

The Queen's Man—A study of the Governor-General of Australia's Frank Stamp

Summary of Exhibit

This exhibit studies the Governor-General's frank stamp in its period of use—from Dec 1900 to the end of Oct 1902. Emphasis is given to private, social and official use and to use by persons not actually the Governor-General. Shown include

- earliest recorded pre-Federation use
- all known uses outside Sydney and Melbourne, including those associated with the Royal Tour and
- only two recorded examples not in blue.

One type only, although there is a crown variety, which is described.

The exhibit includes new research and discoveries, such as several covers and flap seals not noted by Stieg & Watson.

A Governor-General frank stamp was available to Lord Hopetoun on his arrival in Sydney on 15 Dec 1900. No records have been discovered about its provision to him and how it was to be used. However, as Hopetoun had previously been Governor of Victoria (1889-95) he would have been very familiar with the use of frank stamps. He may have even initiated its federal use. Only South Australia had not used frank stamps.

Significance

Use of this frank stamp is a philatelic proxy for the first two years of the new Commonwealth, an often overlooked part of Australia's history. Examples of its use form an important part of Australia's cultural heritage. Items of particular significance are outlined in red.

Exhibit Plan

- Lord Hopetoun pages 1 to 11
 - ◊ Pre-federation use
 - ◊ Inaugural Federation events
 - ◊ Post-federation use
 - ◊ Royal Tour—Melbourne, Sydney and Hobart
 - ◊ Use by Lady Hopetoun
 - ◊ Other non-official use
 - ◊ Hopetoun's resignation

- Lord Tennyson page 12

Bibliography

- *Australian Dictionary of Biography*
- Hans Karman *FRANK and FREE, Australian Privileged Mail 1830s to 1920s* and web site
- Government Gazettes and statutes
- Stieg & Watson *Franked!*
- Trove National Library of Australia
- Other named sources where indicated

Section 2 of the *Australian Constitution* provides for a Governor-General. It states that "A Governor-General appointed by the Queen shall be Her Majesty's representative in the Commonwealth, and shall have and may exercise in the Commonwealth during the Queen's pleasure, but subject to this Constitution, such powers and functions of the Queen as Her Majesty may be pleased to assign to him." Section 3 provided for a salary of £10,000 until the Parliament otherwise provides.

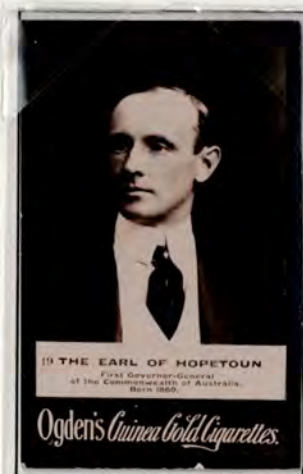
Queen Victoria appointed Hopetoun as the Governor-General on 29 October 1900. He travelled to Sydney in the flagship *Royal Arthur*, which officially arrived at Farm Cove on Saturday, 15 December 1900. The Governor-General's sons Lord Hope and the Hon Charles Hope arrived earlier on 12 December 1900. The Countess of Hopetoun travelled to Sydney separately on the RMS *Rome* and was scheduled to arrive in time for the Commonwealth celebrations.

Pre-Federation use



Cut out of earliest known pre-Federation use—7am on Monday, 17 Dec 1900. Thought to have been from a cover to Lt-Col Sir Gerrard Smith, the last Governor of WA before Federation (23 Dec 1895 to 30 Apr 1900).

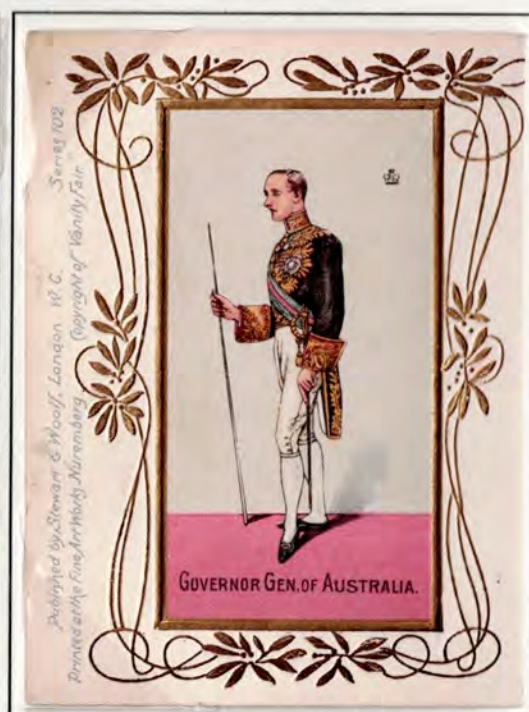
John Adrian Louis Hope, 7th Earl of Hopetoun Governor-General 29 October 1900 to 9 January 1903



Cigarette card depiction from original photograph by Elliott & Fry.



