

## STATUS OF THE TWO PENCE ENVELOPES AFTER 1899

### 1899 TO 1910 LOCALLY PRODUCED TWO PENNY ENVELOPES

Previous literature considered 2d envelopes issued after 1899 when the De La Rue envelopes were exhausted to be official Post Office issues. This view was based solely on a 1910 Post Office report of sales of 28,510 2d envelopes. A 2d embossing die had been sent to the Colony in 1892 for stamped to order stationery so officially produced envelopes were possible and envelopes without envelope makers identification and of similar dimensions to 1883 envelopes are known and are scarce. Recent research has concluded that the numbers reported in 1910 were, in fact, referring to stamped to order envelopes supplied to customers and not officially produced envelopes as the Post Office Annual reports show increasing sales from 1892 when the stamped to order service was introduced.



*Locally produced envelopes of similar specifications to the 1883 De La Rue envelopes at 137mm by 80mm but manufactured from cream wove paper without watermark and with no envelope manufacturers identification. The embossing did not affect the envelope flap which was rounded.*



*Examples exist on thinner and paler unwatermarked paper without makers impression and with the embossing die only impressing the front of the envelope. Pointed flap.*

## STATUS OF THE TWO PENCE ENVELOPES AFTER 1899

### 1898 - 1910 TWO PENNY ENVELOPES USAGE

Post Office records are silent on the existence of the locally produced 2d envelopes apart from the 1910 Report referred to by Collas in the October 1957 *Australian Post Office Philatelic Bulletin*. These envelopes met the specifications attributed to these supposed official issues by previous writers and catalogue editors. With a reported issue of some 28,000 envelopes in 1910 their scarcity does not reflect in the possible total issue of some 200,000 envelopes between 1900 and 1910. All used examples emanate from Westbury or Carrick and are addressed to the Registrar of Deeds in Hobart



1907 (July 26) Carrick to Hobart, with arrival backstamp of 27 July 1907



1908 (June 22) posted on train (T.P.O. No. 5) to Hobart uprated 1d for the late fee. Backstamped Hobart 23 June 1908

## STATUS OF THE ONE PENNY ENVELOPES

### 1902 TO 1912 ONE PENNY ENVELOPES

*The sole official reference supporting the earlier view that these were officially issued envelopes is the 1910 Postmaster General's Report that records an issue of 65,600 1d envelopes in that year. These envelopes are of similar stock and dimensions as the locally produced 2d envelope (137.5mm. x 79mm.) and do not bear an envelope makers imprint. They have a rounded flap and the embossing does not affect the envelope flap. It is more likely that the numbers being reported in 1910 were referring to the stamped to order envelopes embossed for customers in that year. These numbers correlate with the numbers that began to be reported from 1892 when the stamped to order service commenced.*



*Rose*



*Envelope cut & flap shape*



*Pale Rose showing rounded flap and no envelope makers imprint*



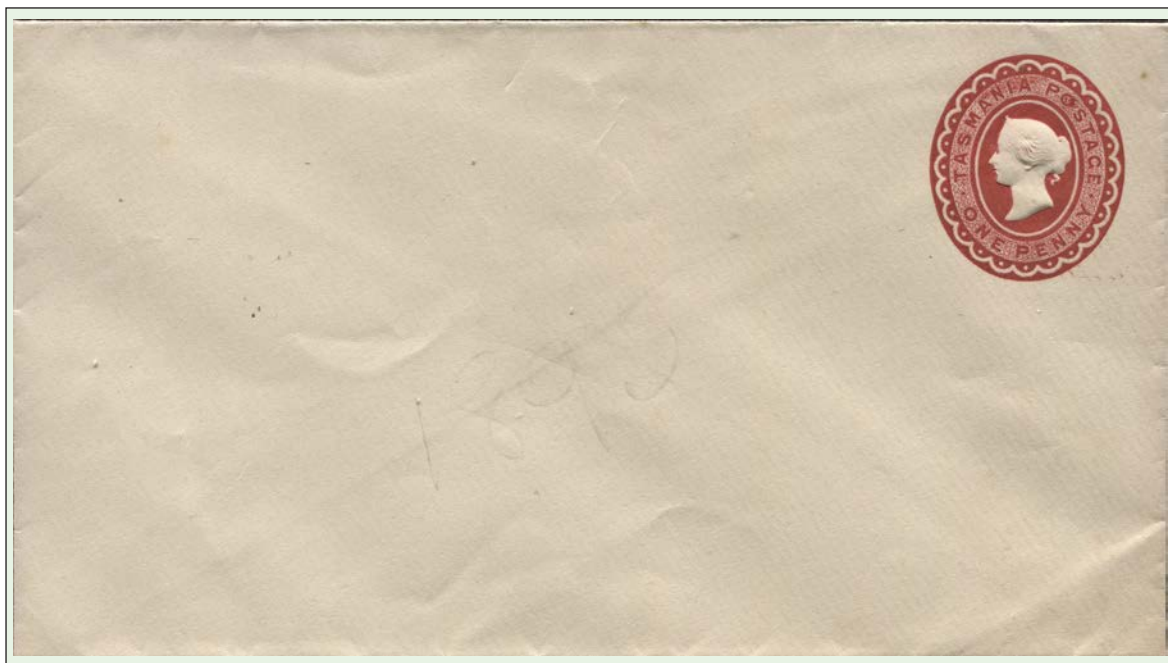
## STATUS OF THE ONE PENNY ENVELOPES

### 1902 TO 1912 ONE PENNY ENVELOPES

These envelopes are known with rounded and pointed flaps, of the same dimensions and without envelope makers marks. The embossing has been applied after the envelope was folded. The 1910 Post Office Annual Report records sales of 65,600 1d envelopes. Were these numbers to be replicated in the other years 1902 till 1909 these envelopes would be more common than they are. As found with the 2d envelopes used examples predominantly emanate from Westbury. It is likely that printers & stationers used the stamped to order service to provide stamped envelopes for sale to customers.



