

1936 KING GEORGE V 1d. AUSTRALIAN DIE PRINTED TO PRIVATE ORDER ENVELOPE A MAJOR NEW DISCOVERY!

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The passing of King George V as New Zealand's sovereign on 20 January 1936, the uncertainties associated with the Edward VIII's turbulent period as monarch, his subsequent abdication and George VI's accession to the throne on 12 December of the same year presented special challenges for the Post & Telegraph Department. Nowhere were these challenges more evident than the circumstances surrounding the production of New Zealand's 1d. denominated postal stationery envelopes.

As 1935 drew to a close, the Post and Telegraph Department decided to commission the Australian Note & Stamp Printer, Melbourne to produce two new dies of identical design bearing the image of King George V for use in the production of 1d. postal stationery envelopes. Volume IX of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand records that proofs were made from these dies in February 1936 and the date of issue of envelopes was 22 October 1936⁽¹⁾ i.e., some nine months following the passing of King George V.

With Edward VIII's accession to the throne 21 January 1936, the Post & Telegraph Department commenced planning for what would have been the eventual issue of items of postal stationery bearing his image⁽²⁾. However, even though such dies were produced by late 1936, they were never used for the intended purposes. Instead, the Post and Telegraph Department continued to print 1d envelopes using the 1936 King George V 1d. Australian Die together with the 1935 Pictorials ½d., 1d and 4d. dies to print various classes of postal stationery until respective King George VI dies became available in 1938 and 1940.

Half and One Penny Cameo dies bearing the likeness of King George VI were approved in May 1938 from which embossing dies were then produced. Volume IX reports that the first issue of 1d. commercial and social sized envelopes from the new George VI dies occurred in November 1938⁽³⁾.

PRINTED TO PRIVATE ORDER ENVELOPES

Recently a previously unreported example of a Printed to Private Order Envelope for Allied Finance Ltd. bearing the 1936 King George V 1d. stamp printed from the Australian Die (see Figure 1 below) has been discovered (*see Footnote*). This example is postmarked 21 JLY 1938, Wellington.

There is no reference to the existence of this type of envelope in Volume IX. Reference is made to the existence of ½d. Allied Finance Ltd envelopes surface printed with the ½. 1935 Pictorial (Fantail) design. Some 25,000 of these halfpenny envelopes were reportedly issued in the July-August 1938 period⁽⁴⁾ and at least two examples have been recorded including one illustrated in Volume IX dated 12 SEP 1938.

Elsewhere, variously in Volume IX, it is reported that printings of 1d. 1938 King George VI envelopes for Allied Finance Ltd. occurred between July 1938 to April 1941⁽⁵⁾ and from 1939 onwards⁽⁶⁾. Bearing in mind that the first 1d. King George VI regular commercial and social sized postal stationery envelopes were only produced in November 1938, it seems unusual that the 1d. King George VI die would have been used some four months previous for what would have been a limited production run of 1d. envelopes for Allied Finance Ltd.

In hindsight, the possibility always existed that the 1d. envelopes printed for Allied Finance Ltd. in the second half of 1938 might have been done using the 1937 King George V 1d. Australian Die. The recent discovery of the Allied Finance Ltd Printed to Private Order Envelope illustrated below confirms the 1936 1d. King George V Australian Die was used to produce this heretofore unidentified class of New Zealand postal stationery in mid 1938.



*Figure 1. First known example of an Allied Finance Ltd 1d. 1936 King George V Printed to Private Order Envelope - posted in Wellington 21 July 1938
(Envelope courtesy of the Len Jury Collection)*

REFERENCES:

1. *Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Volume IX, published by The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, 2006, pp 162-163
2. *ibid*, p 164
3. *ibid*, pp 165-166
4. *ibid*, pp 221-222
5. *ibid*, p 223
6. *ibid* p 470

Footnote: This envelope lay hidden and undiscovered among Len Jury's postal history collections acquired over many years of serving the New Zealand philatelic community. Knowing of Pat's and Stephen's interest in postal stationery issued during the King George VI era, Len offered them the opportunity to purchase the portion of a very old collection covering the period and it was then that the 1936 1d. King George V Allied Finance Ltd envelope was discovered, carefully placed among other envelopes issued during the King George VI Period. Unfortunately, the name of the collector who carefully preserved this exceptional piece of New Zealand postal history is long forgotten but, to whom we, who follow, are greatly indebted. The authors also gratefully acknowledge Len's kind permission to study his collection and to use the image of this unique piece of New Zealand postal history in their writings.