

The Perkins Bacon 5d Diadem Stamp of New South Wales

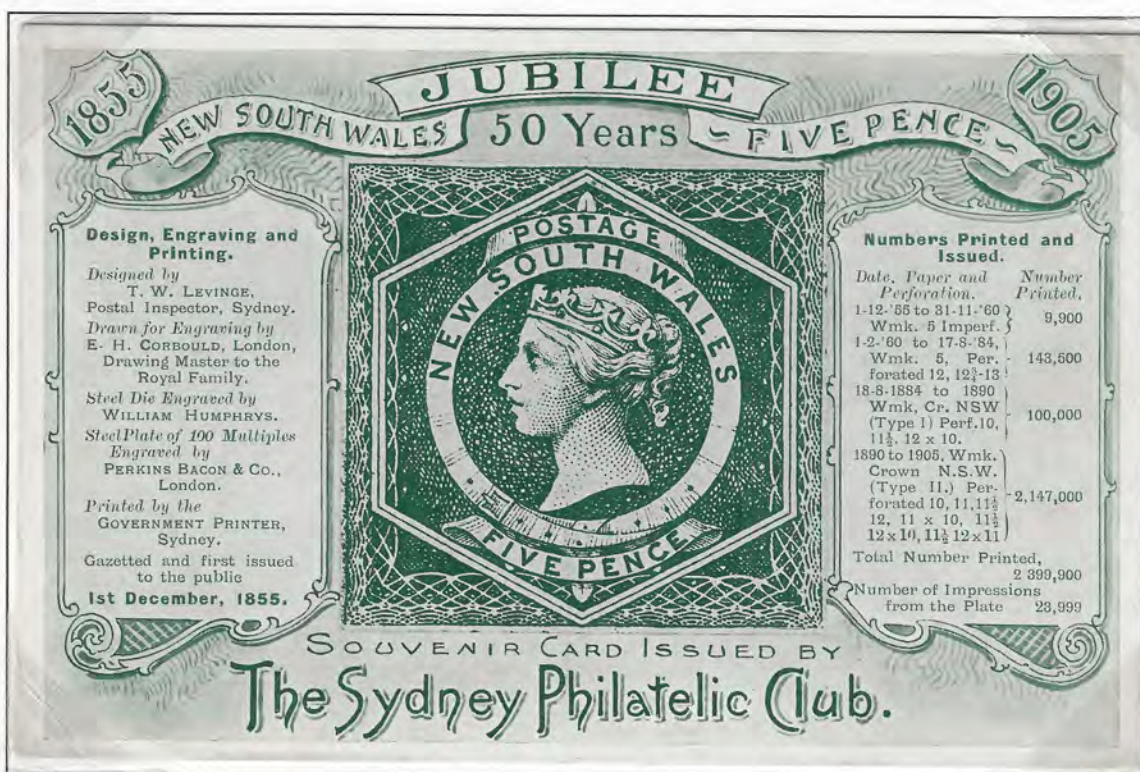
The Diadems were the third series of postage stamps to be issued in New South Wales, following the Sydney Views and Laureate designs, and represented a change from local stamp production to London manufacture.

The 5d Diadem was ordered by the NSW Treasury in December 1853 and the die was engraved in London by Perkins, Bacon & Co. The firm manufactured a steel recess printing plate of 100 (10 x 10), which was sent to the Colony along with inks, gum, and stamp press arriving in June 1855. Watermarked paper didn't arrive until November 1855, and the 5d stamp was issued on 1 December 1855. Intended for the combined 2d inland plus 3d ship letter rate, the 5d saw virtually no use prior to 1863 due to the introduction of a 6d ship letter rate in September 1854.

The plate was in continuous use without modifications until the last printing in 1912. The plate was destroyed on 26 July 1913, after the issue of the Australian Commonwealth 5d Kangaroo in January 1913, and thus the 5d design saw an uninterrupted life of 57 years.

This exhibit shows the history of the 5d Diadem stamp from 1855 to 1912 encompassing the imperforate and perforated printings, the four types of watermark paper and variety of perforations used, 'O S' overprints, along with proofs, mint and used stamps, multiples, specimens, and covers demonstrating various usages.

Rare and important items are highlighted in Bold Italics.



1905 postcard produced by Sydney Philatelic Club to commemorate 50 years of the NSW 5d Diadem stamp.