*Pale Rose*



*Deep Rose showing pointed flap and no envelope makers imprint*

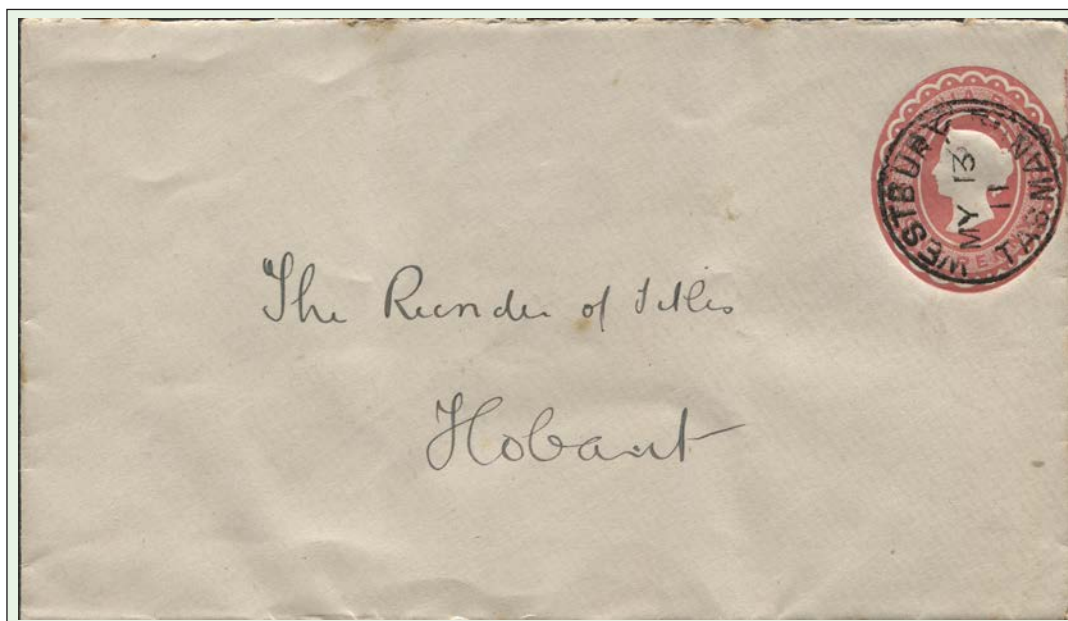
## STATUS OF THE ONE PENNY ENVELOPES

### 1902 TO 1912 ONE PENNY ENVELOPES USAGE

The town letter rate was 1d and in 1901 the printed matter rate from 1 March 1901 was also 1d. per ½ ounce. The only official record that 1d envelopes were issued are sales figures for 1910 of 65,600 such envelopes. The date of issue is unknown with the earliest recorded use in December 1902. It is also probable that commercial firms purchased such envelopes and had additionally printed information applied such as their company name and address. Such envelopes are known with the same specifications as those believed to be Post Office issues.



1902 (December 5) Westbury to Launceston endorsed 'Receipt Only' and sent at the applicable 1d rate.



1911 (May 13) Westbury to Hobart meeting the unsealed letter rate. Rose shade.

**The One Penny envelopes are scarce used and most known copies emanate from Westbury.**

# STATUS OF THE HALF PENNY ENVELOPES

## 1911 HALF PENNY ENVELOPES

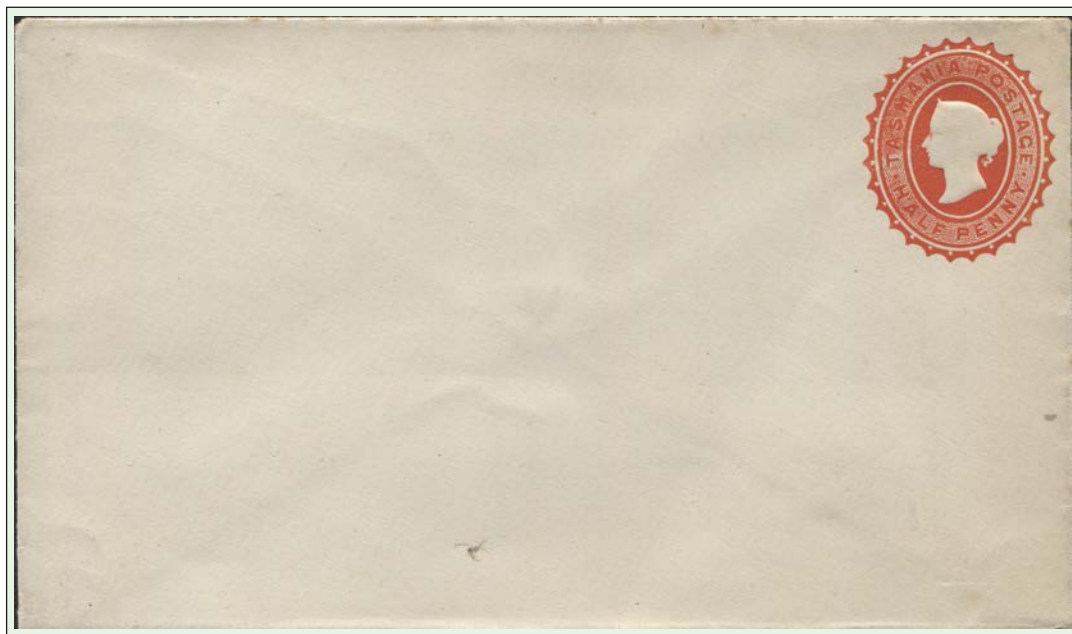
The existence of the Half Penny envelope as an official issue by the Post Office has not been confirmed by Official Records. On 1 May 1911 a rate was introduced for "Printed Papers.....within the Commonwealth" of ½d per 2 ozs. It is most unlikely that the Post Office would produce stamped envelopes for a rate that was not required and so the existence of a ½d Post Office issued envelope before May 1911 is improbable. It is therefore likely that the ½d embossed envelopes were produced under the stamped to order service. The envelope is of similar manufacture and dimensions as the 1d & 2d envelopes.



