

AVIS DE RECEPTION

The AR system of the Australian Colonies
and the Commonwealth of Australia 1891 – 1966

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT.
AVIS DE RECEPTION.

Posteur,
M. Friedman
111 Bradford St.
Albert Park
POST OFFICE,
VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE
FEBRUARY 1895
REGISTRE
BOURNE

R

1895 Official Acknowledgement of Receipt Envelope from Victoria – Inland use February 1895

The Australian Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia and New Zealand joined the Universal Postal Union on 1 October 1891. They were then required to adopt the rules and regulations of the U.P.U including a system of Acknowledge of Receipt or Delivery for an international registered mail article upon payment of an additional fee of 2½d per letter. The system provided for completion of a printed form prepared by the Office of the Country of Origin, which was then dispatched to the receiving office of the addressee, enclosed under cover of a separate envelope prepared for that purpose. From 1 July 1892 the Treaty of Vienna, the Form was prepared by the Country of the Receiving Office and returned to the sender. Following the Washington Convention, the This Form was again prepared by the Office of the Country of Origin from 1 January 1899, the form being attached to the letter by a piece of string or enclosed in a separate envelope. The system was not compulsory for internal mail, but was adopted by the Australasian Colonies and the Commonwealth of Australia. The 1892 Vienna Congress provided for the fee to be payable by stamps to the value of 2½d, usually by affixing the stamps to the envelope. Following the 1893 Washington Congress, the 1899 Treaty provided for this stamp was to be affixed to the Form. From 1 January 1922 a Card replaced the Form and was attached to the mailed item. The AR Fee was paid by a postage stamp attached to this card. This Exhibit concludes in 1966 when Decimal Currency was introduced.

Rare items are backed in red-maroon.

The exhibit is organised in dates order with each Colony and subsequent Colony being grouped together. The Advice cards are presented in their chronological order of issue or dates of use. AR Certified mail has been excluded from the Exhibit due to 5 Frame space constraints.

References:

Postal Acts and Regulations of the Australian Colonies;

Australian States; New Zealand; and Commonwealth of Australia

The Universal Postal Union by Pat Capill; Richard Breckon, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, January 2007

Records of Universal Postal Union Congress, Vienna and Washington

AR, Avis De Reception, by David Handelman; AR in the British Isles by David Handelman, London Philatelist June 2007; Australia & UPU – Effects of 1897 Washington & 1906 Rome Congresses