In 1905, the Sydney Philatelic Club created a 5d Jubilee Postcard and hosted a "Conversazione" to celebrate the 5d stamp of New South Wales during the Philatelic Exhibition being held in Sydney on the 50th anniversary of the stamp.

Principal References:

- "The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Stamps of New South Wales" by A.F. Bassett Hull (1911).
- "The Stamps of New South Wales" by G.J. Hutson (1960).
- "The Postal History of New South Wales 1788-1901" by John S. White (1988).
- "PERKINS BACON RECORDS, extracted by Percy de Worms", published by Royal Philatelic Society London (1953).

DIE PROOFS AND PLATE PROOFS

Perkins Bacon & Co in London were chosen to design and prepare plates for the Colonial Diadem Stamp series using the recessed printing process.

The line engraved die for the central figure of Queen Victoria wearing a Diadem crown was engraved by William Humphrys in 1853. The backgrounds prepared were of detailed machine lathe work, and portions of Die 215 were selected for the background of the 5d value. Proofs of these dies were pulled during the process of producing the final stamp die.

The completed die was then used to prepare a single plate, rolling 100 images into the softened steel plate. One image was not placed correctly, so was burnished out and a second image was made in its place. The re-entered Unit 9 (row 1/9) shows minor lines from the original image through 'POSTAGE', which remained throughout the life of the plate.

The plate was then hardened, and final 5d plate proofs were taken in a number of colours and on various paper types in London before the plate was sent to New South Wales in 1855.

Die Proofs



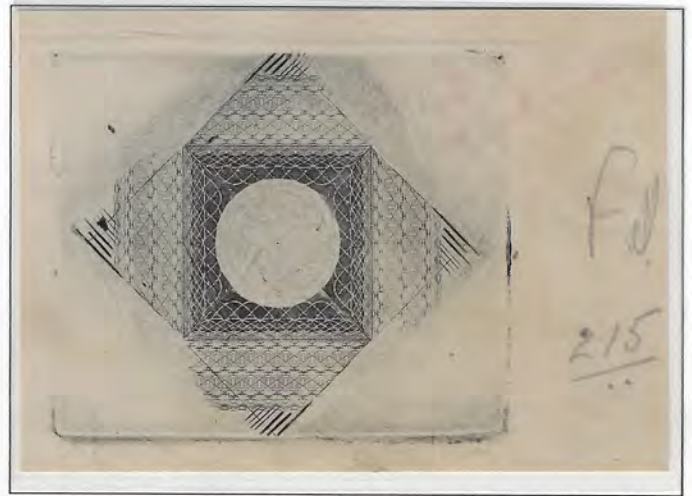
Die Proof of Head Only
India Paper on Card



Die Proof of Head Only on Card
with Perkins Bacon & Co Limited
Handstamp in violet on reverse.



Handstamp on Reverse.



Die Proof 215 on thin white paper, taken during the build-up of the background, showing the geometric lathe work pattern used for the 5d Diadem. **Very Rare.**

Plate Proofs



Black on White Wove Paper



Blue on Soft Yellowish Paper



Chocolate Brown on Blued Paper



Green on White Wove Paper, Issued Colour



Exhibition Die Proof in Violet
on White Wove Paper

Exhibition Die Proof made by De La Rue for 1871 South Kensington Exhibition. **One of only three 5d proofs in Violet recorded.**

WATERMARK '5' IMPERFORATE

December 1855

The inks sent from London were deep mineral green, crystal green, and flake white, which were combined to make a Dull Green color.

The Perkins Bacon watermark '5' paper was bound into books of 250 pages. The initial printing appears to be 5,500 stamps, but it is unclear what happened to the remaining 200 pages. A second printing in May 1858 of 22,900 was made, discovering 21 sheets of watermark '2' paper erroneously bound into the watermark '5' book which were subsequently returned to England.

From the two printings totaling 28,400, only 8,961 stamps were issued imperforate to Post Offices up to the end of 1859.



Double Line '5'



Pairs are the largest known multiples
The only recorded unused pair



Watermark Upright



Wmk Inverted
And Reversed



One of only five used pairs recorded



Watermark Upright
1863 NSW duplex



Wmk Inverted & Reversed
Cancelled NSW Duplex

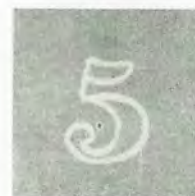
While the new 10d rate was announced in London in July 1863, news did not reach Australia until September. Below is one of only two covers recorded bearing an Imperf 5d, and is *the only recorded cover with a pair of Imperf 5d Diadems*.