*Envelope cut & flap shape.*



*Orange.*



*Red orange*



*Envelope cut & flap shape.*

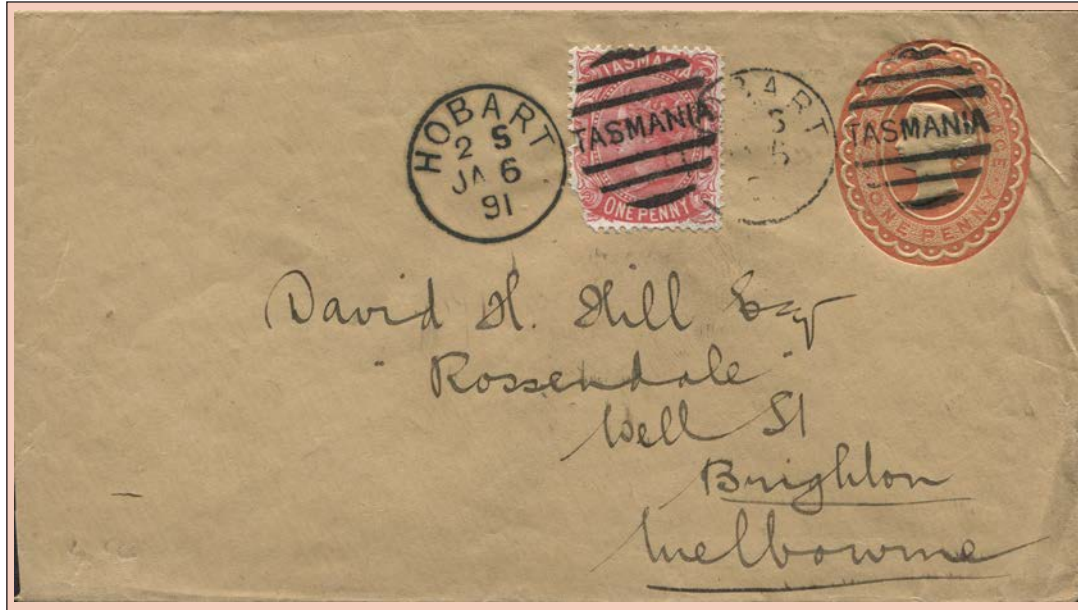
Used examples of the ½d envelope after 1 May 1911 when the applicable rate came into force are not recorded.



## 1891-1912 STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE POST OFFICE

### EARLY USE - ONE PENNY VALUE

The first advice of the 'Stamped to Order' service appeared in the Postal Guide No.1 published in January 1891 at page 34 laying out the Regulations for customers wishing to use the service. Not fewer than 500 envelopes (initially 480) of any one size would be stamped. Only 2d and 1d values were specified for envelopes while ½d and 1d values could be applied to newspaper wrappers. A minimum order would thus involve an outlay of between £6/5/- and £25 for any one order.



1891 (January 6) Hobart to Melbourne One Penny embossing uprated for the intercolonial rate.

This envelope probably represents the earliest possible use of the stamped to order service given that it was posted on a Tuesday (6th) and the only earlier days when the service could be accessed were Monday (5th) or Friday (2nd) to allow time for the envelopes to be prepared.



1891 (March 3) Launceston to Adelaide One Penny embossing uprated for the intercolonial rate and registration fee.

## 1891-1912 STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE POST OFFICE

### EARLY USE - HALF PENNY & TWO PENCE VALUES

The ½d and 1d dies were available from early January 1891 and it is now apparent that a second 2d value die was sent well before the die used by De La Rue to produce the Post Office issue 2d envelopes was forwarded in 1898.

#### Half Penny



1892 (April 19) Hobart to Sydney One Penny & Half Penny dies used underpaying the rate.  
**Earliest recorded use of the Half Penny**

#### Two Penny



1893 (June 9) Hobart to Germany with 2d embossing underpaying the foreign letter rate.  
**Earliest recorded use of the Two Penny die.**

Whilst both these envelopes are philatelically inspired they are, nevertheless important records of the earliest use of the dies. German and Australian postal stationery dealers were a significant market for these issues and perhaps, without them the records of use would be far from complete.



