

**HALFPENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS
1903 LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING ON V OVER CROWN PAPER**

In May 1903 the Victorian Government Printer issued 46,000 sheets of V over Crown paper and transfers taken from the steel plates for the lithographic printing. 45,641 sheets (2,738,460 stamps) were sent to Hobart between May and October 1903 with 359 sheets to spoils.



Green - watermark sideways pointing left



Deep green - watermark sideways pointing left



Watermark upright SCARCE



Watermark upright inverted



Early date Sept. 14 1903



1907 (March 9) Launceston to USA with 1/2d used to make-up foreign letter rate of 2 1/2d.

HALFPENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS
1903 LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING ON V OVER CROWN PAPER USAGE & VARIETIES

Printing involved a print and turn technique which meant that the sideways watermark is found pointing left or right in equal proportions



Sideways watermark pointing left



Sideways watermark pointing right



1906 Used at Interlaken



1905 (Jan. 13) Launceston to Evandale underpaying the 1d postcard rate and taxed double deficiency.



1905 (July 25) Hobart to Queensland make up for the 1/2oz intercolonial rate.

**HALFPENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS
1903 LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING ON V OVER CROWN PAPER PLATE VARIETIES**

The process of taking a transfer from the steel plate was relatively cost effective but subject to imperfections in the lithographically printed sheets such as creased transfers, inking flaws and white patches usually resulting from foreign matter adhering to the transfer medium.

Sheets A & B



Sheet A position 49
Colour flaw in left value tablet.



Sheet B position 24 - Repaired letters in TAS



Sheet B position.59
Colour dot in frame above
NIA



Sheet B position 18 - Break in top frame over MA



Sheet B position 59 - Missing frame at base.



Sheet A position 23
Break in frame above SMA

HALFPENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS

1903 LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING ON V OVER CROWN PAPER MAJOR CREASED TRANSFER

The right pane of 60 (Sheet B) shows a major coloured line resulting from a creased transfer which runs diagonally across a number of units in the lower part of the sheet.

Sheet B



CREASED TRANSFER - coloured hair line through positions 37 (LLC), 43 (through TASMANIA), 44, 45, 51 and 52.



Creased transfer positional block 40 to 54 showing prominent coloured line in posn. 52

HALFPENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS
1908 & 1910 ELECTROTYPED PRINTING ON CROWN A PAPER

In November 1908 an electrotyped printing of 20,000 sheets was carried out and 19,809 sheets (1,188,540 stamps) were distributed to the Post Office between November 1908 and July 1910. Spoils totalled 191 sheets. A second electrotyped printing of 20,000 sheets took place in July 1910 with 19,600 sheets (1,176,000 stamps) sent to Hobart between August 1910 and June 1911. 400 sheets were sent to spoils. The Half Penny stamps used for the booklets were sourced from the 1908 printing.



1908 Printing in sage green Sheet B posn. 1 to 18. Horizontal lines of perforation gauging 11 and vertical lines 12½. Marginal crosses appear only on the early printings.

The print and turn method was used by the Victorian Printing Office which gave rise to equal numbers of sheets with watermark sideways left and sideways right.

When the electrotyped printings of the Half Penny first appeared the philatelic press in January 1909 described them as a lithographic printing. This was later disproved by JRW Purves after conducting interviews with former senior staff at the Victorian Government Printing Office in 1931.

Retouched frame
above TAS.
Sheet A Posn. 6



1910 Printing in green with Watermark vertical. No marginal crosses



1910 use watermark left



Early date of use
25 January 1909



1910 use watermark right



1908 Watermark sideways and inverted.



1908 Watermark vertical and inverted. This was a small batch during the first printing.



1910 Printing in green with Watermark sideways.

HALFPENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS
1911 ELECTROTYPED PRINTING ON CROWN A PAPER

In June 1911 a printing of 32,000 sheets (1,920,000 stamps) was carried out and all were distributed to the Post Office between June 1911 and September 1911. With the introduction of the 1/2d printed matter rate in May 1911 the demand for this value increased markedly.

1911 bright green printing



1911 Bright green Watermark sideways left



15 xx 1911 Early use of bright green printing.