A pair of Imperf 5d Diadems on 21 October 1863 cover from Sydney to London, paying the 10d rate via Marseilles, with London red receiving PAID date stamp 14 December 1863.

WATERMARK '5' - PERFORATED 12

December 1860



Double Line '5'

An 11½-12 (Perf 12) single line perforating machine was introduced in 1860. Since very few 5d stamps were used for any postal purpose up to this point, there was an existing supply of imperforate stamps which were perforated as needed.

Sheets of watermarked paper came from London bound into a book of 250 pages with a printed burelage pattern at the left, a distinct design for each watermark value. Prior to printing, the sheet was cut through the center of the burelage, leaving a stub in the book for accountancy and part of the burelage on the sheet to be printed.

The sheets notably were not perforated between outer margins and the stamps, leaving some stamps with burelage attached. Very few stamps with burelage margin exist.

Only 9,800 stamps were perforated and issued to Post Offices between 1860 and 1862. All recorded datestamps are from 1863 and 1864.



Perf 12 Dull Green
Watermark Upright



Perf 12 Dull Green
Only recorded pair with burelage



Perf 12 Yellowish Green
Watermark Upright

Earliest recorded cover bearing any 5d Diadem



A pair of Perf 12 Yellowish Green 5d Diadems on 22 September 1863 cover from Sydney to London, paying the 10d rate via Marseilles, with London red receiving PAID date stamp 16 November 1863.

WATERMARK '5' - PERFORATED 13

The Perkins Bacon & Co single line perforating machine Perf 12½-13 (Perf 13) was introduced in March 1861, and was used on the 5d from 1863 - 1870.

There were 5 printings totaling 125,000 stamps, with four colour variations: 25,000 Pale Bluish Green, 25,000 Bright Yellow Green, 50,000 Blue Sea Green, and 25,000 Dark Bluish Green.



Double Line '5'

Pale Bluish Green

December 1863



Watermark Upright



Watermark Upright
Sydney NSW Duplex
22 June 1864



Watermark Upright
Sydney NSW Duplex
22 Nov 1864



Two Perf 13 Pale Bluish Green 5d Diadems on 21 March 1864 mourning cover from Sydney to London, paying the 10d rate via Marseilles. London red receiving PAID back stamp 12 May 1864.



Watermark Upright
Sydney NSW Duplex
21 Apr 1864

Bright Yellow Green

August 1865



Watermark Upright



Watermark Upright
NSW Duplex
19 May 1866



Watermark Inverted and Reversed
Sydney NSW Duplex
23 July 1866

WATERMARK '5' - PERFORATED 13

Unlike the Perf 12 issue, Perf 13 sheets are perforated between margins and stamps.



Double Line '5'

Blue Sea Green

July 1866



Watermark Upright
With Burelage Margin



Watermark Upright
'55' Rays Newcastle



Watermark Upright
Sydney NSW Duplex



Watermark Upright
Sydney CDS
22 Nov 1866



Watermark Inverted
And Reversed
NSW Duplex 1867



Watermark Upright
NSW Duplex
21 Nov 1867



Watermark Upright
NSW Duplex
26 Jun 1869



A vertical pair and single Perf 13 Bluish Green 5d Diadems along with 1d De La Rue on 14 July 1881 cover from Sydney to Germany paying double 8d rate to Germany via San Francisco, with arrival back stamps London 26 Aug 1881 and Hamburg 28 Aug 1881.

WATERMARK '5' - PERFORATED 13

The last perf 13 colour was Dark Bluish Green. This issue is common with the watermark inverted and reversed. No reversed only watermarks are recorded.

In December 1870, approximately 1600 stamps were diagonally overprinted 'SPECIMEN' to be included in Specimen Sets of all the current issues.



Double Line '5'

Dark Bluish Green November 1870



Watermark Upright
'SPECIMEN' 24mm



Watermark Inverted and Reversed



Watermark Upright

Largest Recorded Block With Burelage



Block of 20 Perf 13 Dark Bluish Green 5d showing burelage at left, superbly perforated centering each stamp, considering that it was badly skewed on the plate when printed.

Only recorded skewed printing. Unique.