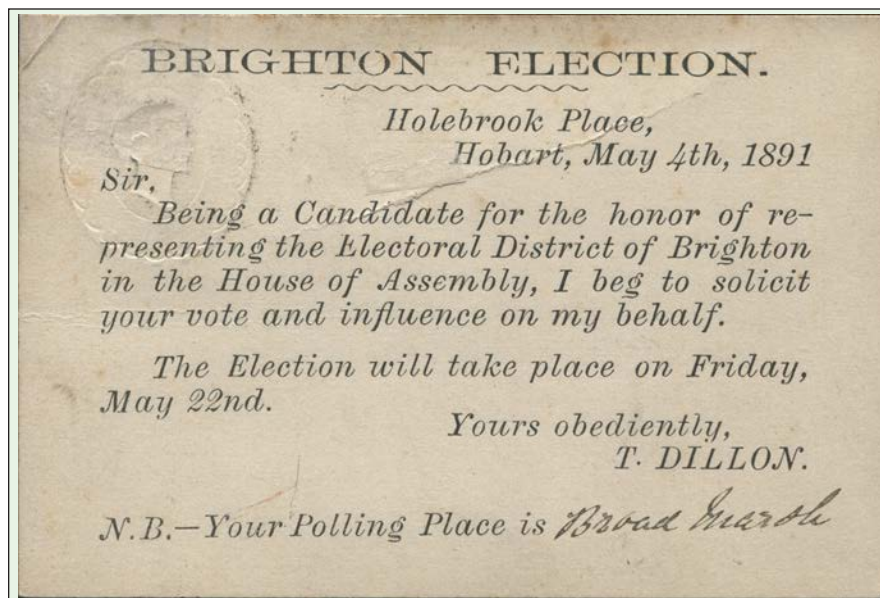
## 1891-1912 COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE

### 1891 T DILLON BRIGHTON ELECTION - EARLIEST RECORDED USE

From the beginning of 1891 a system of impressing envelopes and wrappers for private requisitions was introduced by the Tasmanian Post Office.



1891 (May 8) Hobart to Tea Tree 1d vermilion paying internal postcard rate & promoting a candidate for Brighton District in the House of Assembly. Endorsed 'Refused' and returned to Dead Letter Office.



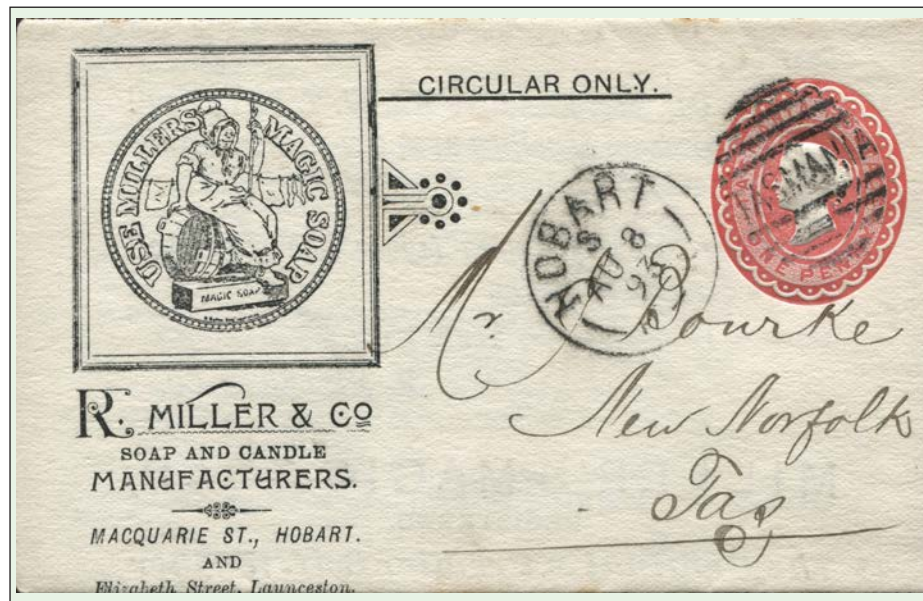
1891 (May 8) Hobart to New Norfolk showing message on reverse.

**Only two recorded examples of this usage.**

Thomas Dillon was successfully elected as the single member to the Brighton seat in the Tasmanian House of Assembly in 1891 but survived only one year in that position.

## 1891-1912 COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE

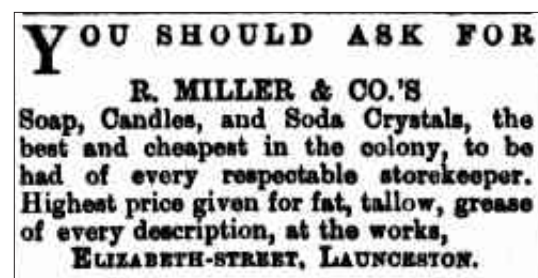
### 1893 R MILLER & CO. SOAP AND CANDLE MANUFACTURERS



1893 (August 8) Hobart to New Norfolk paying 1d. packet rate. Although no Circular Only rate was in force at this time the item was in compliance with the Packet requirements being unsealed and open at the sides as set out in Postal Guide No.5 January 1892.



R. Miller Soap, Candle and Chemical Manufacturers operated in Tasmania from around 1863 with up to four factories. They represented JK Bloggs who were major soap manufacturers in Sydney, Melbourne & London. Millers exhibited at the Tasmanian Exhibition of 1885 and were still operating in Hobart in 1923.