19 September 1914 Late use of bright green printing

1911 Pale myrtle green printing from dirty plates



1911 Pale myrtle green from dirty plates.



1913 use of Pale myrtle green printing



1911 Pale myrtle green.



12 Nov.1911 Early recorded date



January 1913 usage

1911 Deep myrtle green printing from dirty plates



6 December 1912 usage.



1911 Deep myrtle green watermark sideways right.



23 April 1913 usage.

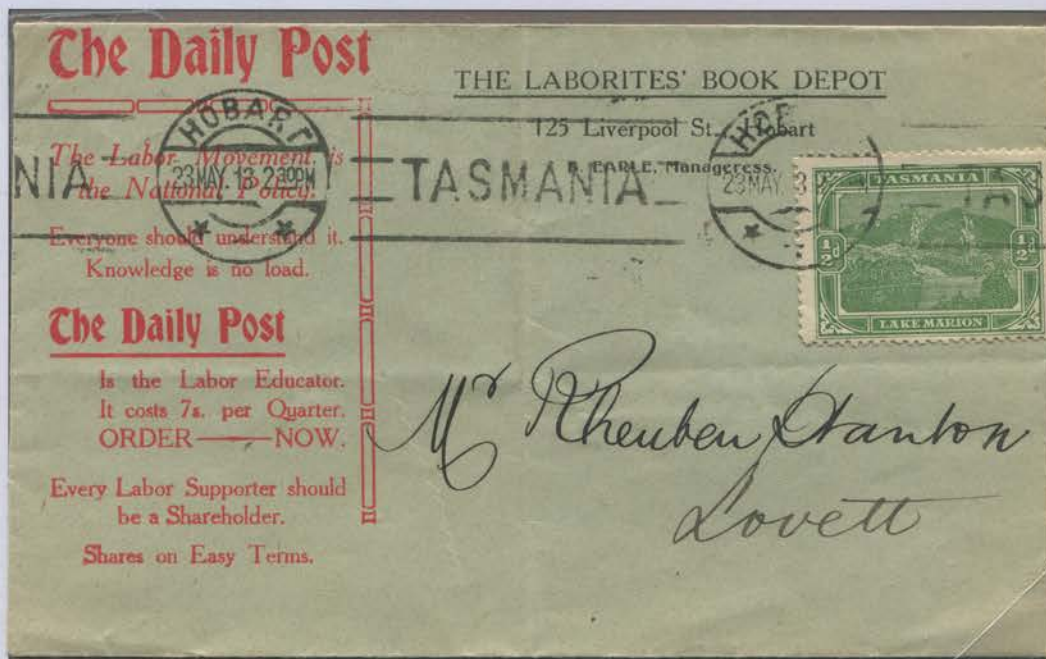
There were a wide range of shades and quality of printing from this relatively small printing carried out between 15 and 29 June 1911. There were no spoils recorded indicating the printers were under pressure to meet demand.

**HALFPENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS
1911 ELECTROTYPE PRINTING ON CROWN A PAPER USAGE**

On 1 May 1911 a Printed Matter rate of 1/2d per 2 oz. was introduced. This rate was also applicable to Printed Papers provided at least 20 identical copies were posted and each cover was marked "20 Posted". This 'second class mail' had to be open for inspection under the Regulations.



1912 (March 2) West Devonport to Forth at the 'printed matter only' rate.



1913 (May 23) Hobart to Lovett at the unsealed commercial papers rate.

The Post Office took delivery of the final printing from Melbourne up to September 1911 and this supply lasted well into 1914 as use in late 1914 and even into 1915 is known and use of the 1/2d Kangaroo issue is not recorded in Tasmania until late 1914.

**ONE PENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS
1902 LITHOGRAPHED PRINTING ON V OVER CROWN WATERMARKED PAPER**

Following the decision to transfer printing from De La Rue to Melbourne supplies of 1d and 2d stamps were urgently needed. A printing of 42,004 sheets was made in January 1902 and 40,000 sheets (2,460,000 stamps) distributed to Hobart between January and July 1902. 1004 sheets were sent to spoils. The first despatch left Melbourne on 11th January and was on sale in Hobart on 14th January 1902.



Watermark inverted



Watermark upright
deep shade



14 & 15 January 1902
Use on first & second
days of issue.



R2/3 Early & late states of Clogged ink flaw



R2/3 Clogged ink flaw



1902 (January 16) Hobart to Northumberland at Empire rate and registration fee of 3d.

ONE PENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS

1902 - 1903 ELECTROTYPED PRINTING FROM ELECTROS 1 & 2 ON V OVER CROWN WATERMARKED PAPER

After meeting the urgent need for the 1d using the lithographic process the Victorian Government Printer reverted to the electrotyped process to supply further printings, Printings were made in August 1902 (2,340,000 stamps) distributed between September 1902 and March 1903. A March 1903 printing of 240,000 stamps supplied Hobart from April 1903 until July 1903. Usage during this period was around 498,000 stamps per month.



September 1902 printing in orange red.
Watermark vertical.



September 1902 printing in orange red.
Watermark sideways.



March 1903 printing in rose red.
Watermark vertical.



Printed on unsurfaced side
Watermark reversed
Only recorded example.



8 October 1902
Early recorded date.
orange red shade



17 June 1904
rose red shade.



1903 (March 24) Cressy
to Campbell Town at 1d
concessional rate under
the Rabbit Act.