WATERMARK CROWN OVER NSW - TYPE I

In 1871, a new dandy roll was introduced, designed for the smaller sized stamps on issue. Each sheet had 240 watermarks in four blocks of 60 (6x10) with gutter spacing between. This paper was not well suited for larger 5d Diadems. It was cut in half horizontally, and the plate barely fit on the narrower paper, resulting in some stamps being printed close to the straight edge of the paper, misplaced watermarks, and many marginal watermarks. The paper was often reversed, since the back was rougher and produced better images with the recess printing process.

The only 5d printings on this paper comprised 100,000 stamps printed between 1884 and 1885.



Small Crown with
1mm between
Crown and NSW

Bluish Green

Perf 10 August 1884

Perf 12, 12x10 April 1885



Perf 10
Watermark Upright



Perf 10 'Specimen'
Black 13.5mm
Watermark Upright



Perf 10 'SPECIMEN'
Black 16mm
Watermark Inverted
and Reversed



Perf 10
Watermark Inverted
and Reversed



Perf 10
Watermark Inverted
and Reversed
1890



Perf 12x10
Watermark Upright



Perf 12x10
Watermark Inverted
And Reversed



Perf 12x10 Wmk Upright
'699' Oxford Street
17 Apr 1889



From 1 October 1891, new UPU rates came into effect, with the letter rate being 2½d per ½oz.

Perf 10 Blue Green 5d vertical pair on 2 September 1892 registered 3d postal stationery envelope from Sydney to Modena, Italy paying four times the UPU rate of 2½d via Suez to Naples, with receiving back stamp Modena 8 October 1892.

WATERMARK CROWN OVER NSW - TYPE II

September 1890

In 1882, another new dandy roll was introduced. The 5d was not printed on this watermarked paper until 1890 due to lack of demand. Special unsurfaced paper was ordered to improve the images for the 5d recessed printing.

A total of 1,700,000 stamps were printed in three distinct colours between 1890 and 1902.



Tall Crown with
2mm between
Crown and NSW

Dull (Bronze) Green

Perf 10 and 12x10 - September 1890



Perf 10
Watermark Reversed



Perf 10 Wmk Upright
'18' Ovals - Mudgee



Perf 10 Wmk Inverted
'528' Rays - Hillston



Perf 10 Wmk Reversed
'195' Ovals - Redfern



Perf 10 Wmk Inverted
and Reversed
'98' Rays - Bundarra



Perf 10 - Wmk Upright
UPU Blue 'Specimen'
1891



Perf 10
Watermark Reversed
UPU Blue 'Specimen' 1891



Perf 12x10
Watermark Reversed



Perf 12x10 Wmk Upright
Bathurst
30 September 1891



Dull Green Perf 10 5d on 18 January 1892 cover from Sydney to Bologna, Italy paying two times the UPU 2½d rate via Brindisi, with Bologna back stamp 20 February 1892.

WATERMARK CROWN OVER NSW - TYPE II

In December 1885, a new single line perforating machine gauging Perf 11 was introduced, and was only used on the Diadem stamps. It was used in combination with the existing Perf 10 and 12 machines.

Rather than a burrelage, the paper had a scroll watermark pattern down the left side of the paper. If the print is too close to the left side, it can result in a stamp showing the scroll watermark.