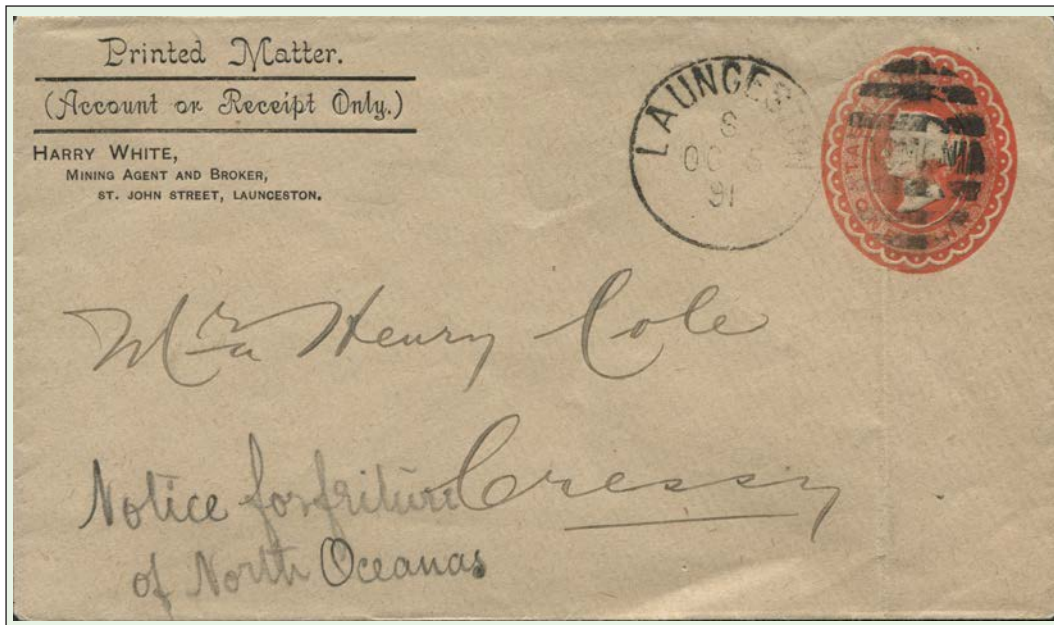


R. Miller & Co. The Mercury 1881



## 1891-1912 COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE

1891 - 1894 HARRY WHITE & F. MILSOM



1891 (August 31) 1d vermilion paying 1d packet rate posted in Launceston.  
**Only two recorded examples.**



1894 (July 21) 1d vermilion Hobart to Lachlan at 1d packet rate.

Harry White, Mining Agent and Broker operated in Tasmania from 1888 when he was advertising in *The Hobart Mercury* as the Agent for Silver Hills Pty. Silver Mining Co. NL and again in *The Launceston Examiner* of 20 May 1891 as Manager of North Oceana Silver Mining Co. NL.

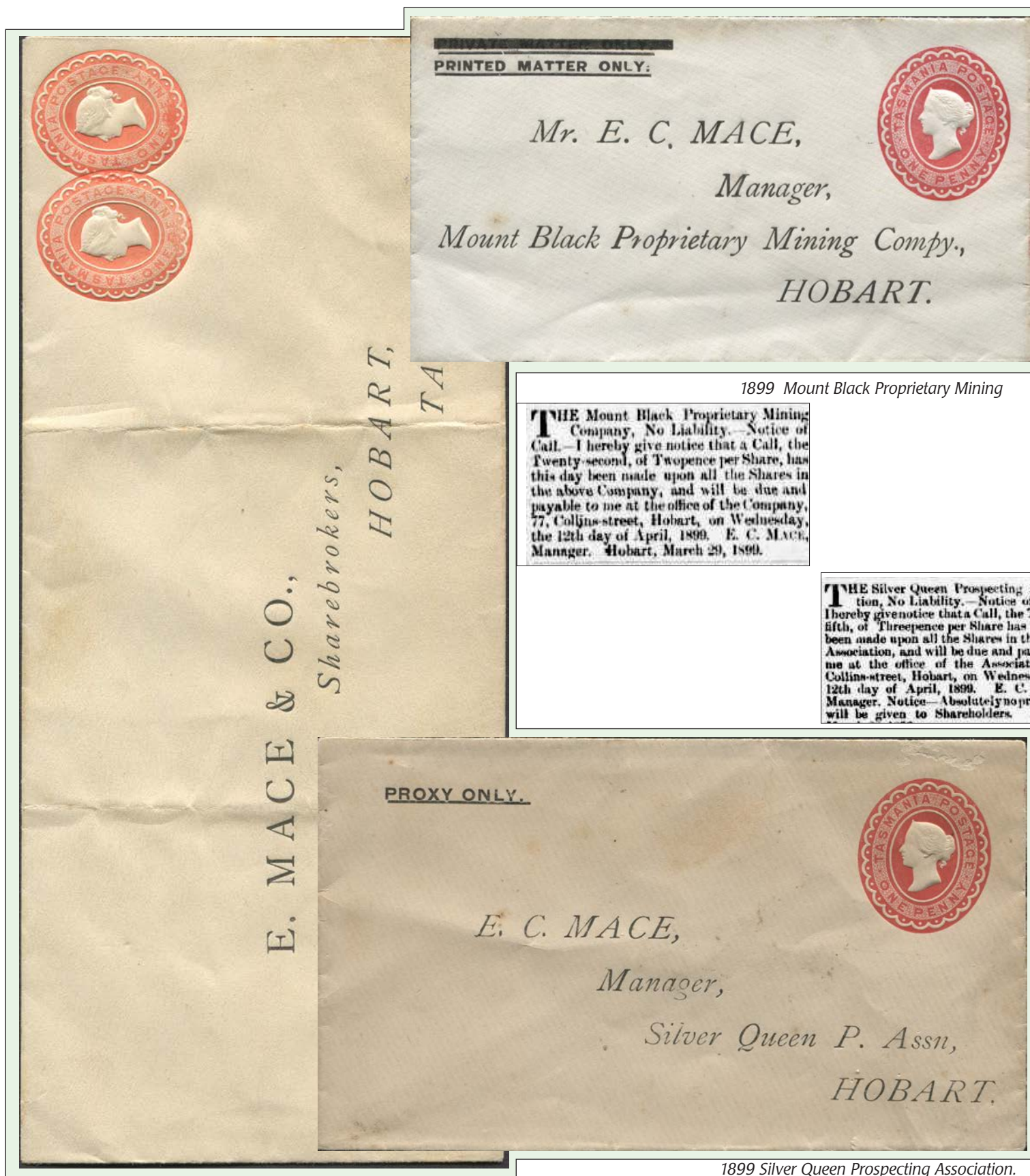
F. Milsom was the long-time Secretary and Treasurer of the Commercial Travellers Association in Hobart.



