny stamp).

Third earliest reported AR cover to Canada.



Sydney–Cincinnati, 1894. Rated as above, but double UPU; 7½d applied in stamps on front, and embossed 3d (registration fee) on back flap.



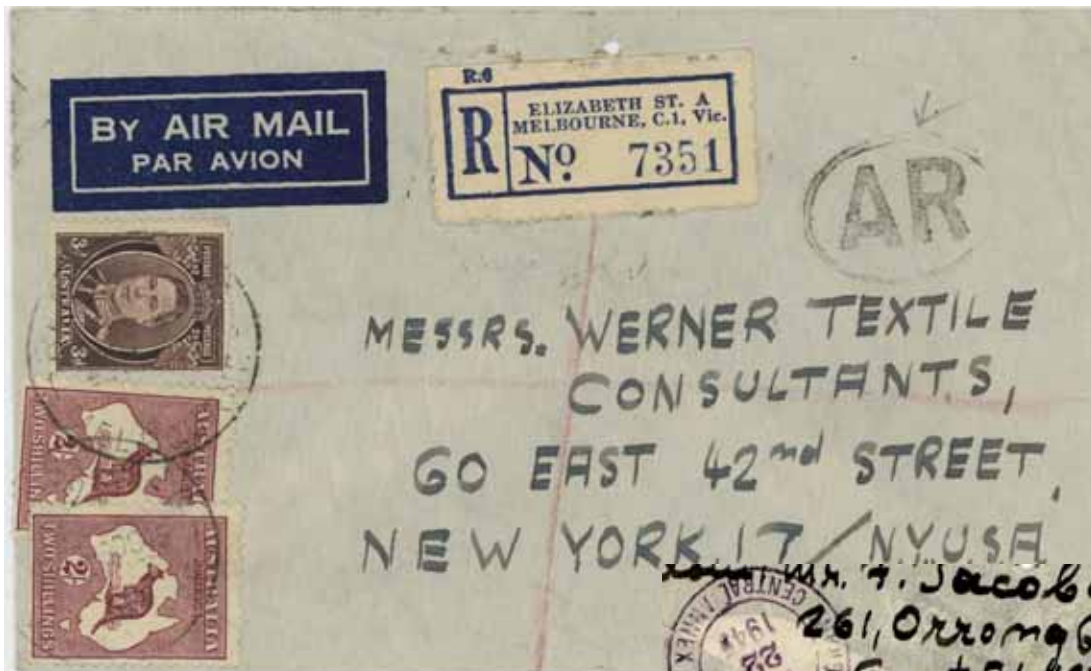
Registered formula envelopes with AR are very difficult to find in most periods.

## AR covers, post-Vienna

International use still very difficult to find.



Hobart to us, triple, 1923. With named-city A.R. handstamp. Rated, triple to us, 3 d first ounce, and 1½ d for each additional; and registration 3 d (as we have seen from the cards, AR fee was paid on the card, not the cover.



Melbourne to New York by air, October 1945. Rated 4/3; 3 d registration, and double airmail rate (up to one ounce) at 2/- per half ounce.



## AR covers



*Brisbane to Sioux Falls (SD), forwarded to St Louis; by air, November 1946. Rated 2/9; 3 d registration, and double airmail rate (up to one ounce) at 1/3 per half ounce.*



# New Zealand

**J**OINED UP U at the same time as the Australian states, 1 October 1891. A R material is comparably rare.

# New Zealand AR: mini-exhibit synopsis (international use only)

**NEW** ZEALAND joined the UPU 1 October 1891, and material is rare, except possibly domestic AR cards. No pre-Vienna material is known (only possible for nine months); a few internationally used AR forms, AR covering envelopes, and covers are known to the early 1920s, but even into the 1940s, non-domestic AR covers are difficult to find. I have not seen *any* NZ international AR cards at all.



New Zealand AR handstamps. Both appear to be general use (latter from the beginning); right one appears to have been rubber.

# New Zealand international AR service

No pre-Vienna international use items known; one Vienna period AR form, one AR covering envelope, and several covers are known. Post-Vienna, forms and covers are rare, even to the 1940s, surprisingly many covering envelopes are known, but AR cards are rare to nonexistent.

## AR form and its covering envelope, Vienna period

Known for a handful of entities

P.O. No. 17.)