Tall Crown with
2mm between
Crown and NSW

Bright Green - Perf 10, 10x12, 12x10, 10x11, and 11x10 - October 1891



Scroll Wmk Inverted
Imperf Right Side
(Other Sides Trimmed)
'1134' The Exchange



Perf 10
Watermark Upright
'14' Rays - Orange



Perf 10
Watermark Inverted
'1437' Merewether



Perf 10
Watermark Reversed



Perf 12x10
Watermark Upright
'81' Rays - Young



Perf 12x10
Watermark Inverted
And Reversed



Perf 10x11
Watermark Upright



Perf 10x11
Watermark Inverted



Perf 10x11
Watermark Reversed
'47' Rays - Tumut



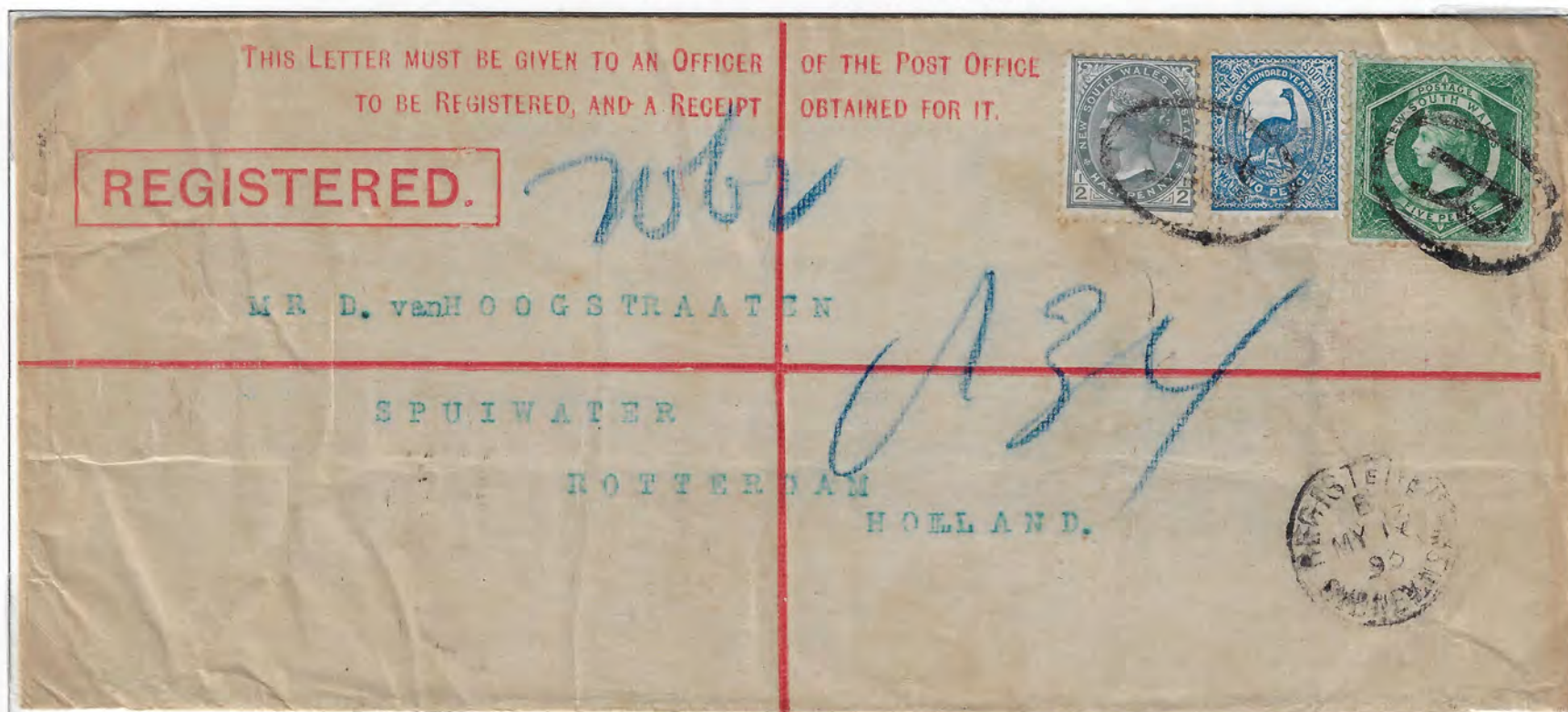
Perf 10x11 Wmk Inverted
And Reversed
'560' Rays - Mt Macquarie



Perf 11x10
Watermark Upright



Perf 11x10 Wmk Reversed
Registered Sydney
2 May 1893



Perf 11x10 Bright Green 5d with additional 2d Centennial and 1/2d De La Rue on 13 May 1893 3d registered envelope from Sydney to Rotterdam, Holland paying triple the UPU rate of 2 1/2d, with back stamps of Napoli 15 June 1893, Pisa-Milano 16 June 1893, and finally Rotterdam 17 June 1893.

WATERMARK CROWN OVER NSW - TYPE II

The Blue Green printings varied from very Blue-green to light Blue-green.

The Perf 10 single line perforating machine was discontinued after 1895, leaving only Perf 11 and 12 combinations. At least one imperforate sheet is known.

Watermarks appear in all orientations, including sideways watermark.