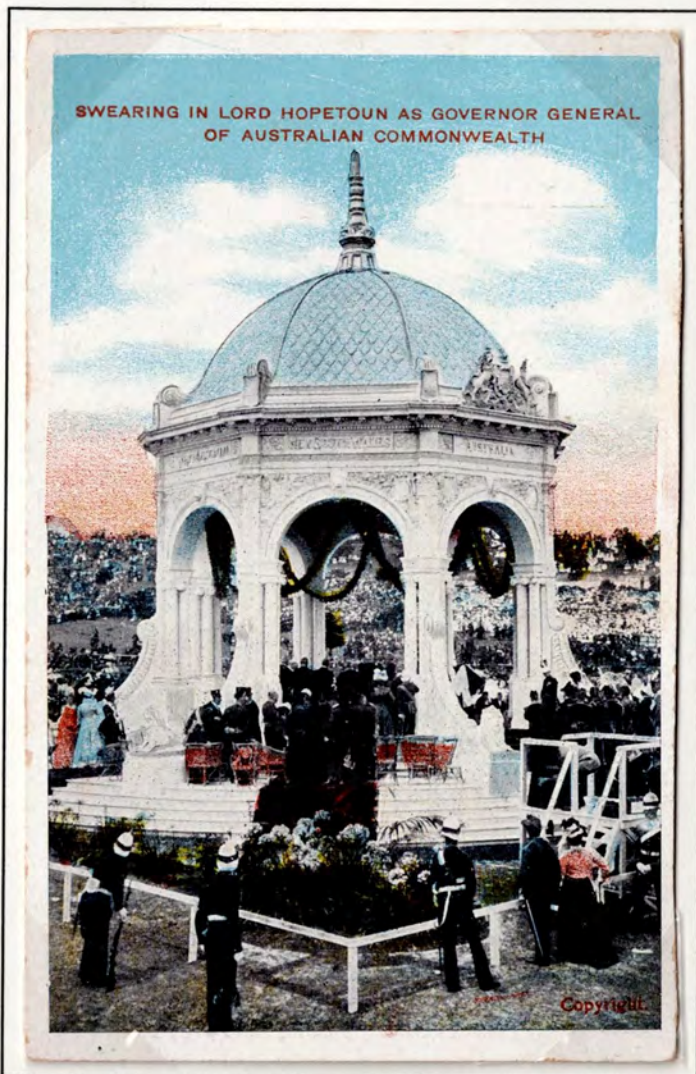
Cigarette card depiction from Cohen Weenan & Co. 'Sweet Crop'.



From original chromolithograph by Sir Leslie Ward published in *Vanity Fair*, 17 May 1900.



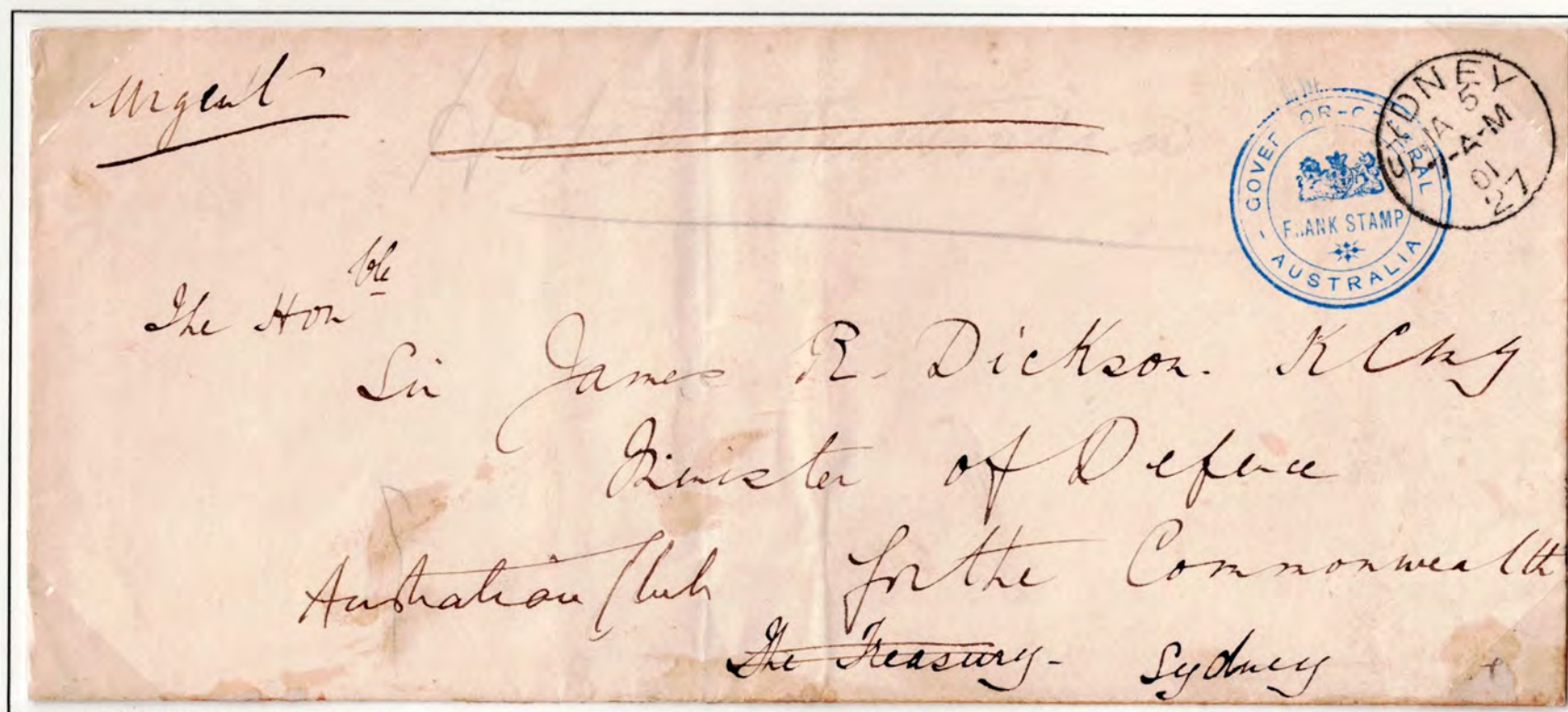
With Government House/NSW Arms on flap, in red (see later page for illustration). Used 17 Dec 1900 and **earliest known used entire** (four other pre-Federation covers also exist). AW Gilles was a member of the Inauguration events organizing committee. His only daughter Ida Marie married an officer from the HMS *Royal Arthur* on this same date. *Ex Hans Karman*.



Kiosk in Centennial Park, Sydney where Hopetoun, Edmund Barton and the first Federal Ministers were sworn in on Tues, 1 January 1901. Over 100,000 people attended the ceremony.