**ONE PENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS
1902 & 1903 ELECTROS 1 & 2 MAJOR PLATE FLAWS AND REPAIRS**

Electros 1 and 2 proved to be of poor quality as two major flaws developed and had to be repaired. These plates were replaced after only two printings.

Plate 1 position 1 'Volcano' flaw.



1 November 1902
Spur on 2nd A of
TASMANIA
Constant throughout
life of plate 1



3 December 1902
Pre-volcano plate
crack over mountain.
Early date



21 January 1903
Late date



4 November 1902
Repaired state
'Volcano' repair
Early date



4 June 1903
Worn state
'Volcano' repair
rose red printing



March 1903 printing in rose red showing late state of the "Volcano" repair. Watermark vertical.

Plate 1 position 56 'Big Tree' flaw.



White flaw on central
tree before repair



'Big Tree' repair



27 January 1903
Rose red early date



7 August 1903
Worn state

ONE PENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS

1903 - 1904 ELECTROTYPED PRINTING FROM ELECTROS 3 & 4 ON V OVER CROWN WATERMARKED PAPER

Plates 3 and 4 were prepared to replace the wearing plates 1 & 2 with the first printing in July 1903. Further printings on V over Crown paper were made in January, May and September 1904. A total of 125,000 sheets (7,500,000 stamps) were distributed to Hobart between August 1903 and April 1905. Monthly usage was around 500,000.



July 1903 printing in pale carmine.
Watermark vertical inverted.



Watermark vertical & reversed



9 September 1903
Early recorded date.



January 1904 printing in deep carmine.
Watermark vertical.



1905 (March 9) Chudleigh Junction to West Devonport at 1d postcard rate & 1d re-direction fee to Evandale.

1905 (April 10) Hobart to Oatlands at 1d concessional rate for unsealed Printed matter.



ONE PENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS

1905 - 1907 ELECTROTYPED PRINTING FROM ELECTROS 3 & 4 ON CROWN A WATERMARKED PAPER

New paper with Crown A watermark was introduced in April 1905. These plates lasted for ten printings through till September 1909. There were 280,000 sheets (16,800,000 stamps) distributed to Hobart between May 1905 and January 1908. Usage was around 525,000 stamps a month.



January 1906 printing in carmine pink.
Watermark vertical.



April 1905 printing in carmine with marginal cross.
Watermark vertical.



3 October 1905
Early recorded date.



August 1907 printing in aniline rose
Watermark sideways.



1906 (October 5) Risdon to Carrick at inland letter rate. Carmine pink printing.

ONE PENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS

1908 - 1909 ELECTROTYPED PRINTING FROM ELECTROS 3 & 4 ON CROWN A WATERMARKED PAPER

Plates 3 and 4 showed considerable wear during the final years of use and poor quality impressions were found in the June, October and September 1909 printings. 224,000 sheets (1,344,000 stamps) were distributed between February 1908 until February 1910. Usage continued around 517,000 stamps per month.



September 1909 printing from worn plates.



Sept. 1908 orange red Watermark inverted



November 1909 Worn plates usage.



Watermark sideways.



Inverted watermark



April 1910 worn plate usage. Watermark upright.



1909 (November 9) Kindred to New York at foreign letter rate. Worn plate printing.

ONE PENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS

1910 - 1911 ELECTROTYPED PRINTING FROM ELECTROS 5 & 6 ON CROWN A WATERMARKED PAPER

Plates 5 and 6 replaced the worn plates 3 & 4 with the first printing being made in February 1910. Further printings occurred in October 1910 & April & October 1911. 489,996 sheets (29,399,760 stamps) were produced to meet the need for the Uniform 1d rate introduced on 1 May 1911. Cooke introduced monograms on these plates.



February 1910 printing. Watermark upright. CA monogram



February 1910 printing. Watermark upright. JBC monogram



18 March 1910
Early recorded date



February 1910
deep carmine printing.



18 May 1910
Early recorded date



1910 (June 9) Launceston to Ringarooma at printed matter rate. Orange red printing.



7 October 1912
Watermark sideways
early recorded date.

ONE PENNY MELBOURNE PRINTINGS

1912 ELECTROTYPED PRINTING FROM ELECTROS 5 & 6 ON THIN CROWN A WATERMARKED PAPER

An emergency printing was made in December 1912 to tide the Tasmanian Post Office over until the Kangaroo stamps were ready for distributuon in January 1913. 20,000 sheets (120,000 stamps) were printed and 19,972 sheets sent to Hobart on 24 and 31 December 1912. 28 sheets went to spoils.



Watermark upright. JBC monogram showing monogram transposed from the 1910 printing.



CA monogram.



28 December 1912
Earliest recorded date



1913 (March 12) Sydney to New Zealand at intercolonial rate. THIN PAPER usage.

The earliest recorded date for the Kangaroo issue is at Launceston is 23 January 1913.