Tall Crown with
2mm between
Crown and NSW

Blue-green

Perf 10, 10x11, 11, 12 - April 1893

Perf 11x12 and 12x11 - 1898



Perf 11 'Specimen'
16mm in Black
Watermark Inverted

Perf 10
Watermark Inverted
and Reversed

Perf 10x11
Watermark Upright
'393' - Hanging Rock

Perf 11
Watermark Inverted
Re-entry Pos 1/9

Perf 12
Watermark Sideways
21 Feb 1903

Perf 12
Watermark Inverted



Imperforate
Watermark Upright



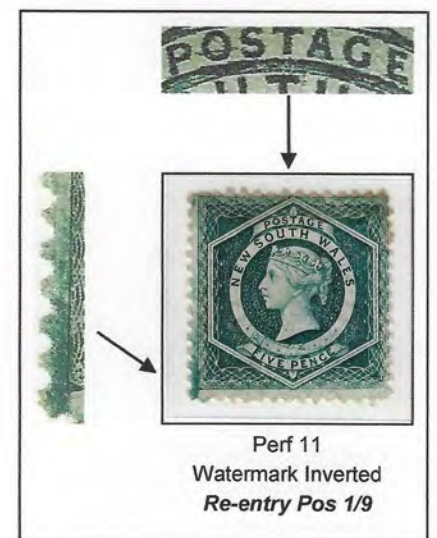
Perf 11x12
Watermark Upright
Cancelled 'Loose Letter'



Perf 11x12
Watermark Sideways
30 May 1903



Perf 12 x 11
Watermark Inverted
7 Nov 1910



Blue Green Perf 11 5d along with 1/2d De La Rue on 5 December 1899 registered cover from Albury to Limanche Chile paying the UPU rate of 2 1/2d Ship Letter and 3d Registration, with back stamps of Valparaiso 17 January 1900 and Limanche 18 January 1900.

WATERMARK CROWN OVER NSW - TYPE III

July 1903

Between 1903 and 1912, more than 2,000,000 5d Diadem stamps were produced on NSW Type III paper.

In 1905, all other values were printed on Crown over A watermark paper, and a Specimen Set was produced. Only one set is recorded, which included the 5d stamp below.



Taller Crown
1mm between
Crown and NSW

Dark Green - Perf 11, 12, 11x12, 12x11 - July 1903



Perf 11
Watermark Upright



Perf 11
Watermark Upright
1909



Perf 12
Watermark Upright



Perf 12 Wmk Upright
'Registered Sydney'
1 July 1910



Perf 12
Watermark Inverted



Perf 11x12
Watermark *Sideways*



Perf 12x11 Wmk Upright
Cancelled on board
'Packet Boat'



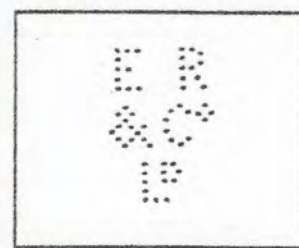
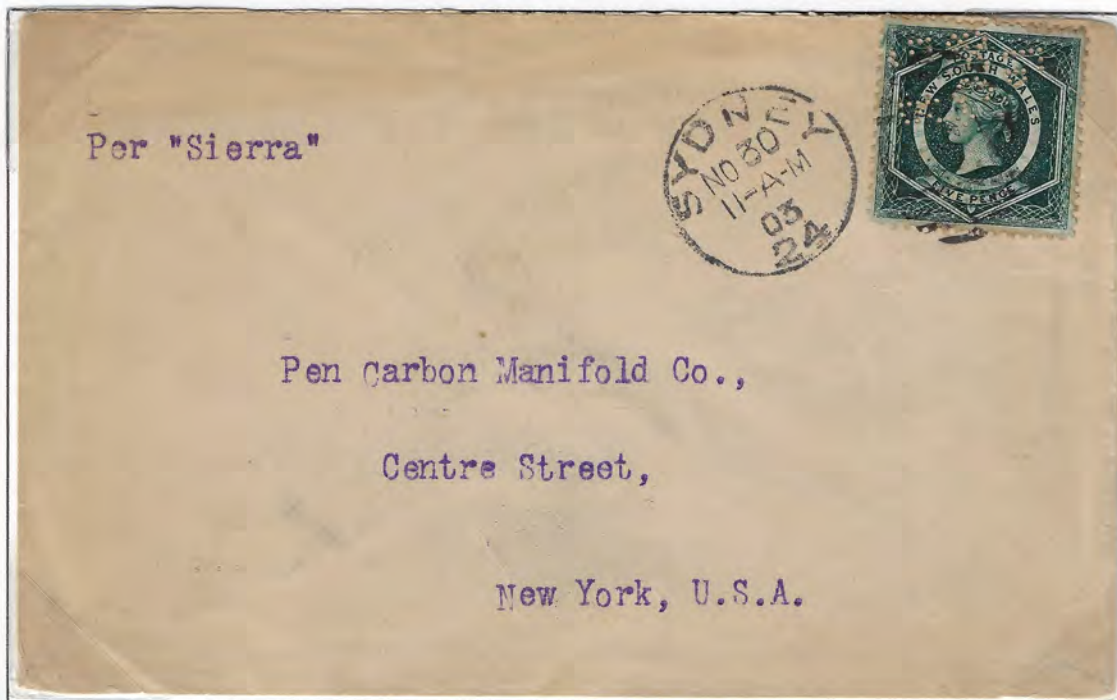
Perf 12x11
Watermark Reversed