## 1891-1912 COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE

### 1891 - 1899 E.C. MACE - REPLY ADDRESSED ENVELOPES

E.C. Mace was a prominent Stockbroker in Hobart and like many in the Colony at that time was heavily involved in the West Coast mining boom. He acted as Legal Manager for a number of Mining Companies.



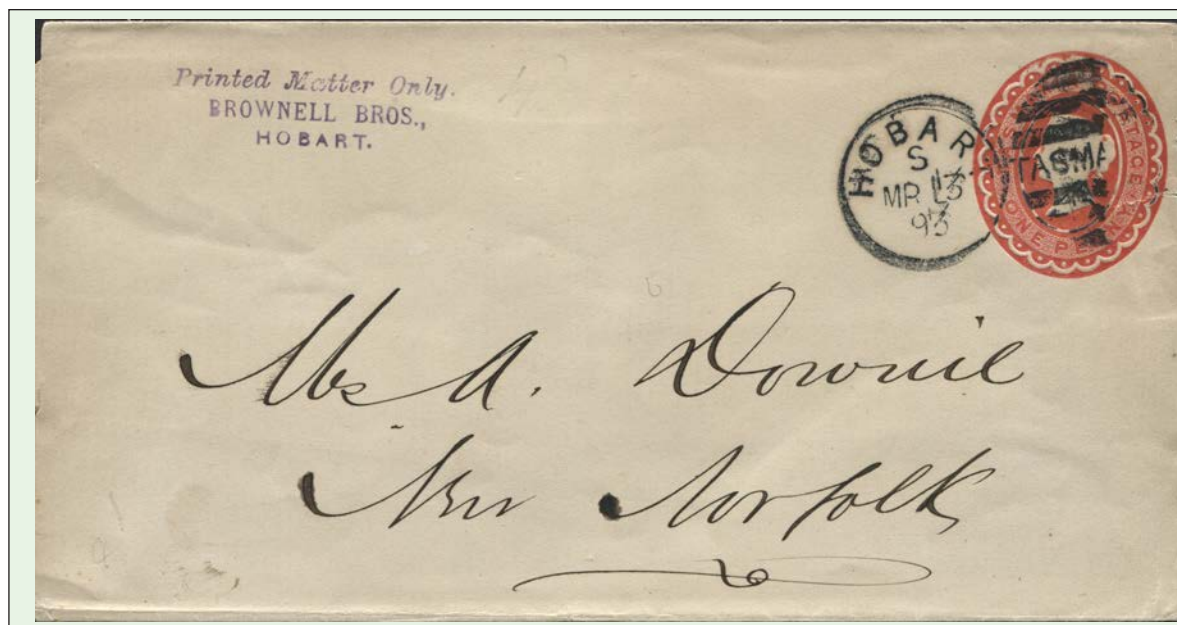
From 1891 E.C. Mace Sharebrokers. - 2 x 1d embossing

1899 Silver Queen Prospecting Association.

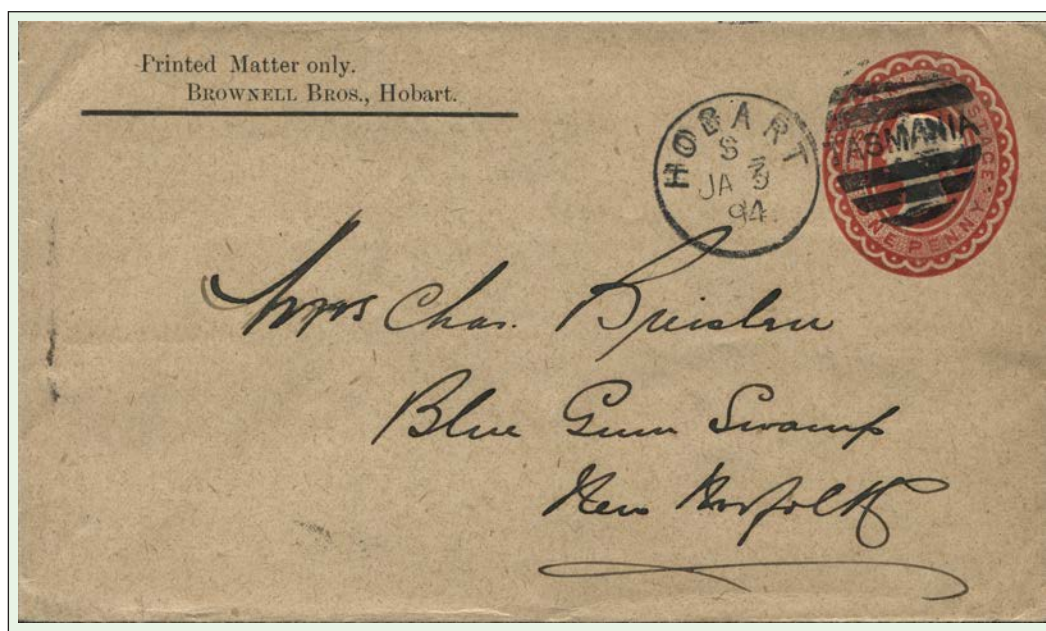
## 1891-1912 COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE

### 1893 - 1894 BROWNELL BROS

Brownell Bros. were a large Department store based in Hobart and operated a significant mail order business resulting in their being substantial users of stamped to order stationery.