The Norddeuther Lloyd passenger liner *Grosser Kurfurst* accommodated 100 distinguished visitors that came to Sydney for the Federal festivities. One of them was J G Drake (not 'W G' as on this cover) a senior politician from Queensland. James Drake became a minister in the Barton caretaker ministry, following the shock death of Sir James Dickson (see below). Drake was appointed the first Commonwealth Postmaster-General on 5 February 1901. The cover probably contained an invitation to one of the many events.



Seal on flaps.
Stieg & Watson Special 3

Apparent **official use** to James Robert Dickson who had just been appointed a KCMG on 1 January 1901 in the New Years Honours List, 'in recognition of services in connection with the Federation of Australian Colonies and the establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia'. He was the Minister of Defence in the first Federal caretaker administration. Dickson took ill at the Commonwealth's inaugural ceremonies in Sydney, and died there on 10 January.

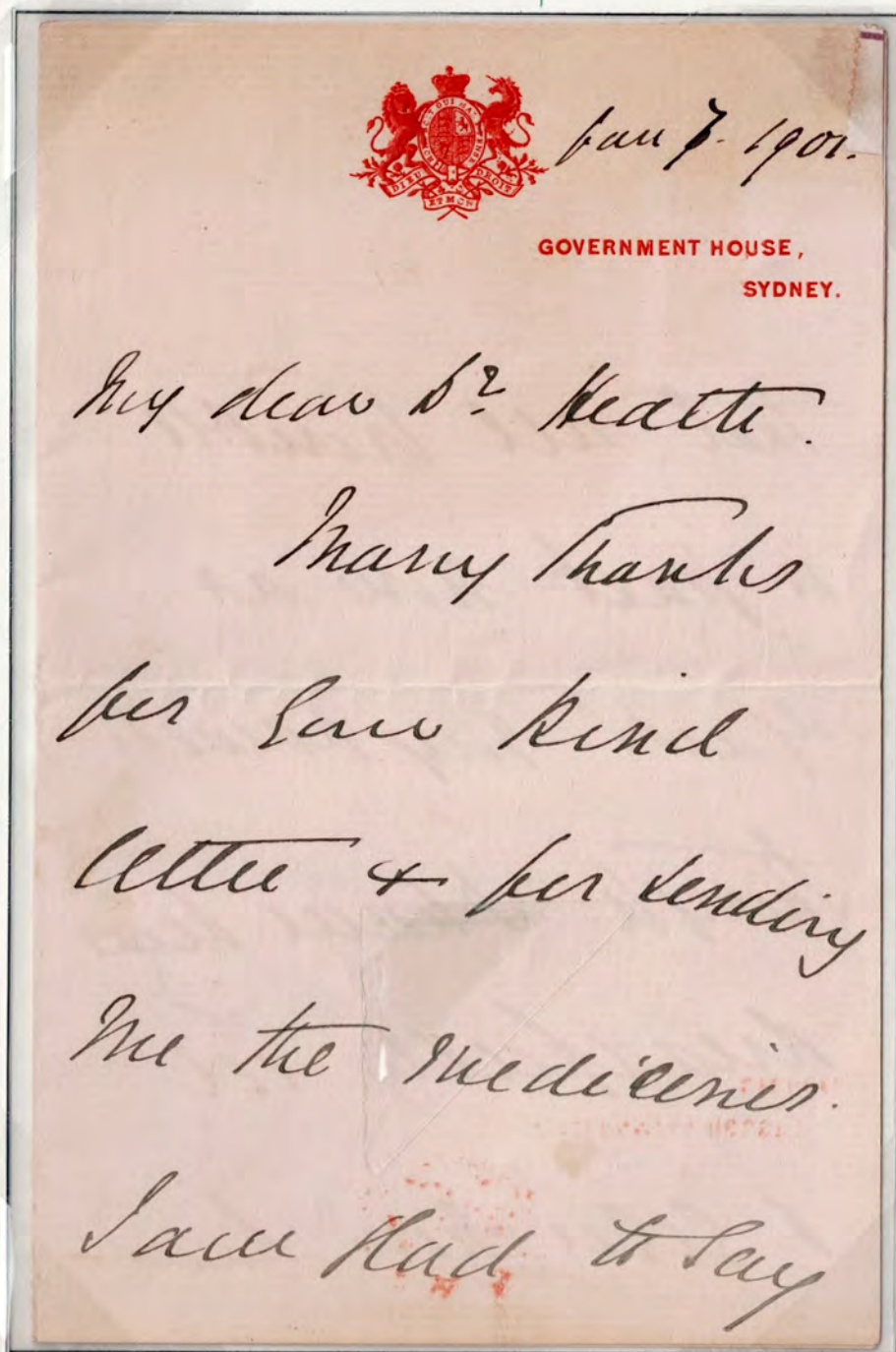




Showing part of souvenir post card

Letter from Hopetoun to his doctor thanking him for the medicine he had sent. Hopetoun was not in good health during the initial Celebrations and did not attend several of the events as a result.

Mourning covers. At right b/s Liverpool on 16 Mar 1901. Queen Victoria died on 22 Jan 1901 at Osbourne House, Isle of Wight. Her death was announced by the Governor-General in an Extraordinary issue of the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette the next day. The official Court mourning period for Queen Victoria went from 22 Jan 1901 until 24 Jan 1902.



From Sutton Forest, the location of *Hillview*, the country retreat of 16 successive NSW governors between 1884 and 1957. After performing the many duties associated with the inauguration of the Commonwealth in Jan and Feb 1901, the Governor-General and the Countess of Hopetoun and their entourage spent much of March at *Hillview*, travelling to Sydney to attend official business and then returning afterwards.