P 12x11 Wmk Inv & Rev
'SPECIMEN' 17mm
Only one recorded



P 12x11 Wmk Inv & Rev
From Special CTO Set
22 March 1911



E Rich & Co Ltd
24-28 O'Connell Street
Sydney NSW

Merchant & Importers
Use began in 1897

Dark Blue Green Perf 12 5d punctured with private Perfin on 30 November 1903 cover from Sydney to New York USA inscribed "Per Sierra", paying UPU double ship rate 2½d, with arrival back stamp New York 25 December 1903.

WATERMARK CROWN OVER NSW - TYPE I

'O S' OVERPRINTS

In 1880, it was decided that Government Departments would use special stamps for all official correspondence, designated by an 'O S' overprint. The Government Printing Office used the existing stock of 5d on hand to overprint 'O S' in May 1880. Notably, no Bright Green Perf 10 stamps without the 'O S' print have been recorded.

Records show 130 watermark '5' stamps were overprinted 'O S' in red by the Government Printer in 1880, but their existence has not been confirmed.

A further 200 overprints were made on Crown over NSW Type I stamps in 1885. Subsequent printings were made, in spite of the fact that there were no requisitions by Government Departments until August 1890. **Variety 'Sideways O' exists on the overprint plate in several positions.**

Very few used examples and no 5d 'O S' stamps on cover have been recorded.



Small Crown with
1mm between
Crown and NSW

Bright Green - March 1885



Perf 10 - Watermark Reversed
Cancelled NSW
Very Rare

Perf 10 - Watermark Inverted and Reversed



Perf 10 - Wmk Upright
'Specimen' 13mm
In Black



Perf 10 - Left Margin
'Specimen' 13mm
Sideways 'O'



Perf 10 - Wmk Upright



Perf 10 - Inverted
and Reversed
Imperf Edge of Paper



Perf 10 - Wmk Reversed
Imperf Edge of Paper
09 April 1894

WATERMARK CROWN OVER NSW - TYPE II

'O S' OVERPRINTS

Beginning in 1890, two colours of NSW II watermarked stamps with various perforations on hand were overprinted 'O S'. *Variety 'Sideways O' exists on the overprint plate in several positions.*

Very few used examples and no 5d 'O S' stamps on cover have been recorded.



Tall Crown with
2mm between
Crown and NSW

Dull Green - Perf 10 and P12x10 - 1890



Perf 10
Watermark Upright



Perf 12x10
Watermark Reversed
Cancelled '18' Mudgee

Blue Green - Perf 10, 11, 12, 10x11, 10x12 - 1893



Perf 10 - Watermark Inverted Marginal
Straight Edge of Paper at Bottom



Perf 10 'Specimen'
Watermark Inverted
and Reversed
*Black 'Specimen'
Misplaced*



Perf 10
Watermark Inverted
'GPO' CTO



Perf 10
Watermark Upright
'GPO' CTO
Red 'OS' (reprint)



Perf 11
Watermark Upright
Cancelled '81' Young



Perf 12 'Specimen'
Watermark Reversed
13mm In Blue



Perf 12
Watermark Reversed
Sideways 'O'



Perf 10x11
Watermark Reversed



Perf 10x11
Watermark Right Margin
Sideways 'O'



Perf 10x12
Watermark Reversed
Re-entry Pos 1/9

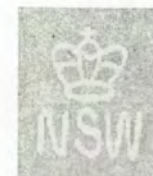
Use of 'O S' stamps were abolished and replaced by endorsements of 'O.H.M.S.' along with the name of the department using it. This came into effect on 1 January 1895.