1893 (March 13) Hobart to New Norfolk at printed matter rate. Brownell Bros handstamp in violet. Deep rose embossing.



1894 (January 3) Hobart to New Norfolk at 1d unsealed paper rate. Vermilion embossing.

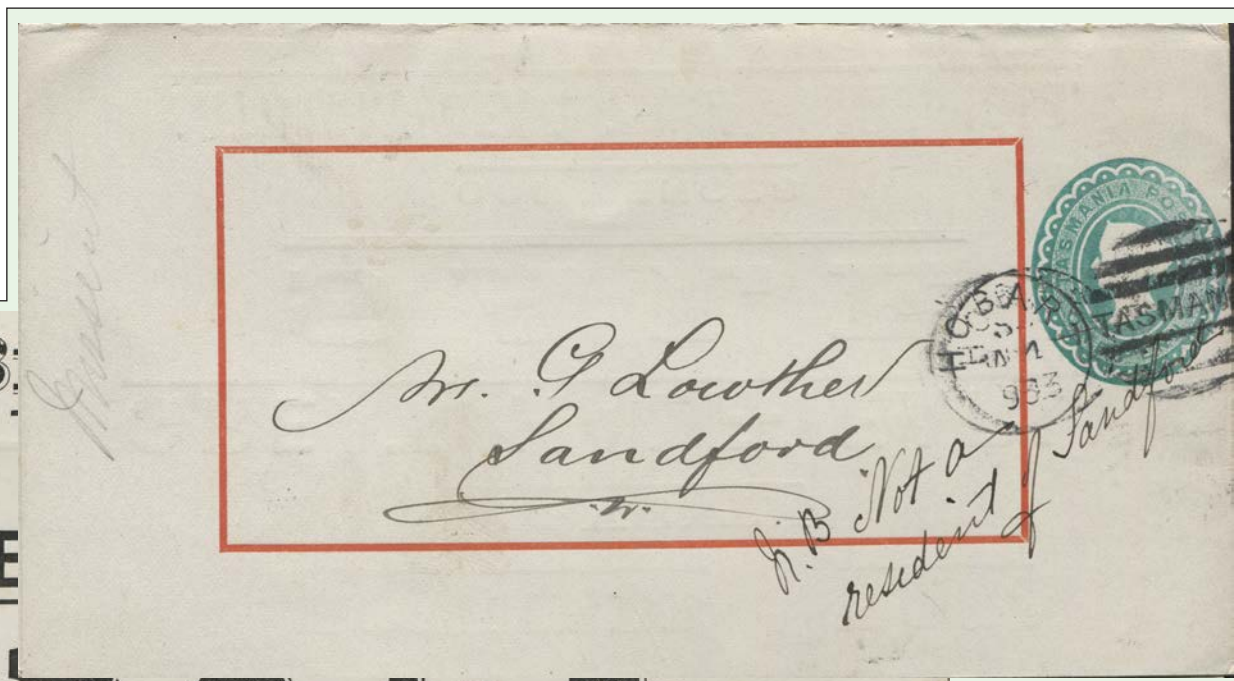


## 1891-1912 COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE

### 1893 BROWNELL BROS - GREAT HALF YEARLY SALE

In January 1893 the embossing of the 1d value was struck incorrectly in blue green, thus not complying with UPU Regulations which required that it be in red. This error of colour is also found on Bank of Van Diemen's Land envelopes.

1893 (January 4) 1d  
printed matter rate  
Hobart to Sandford.



1893 (January 4) 1d  
printed matter rate  
Hobart to New Norfolk.



Image of inside in full

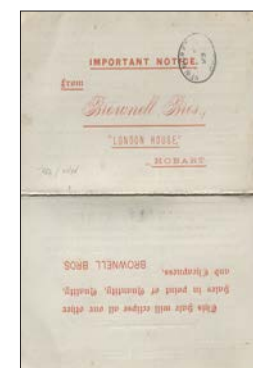


Image of reverse in full

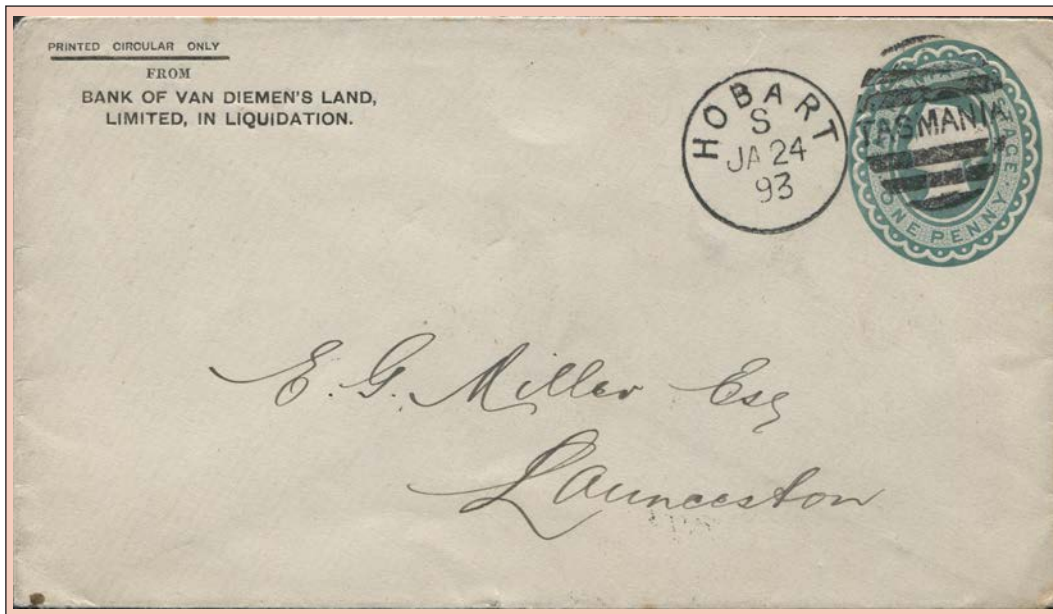
Brownells began in 1836 as David Moses' London Mart Drapery & General Store and was renamed Brownells in 1888. It became a public company in 1902 and was the largest Department Store in Tasmania finally being taken over by a national retailer, Myer.