The Royal Tour—Melbourne (6 to 20 May 1901)

The Commonwealth of Australia was inaugurated on 1 January 1901 in Centennial Park, Sydney. In March, elections were held for the new Federal Parliament, and in May the celebrations focused on Melbourne, where the first Federal Parliament was to be held. This was the biggest Commonwealth event by far and prompted the visit to Australia of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York to, among other things, officially open the first Federal Parliament in the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings on 9 May 1901. The Duke and Duchess' royal tour of 1901 was, at that stage, one of the most lavish undertaken by the monarchy. An Orient steamship liner the *Ophir*, was specially chartered for the voyage as no royal yacht could span the required distances between coaling ports. The tour also included visits to New Zealand, South Africa and Canada. The 1901 Royal visit included stays in Sydney as well as Melbourne and other state capital cities. Melbourne also hosted many other opening-related events, such as meeting the new Ministers of State.



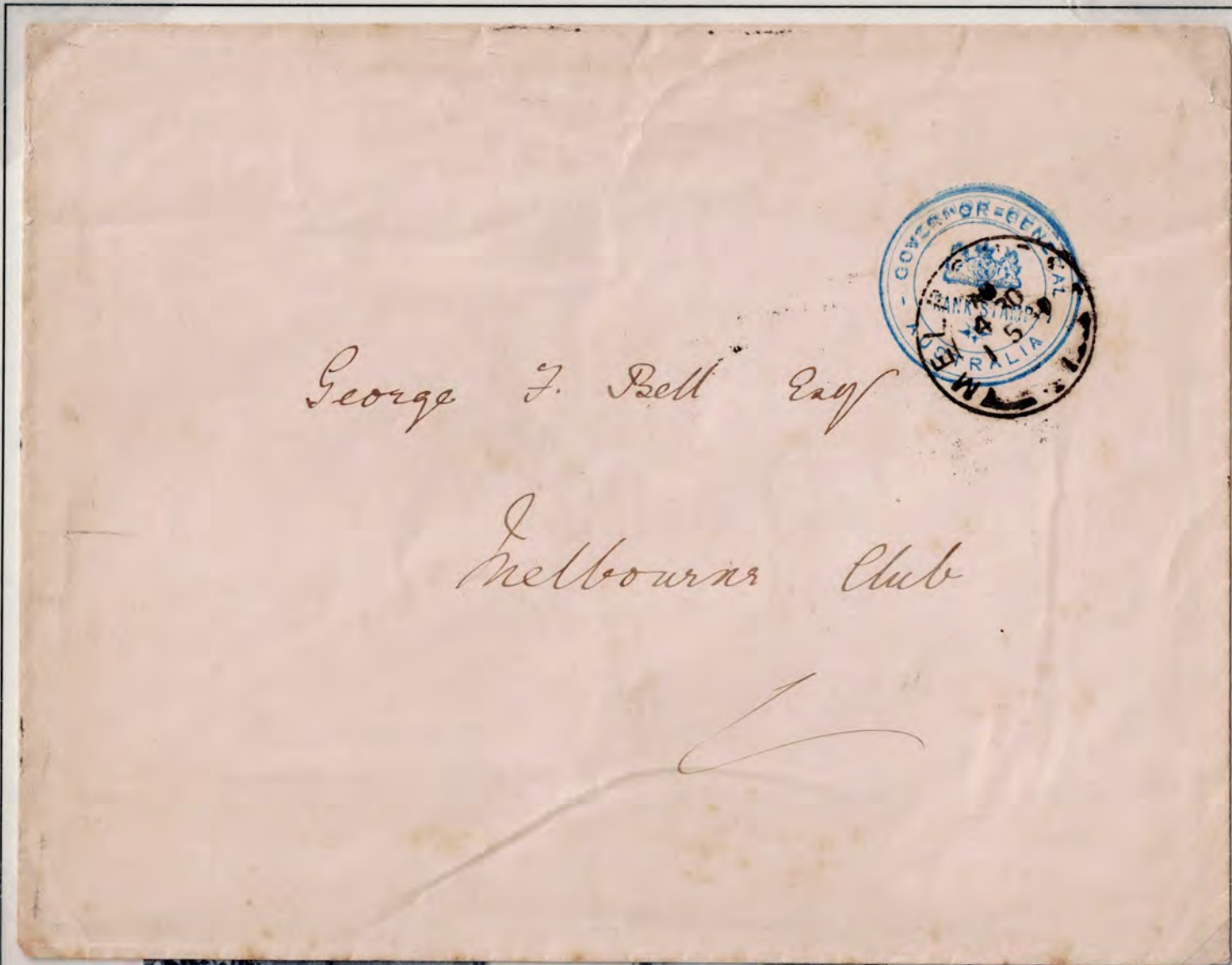
George Rose Stereoscopic view card of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York in procession to the opening of the First Federal Parliament.



Only known use of the frank on a wrapper. The Earl Beauchamp was still the Governor of NSW but had taken leave of absence to make Government House Sydney available to the Governor-General. Because the wrapper (Stieg E23) was pre-paid 1d, the frank was used to 'dignify' the cover and the Victoria Official Paid handstamp was not applied.

Showing inside first page of Garden Party program for 4 May 1901 at 'Rippon Lea' the home of Sir Frederick and Lady Sargood, as part of the Melbourne Celebrations. Sargood was one of Victoria's first senators in the new Federal Parliament.