**NEW ZEALAND.**  
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY**  
AVIS DE RÉCEPTION

of an article registered under No. 24, and addressed to  
d'un objet recommandé enregistré sous le No. \_\_\_\_\_, et adressé à \_\_\_\_\_

M. J. Guenther at Auckland on the Jan 2 1897.

The undersigned declares that a registered article addressed as above and received  
Le soussigné déclare qu'un objet recommandé à l'adressé susmentionné et provenant

from Dayton, Ohio has been duly delivered on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February 1897.  
de \_\_\_\_\_ a été dûment livré le \_\_\_\_\_

Stamp of the Delivering Office: Signature of the Addressee: du Destinataire Signature of the Postmaster at the Office of Delivery: du Chef du Bureau Distributeur:

 Thomas Guenther S. D. Biss

This receipt should be signed by the Addressee and by the Postmaster of the office of  
Cet avis doit être signé par le Destinataire et par le Chef du Bureau Distributeur,

delivery, then en \_\_\_\_\_  
of origin of the a \_\_\_\_\_  
d'origine de l'objet qu'il \_\_\_\_\_  
20,000/10/92.

AR form & for registered letter from Dayton (OH) to Auckland, 1897. Letter mailed 2 January, form signed 3 February, placed in covering envelope and posted 5 February.

Form print data, 20,000/10/92. Only reported international use NZ AR form; only known international use NZ covering envelope in Vienna period.

**AVIS DE RÉCEPTION EN RETOUR**  
(RETURNED ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DELIVERY)

**REGISTERED.**

**AUCKLAND.**

**Au Bureau de Poste de**  
**To the Post Office at**

3088 Dayton  
6027 Ohio  
u.s.a

**Administration des Postes et des Télégraphes de la Nouvelle Zélande.**  
Post and Telegraph Administration of New Zealand.)





# AR covering envelopes, post-Vienna

Would have contained foreign AR forms. Returned by registered mail until around 1919.



Auckland–Newton (MA), 1901.



Hamilton–Buffalo, 1912. Font of REGISTERED different, as is the printed R.

## A tale of three cities

Over two pages, six AR covering envelopes from three cities, with *three different* printings, and all returned as registered matter. All are denoted No. 65, but data following may differ. All received at the same time, with consecutive US registration numbers, 60004-9.

Addressed to Philadelphia; all are backstamped there and at Chicago, 3 & 1 October 1917, respectively.

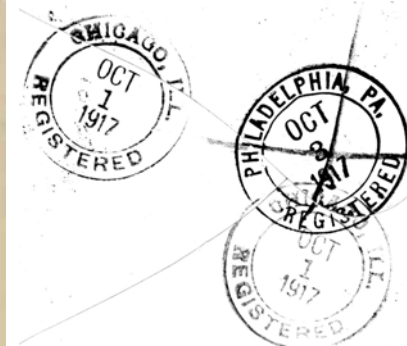
From Christchurch with *NZ military censorship*, 8 September 1917. Form (3462).



From Napier, 31 August 1917.  
Blank to right of No. 65.



From Christchurch, 30 August 1917.  
Form (3462), again. Same handwriting as on 60004.



The same configuration of backstamps appears on all six.

Three cities (part 2)

From Wellington, data (3807).  
Top address in different  
handwriting.  
Bottom two have consec-  
utive Wellington registra-  
tion numbers.



28 August 1917



30 August



30 August

## Registration of covering envelopes ceases

Some time in 1919–20, based on the envelopes below. This is very late (for example, Canada & UK, 1908).



Dunedin–Milwaukee, 20 January 1919. Print data (4047); also period is *outside* the parentheses.



Invercargill–Hartford (CO), 16 September 1920. Print data (3462); period is *inside* the parentheses.

# NZ AR covers, post-Vienna

Very difficult to find



Wellington to Caracas (Venezuela), double, 1906. Small boxed A.R. handstamp. Rated 3 d registration (embossed), 2½ d AR fee (paid on the cover, not the form), and double UPU rate at 2½ d per ounce. Via Rio and Barbados.



Tauranga to Cleveland, 1939. Ms Acknowledgement of delivery requested. Rated 3 d for each of registration and UPU, and 2½ d AR fee.

# NZ AR covers



Domestic, forwarded to Australia, NZ censorship, 1943. Double ring **A.R.** handstamp. **Rated** (?) registration 4 d, AR fee 3 d, and domestic 2 d.



To Australia, returned to sender, on recorded (not registered) mail, 1967. Same type double ring **A.R.** handstamp. **Rated** ??

# Samoa AR: micro-exhibit synopsis

**I**<sup>N</sup> 1914, German (West) Samoa was occupied by NZ, and this was maintained until 1920, whereupon it became a NZ-mandated territory. It obtained self-government in 1947. There isn't much AR material.

# Samoa A R covering envelope

During the mandate period (1920-47)



Apia to Portland (OR), 1921. NZ covering envelope, print data (4047). Returned as registered matter; this may have been an error, as NZ seemed to have stopped returning these registered by 1920.