## 1891-1912 COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE

### 1893 - 1894 BANK OF VAN DIEMEN'S LAND (IN LIQUIDATION)

In 1891 the principal bank in Tasmania, The Bank of Van Diemen's Land went into Liquidation causing a serious collapse of the Tasmanian economy. The Liquidators were large users of embossed stationery to communicate with the many depositors and other creditors. Between 4th and 24th January the 1d embossings were struck in green in error.



1893 (January 24) Hobart to Launceston at unsealed letter rate of 1d. **Embossing incorrectly applied in green**



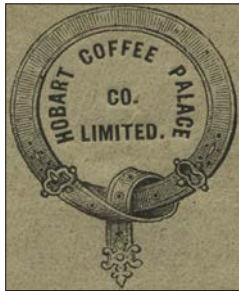
1893 (July 21) used in Hobart at printed matter rate with 1d in correct colour. Correctly printed as 'In Liquidation'

**The Bank of Van Diemen's Land** was formed in 1821 and became the major financial institution in the Colony until 1891 when it collapsed during the 1890 Depression caused mainly by falling mineral prices and the default of some of its larger mining customers. To the surprise of many the Bank closed its doors on 3 August 1891. The shares were listed at £6, & a dividend of 9% was paid per annum. The half yearly profit was £18,714. Depositors balances stood at £687,000 with the population of the Colony around 152,000. Most Tasmanians would have been customers of the Bank when it went into liquidation. The Bank's heavy exposure to the emerging mining companies on the West Coast is generally believed to have caused the closure.

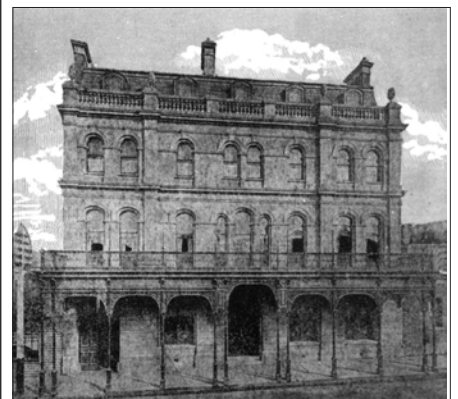
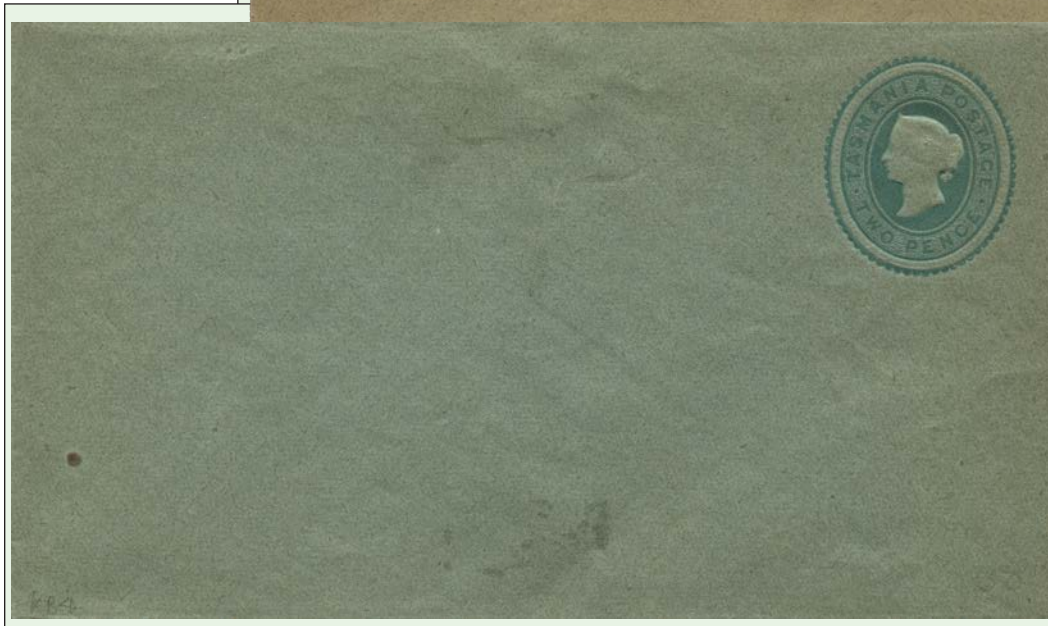
## 1891-1912 COMMERCIAL USERS OF THE STAMPED TO ORDER SERVICE

### CIRCA 1894 HOBART COFFEE PALACE

A number of Stationers and Hostelrys took advantage of the embossed to order service to make postage paid envelopes available to customers and guests



Crest on the envelope flap



1d rose and 2d green envelopes embossed for the town letter and inland letter rates & sold to guests.

#### **Only recorded examples**

The Imperial (Hobart) Coffee Palace was a Temperance hotel built around 1884 and extended in 1910. It still stands in Collins Street in central Hobart.