Arms on reverse flap in gold (125%)
Stieg & Watson Special 2

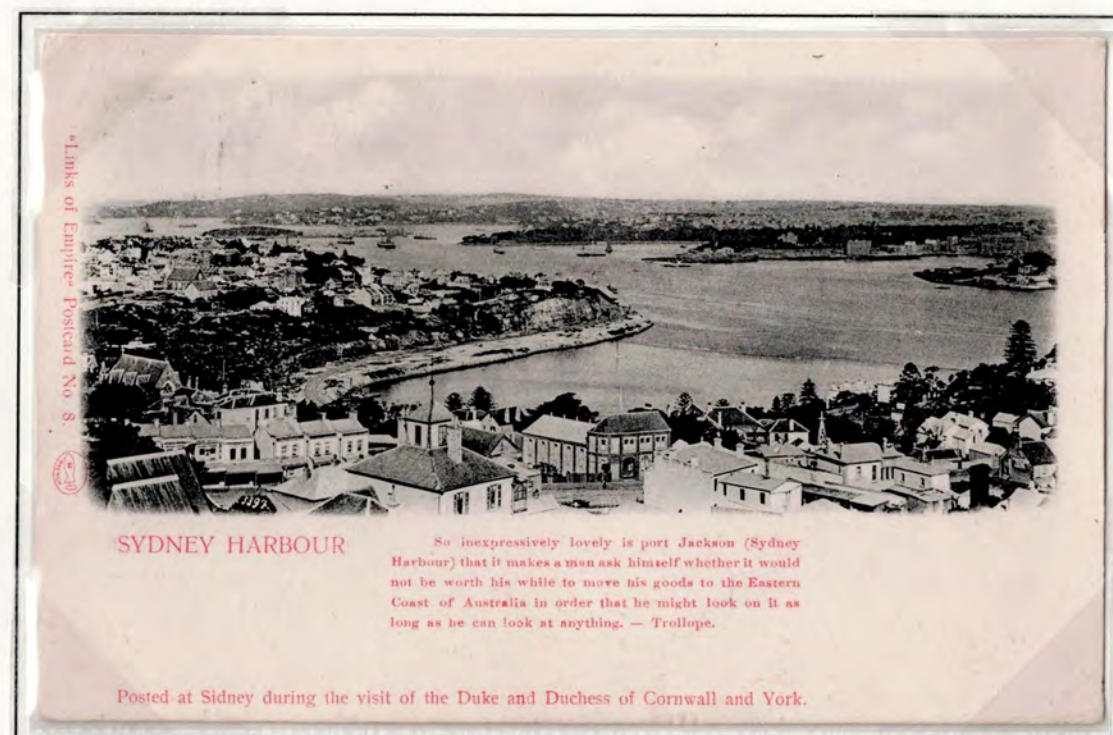
Cover postmarked 1 May 1901. Probably used to forward an invitation to one of the functions held in conjunction with the inauguration of the first Federal Parliament on 9 May 1901. According to *Our Invited Guests*, Mr G F Bell (c/- Gibbs, Bright and Co 34 Queen Street) was a guest of Victoria to the opening of the First Federal Parliament. Mr Bell was most likely staying at the Melbourne Club, as commercial accommodation would have been scarce, due to the many events.



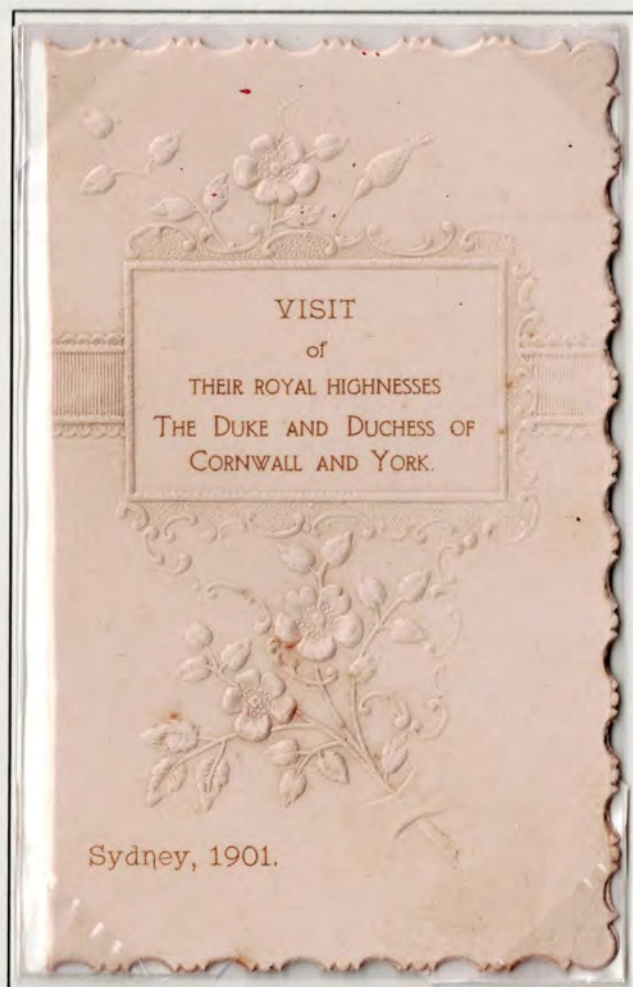
From *The Navy And Army Illustrated* of 29 June 1901. Showing the Duke and Duchess of York and Cornwall and Lord and Lady Hopetoun at Government House Melbourne surrounded by their regal and vice-regal staff and officials.

Lord Hopetoun ↑ ↑ Duke ↑ Lady Hopetoun
Duchess

The Royal Tour—Sydney (27 May to 6 June 1901)



Used 28 May 1901 from 'Edwin' to his sister. With added Postage Paid on a Wrench "Links of Empire" Postcard No 8 Sydney Harbour. These cards were produced to be mailed during the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York from various places on the Royal Tour. The franked card probably used by a member of the Duke and Duchesses' entourage. *Ex Hans Karman.*



PROGRAMME.		
MORNING.	AFTERNOON.	EVENING.
Monday, 27th May.		
	Arrival by Railway . . . 9 o'clock.	Dinner at Government House . . . 8 o'clock.
Tuesday, 28th May.		
Review, 12 o'clock.		Reception at Government House . . . 9 o'clock.
Wednesday, 29th May.		
Lesson, Presentation of Addresses . . . 10 o'clock.		Dinner with His Ex. . . 8 o'clock.