All remaining 'O S' stamps were recalled from the departments and burned, witnessed by the Government auditor.

Remaining stock held by the GPO were sold to collectors and dealers and no longer valid for postage, which could explain the large number of mint stamps known.

WATERMARK CROWN OVER NSW - TYPE II

'O S' Overprints Discontinued 1895



Taller Crown
1mm between
Crown and NSW

On Her Majesty's Service.

This envelope can only be lawfully used
by Government Departments on the public
business. The use of it by public officials to
avoid payment of postage on private matter of



C. H. Johnson, Esq.

The Hall, Thorgumbald.

Hull, England



Strip of three Blue-green Perf
12x11 5d plus 1d Shield on 2
June 1900 registered O.H.M.S.
envelope from Sydney to Hull
England, paying UPU rate of
3d registration plus 5 times the
2½d ship rate, with Hull arrival
backstamp 9 July 1900.

The ½d over franking was most
likely a convenience franking.

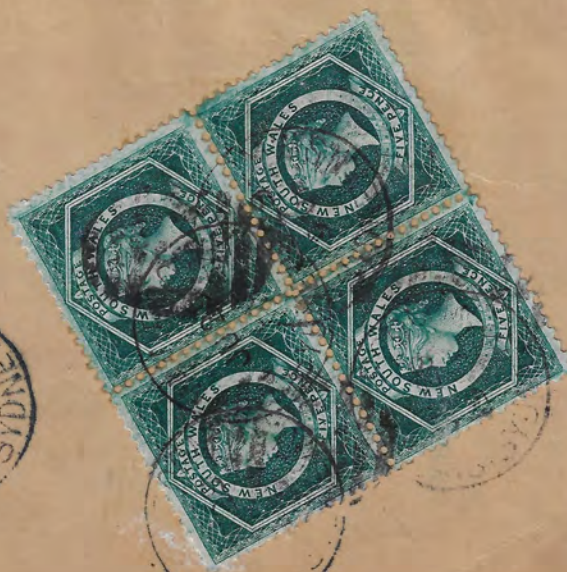
The straight edge on bottom of
the 5d strip is the bottom edge
of the sheet.

Postal and Electric Telegraph Department,
General Post Office, Sydney,
New South Wales, 2 6 18900 }

Book
10t. 3

O.H.M.S.

The Librarian,
Société Royale Malacologique,
Brussels, BELGIUM.



On 1 January 1895, 'OS' stamps were
replaced by 'O.H.M.S.' envelopes with
regular stamps for postage.

'O S' overprinted stamps were recalled
from all government departments, with
a plan to destroy them.

This caused an such an uproar with
stamp dealers, it was decided to
demonetise the stamps and sell them
to collectors. This explains the large
number of mints 'O S' stamps
available.

Block of four Blue-green Perf 11x12 on 28 June
1901 O.H.M.S. wrapper from Sydney to Brussels,
Belgium, paying Book Post rate of 1/8 for 40
ounces.

5d Jubilee - 50 Years Celebration

The design of the NSW 5d Diadem had not changed for over 50 years, a record at the time for any postage stamp.

The Sydney Philatelic Club issued a souvenir Post Card in celebration of the 5d Jubilee, detailing some of the history of the issue. A special invitation was printed on some, to attend a *Conversazione* about the 5d Jubilee at the Exhibition.

The Postmaster's office was asked to issue a special cancellation at the same time, to be used at the Philatelic Exhibition, and was the first Philatelic Exhibition Cancellation from Australia.

The 5d Diadem production continued for another 7 years when it was replaced by the Australian Commonwealth Kangaroo issue on 1 January of 1913. The single 5d plate was destroyed in July 1913, having been used unchanged for 57 years.



Reduced image of the Post Card front



The First Philatelic Exhibition
Cancellation from Australia



A Perf 11x12 Dark Blue Green 5d Diadem on 1st December 1905 Registered Post Card from Sydney to Weybridge, England, overpaying the 1d postcard rate plus 3d registration, and arrival stamp Weybridge 8th January 1906.

The card is signed by The Sydney Philatelic Club's President, A. F. Bassett Hull, and the Honorable Secretary, J. H. Smyth and sent to the famous Philatelist, L. L. R. Hausburg, Esq.

Cancelled with the first Philatelic Exhibition Cancellation from Australia.