MORNING.	AFTERNOON.	EVENING.	MORNING.	AFTERNOON.	EVENING.
Thursday, 30th May.			Monday, 3rd June.		
Inspection, etc., of Garden Island . . . 11 o'clock.	Official Party at Admiralty House . . . 11 o'clock.	Reception at Government House . . . 11 o'clock.	Visit Young People's Industrial Exhibition, 12 o'clock.	His Royal Highness proceeds up country for Shooting.	Dinner . . . 8 o'clock.
Friday, 31st May.			Tuesday, 4th June.		
Lay Foundation Stone, Prince Alfred Hospital, 11 o'clock.	Concert, given by Citizens, 5-15 o'clock.		Shooting.		Dinner . . . 8 o'clock.
Saturday, 1st June.			Wednesday, 5th June.		
Present South African Medals at Government House . . . 11 o'clock.		Dinner at Government House . . . 8 o'clock.	Shooting.		Dinner . . . 8 o'clock.
			Thursday, 6th June.		
			His Royal Highness returns to Sydney.	Tea for New Zealand.	



Showing part of George Rose Stereograph view card of the Duke and Hopetoun in the grounds of Government House Sydney (pictures taken between 27 May and 6 June 1901).

Showing program cover for the Royal visit to Sydney printed by William Gullick, the NSW Printer.

The Royal Tour—Hobart (3 to 6 July 1901)

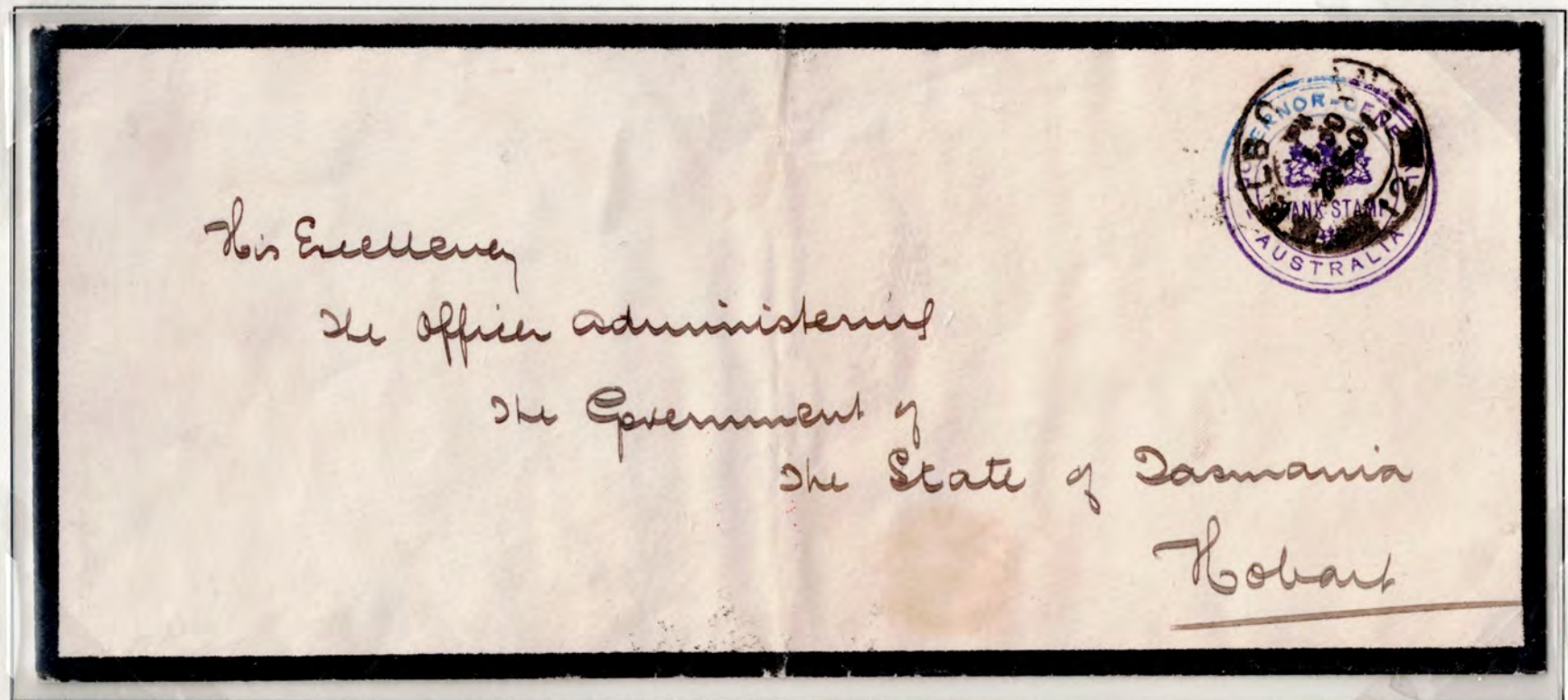


Tasmania's Parliament House, Hobart. Decked out to welcome the Regal and Vice-regal visitors.

The sender was the Governor-General, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, or a member of their entourage. The seal on the flap is that used on the RMS Ophir during the Royal Tour. *Ex John Clemente.*



Cover 9 3/4 "x 3 3/4" with frank mostly in violet (the only one recorded in this colour). Cancelled 22 June 1901. Sir John Stokell Dodds was the Administrator. The contents probably related to the forthcoming Royal Tour of Tasmania. *Ex Max Watson.*



Use by Lady Hopetoun



Private use by Lady Hopetoun to her eldest son, Victor Alexander John Hope (1887-1952) whose courtesy title was 'Lord Hope'. Lord Hope would eventually become 2nd Marquess of Linlithgow and Viceroy of India from 1936 to 1943. Unusual 6" x 3 3/4" envelope, embossed in 2 lines under the flap (at left) 'HOUGHTON & GUNN 162 NEW BOND ST, W COURT STATIONERS, BY APPOINTMENT.'

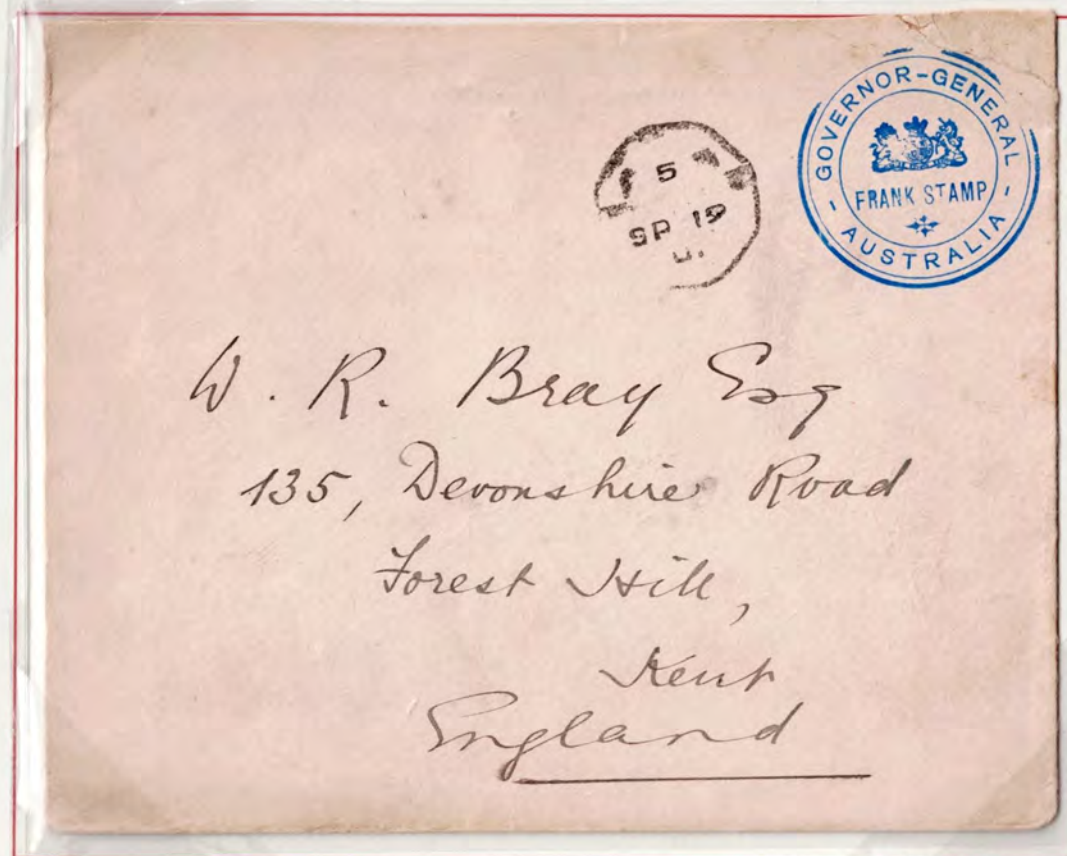
The flap is embossed with an Earl's coronet and the initial H - for Hopetoun. This crest is not listed in Stieg & Watson.



Illustration of embossing on flap (200%).



With S&W Special 1 on flap, in black. Used by Lady Hopetoun. Cancelled Skipton Victoria on 30 Dec 1901. Back stamped Ballarat 30 Dec 1901, Wakefield 3 Feb 1902 (AM) and London 3 Feb 1902 (PM). The Melbourne Argus on 20 Jan 1901 reported Her Excellency the Countess of Hopetoun to have returned to Melbourne by train from Ballarat after spending some weeks on Carramballoe Station (a property 20 km west of Skipton), lent to her by Mrs Robert Chirnside. Her return coincided with the return of Lord Hopetoun and Sir John Forrest from an official trip to the Western Australia gold fields, by boat to Adelaide and then by the special mail train to Melbourne.



With Q'land club insignia on flap (see left). Used by Lady Hopetoun and posted in pillars on the first day of the Vice-Regal visit to Brisbane. Lord and Lady Hopetoun arrived by train from Gladstone, having travelled as far north as Cairns. Press reports state that the Hopetouns were the guests of the Queensland Club during the visit. This seal is not listed in Stieg & Watson.



Other non-official use



With S&W Special 1 on flap in black. Used privately by Lady Hopetoun and cancelled at Skipton on 16 January 1902. Use outside Sydney and Melbourne is rare.



Cancelled 1 January 1902. As Lady Hopetoun was staying at Carramallee Station and Lord Hopetoun was visiting the WA Goldfields with Sir John Forrest, this cover must have been used by someone on staff at Government House. Significantly, the frank stamp is in purple ink, making this only the second cover recorded not to use blue ink.



With NSW Arms on flap, in black. Cancelled by the English Mail TPO in use between 1888 and 1909 and applied to mail posted after the departure of the mail boat from Melbourne en route to Adelaide. Mail could be posted at the station up to two hours later and was dealt with by the TPO attached to the connecting train. B/s Wakefield 14 Oct 1901. .

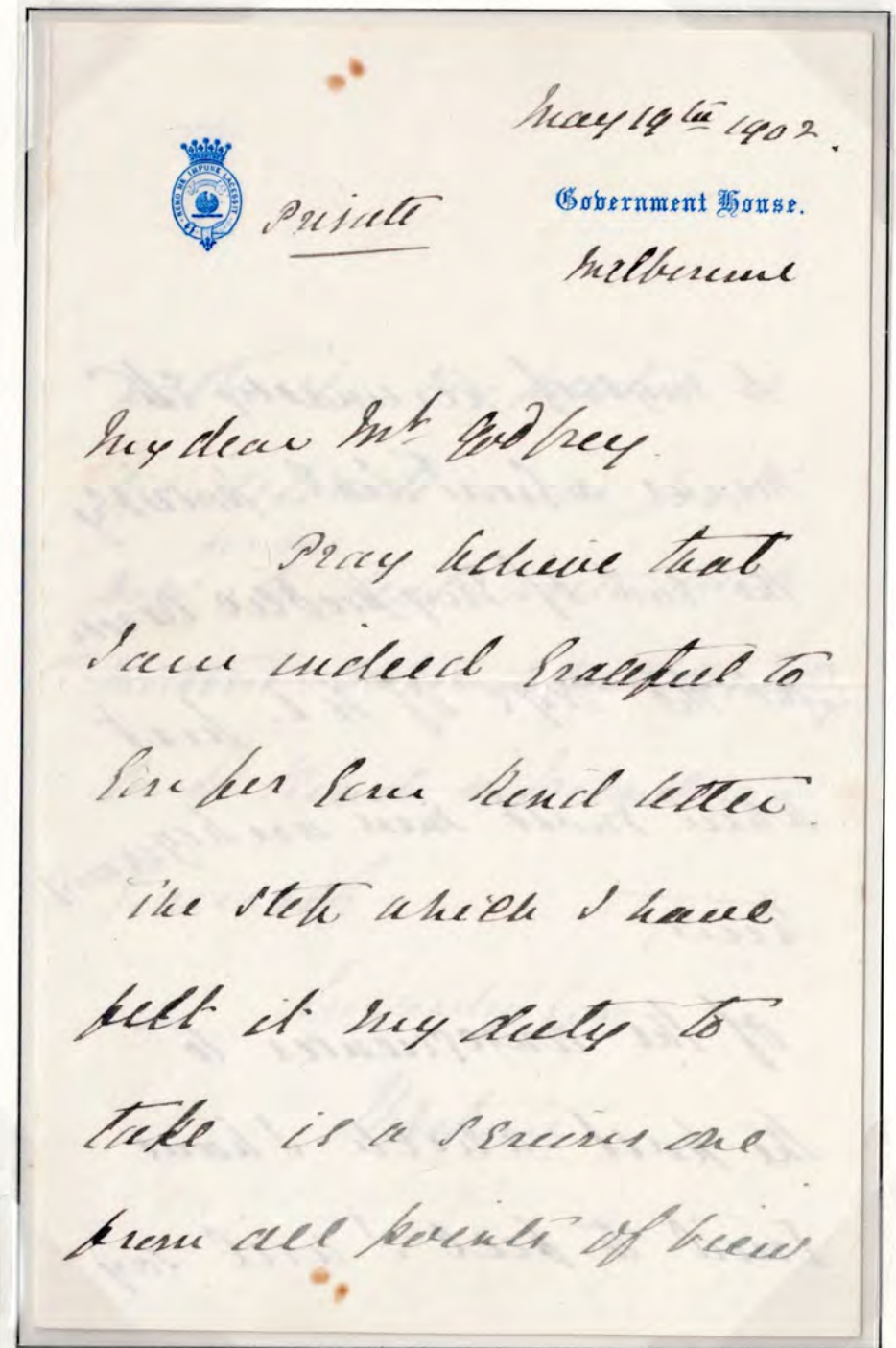


Personal use by Lord Hopetoun. Unusual size of 5 3/8" x 4 1/4" with same stationers' embossing as the Lady Hoptoun cover to her son Lord Hope (shown earlier). Signed by Hopetoun at lower left. From Melbourne with official paid hand stamp added. Back stamped Newton-Abbot on 2 Jan 1902. With Hopetoun's personal crest on the flap **unlisted** in Stieg & Watson (crest shown on the letter on the next page).

Hopetoun's resignation



The armorial badge is made up of the motto of Scotland *No one attacks with impunity* in a strap and buckle surrounding a broken terrestrial globe surmounted by a rainbow issuing from a cloud at each end and the whole surmounted by an earl's coronet.



Letter dated 19 May 1902 on personal letterhead to Frederick Race Godfrey. It reads—

My Dear Mr Godfrey
Pray believe that I am indeed grateful to you for your kind letter. The step which I have felt it my duty to take is a serious one from all points of view to myself personally it means a great deal- possibly the end of my public career at the age of 42 just when most men are beginning theirs. Of the consequences to the post which I have tried to fill I will say nothing. My position is too delicate a one just now for me to deal with when writing to a kind friend as yourself.
Sincerely yrs
Hopetoun

Cover to the letter signed by Hopetoun (at bottom left) and posted from the town named in his honour - during his visit there as Governor of Victoria in May/June 1890. The place was previously known as Lake Corrong Station. Hopetoun had returned to the area several times as Governor of Victoria and made a final unofficial visit there in May 1902. The docketing has been added later. Ex Hans Karman.



Hallam Tennyson, 2nd Baron Tennyson (1852-1928)
Acting Governor-General 17 July 1902 to 9 January 1903

Use of the frank stamp came to an end on 1 November 1902, as a consequence of the *Post and Telegraph Rates Act 1902* (Cth).

Stieg & Watson Special 1.
 Crest now with KEVII's
 'Tudor' crown. Replacing
 Queen Victoria's 'St
 Edward's crown—on the
 flap of each cover shown.



Cancelled 27 Aug 1902. To William Wilberforce Jose, father of the Tennyson's tutor Edward Jose.



Only recorded use from Adelaide and cancelled 31 July 1902. Ex Dr Don Pearce.



Postmarked by the Barr-Fyke 'flag' canceller on 30 Aug 1902 (a month before the end of franking).



Cancelled **Brisbane** 4 Oct 1902 (pillar receiver). Writing on back states 'Government House Sept 30th 1902'. The use on this card seems both unexplained and irregular but made up for the ½d underpayment that would have otherwise existed on a postal card sent to the United Kingdom at this time. Ex Max Watson.