

PRINTED TO PRIVATE ORDER POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES

ALLIED FINANCE LTD - 1938 TO 1940 – NEW VARIETIES

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Introduction:

A recent study of Printed to Private Order Envelopes for the Allied Finance Ltd. appearing in the 60th Anniversary issue of the *Kiwi* revealed heretofore unreported varieties of these envelopes including three distinct type settings for the return address printed in the lower left hand corner, envelope paper and back flap variations ⁽¹⁾.

Shortly after this study paper was accepted for publication, the authors became aware of three further examples of these AFL envelopes through the kind auspices of Mr. Paul Wales of Classic Stamps Ltd. All three envelopes had been previously held in the late Mr. John Wilson's George VI collection of which two are new varieties relative to those discussed in the recent study. The characteristics of the three envelopes are summarized below.

Type II Setting Inscription Envelopes (c. 1938-9)				
Date	Die (Stamp colour)	Paper	Flap Design	Flap Embossed
24 FEB 1939	1938 KGVI ½d. (Green)	White	Ellipse	No
25 OCT 1939	1938 KGVI 1d. (Red)	White	Ellipse	No
Type III Setting Inscription Envelope (c. 1939-40)				
3 OCT 1939	1938 KGVI ½d. Uprated with ½d. meter stamp	Buff	Rounded	No

Newly Identified Varieties of AFL Envelopes

Figure 1 overleaf illustrates the 1938 KGVI 1d. (Red) AFL envelope and is the first example of this denomination seen by the authors to feature the Type II Setting return address inscription. Further, this would appear to be the ***first recorded example*** of a 1d. AFL envelope on white paper with an ellipse back flap as Volume IX of the Postage Stamps of New Zealand states that “*only envelopes recorded are buff coloured window envelopes*” ⁽²⁾. The usage date, 25 OCT 1939, is the latest date of use identified so far for envelopes featuring the Type II Setting return address inscription.

Figure 2 overleaf illustrates an example of the previously described 1938 KGVI ½d. (Green) AFL envelope with Type III Setting, buff paper and rounded flap but, in this case, uprated with a ½d. meter stamp to meet the 1d. rate for Commercial Letters that came into effect (Sunday) October 1, 1939. This is the ***first recorded example*** of an uprated ½d. AFL envelope seen by the authors. The envelope illustrated in Figure 2 is dated (Tuesday) 3 OCT 1939, the second business day after the October 1939 rate increases.

Lastly, the 1938 KGVI ½d. (Green) recorded above and postmarked 24 FEB 1939 is the first example of this class of this envelope which does not appear to show any evidence of the back flap having been embossed. All other examples examined to date (some 7 in total) show some evidence of faint embossing of the back flap.

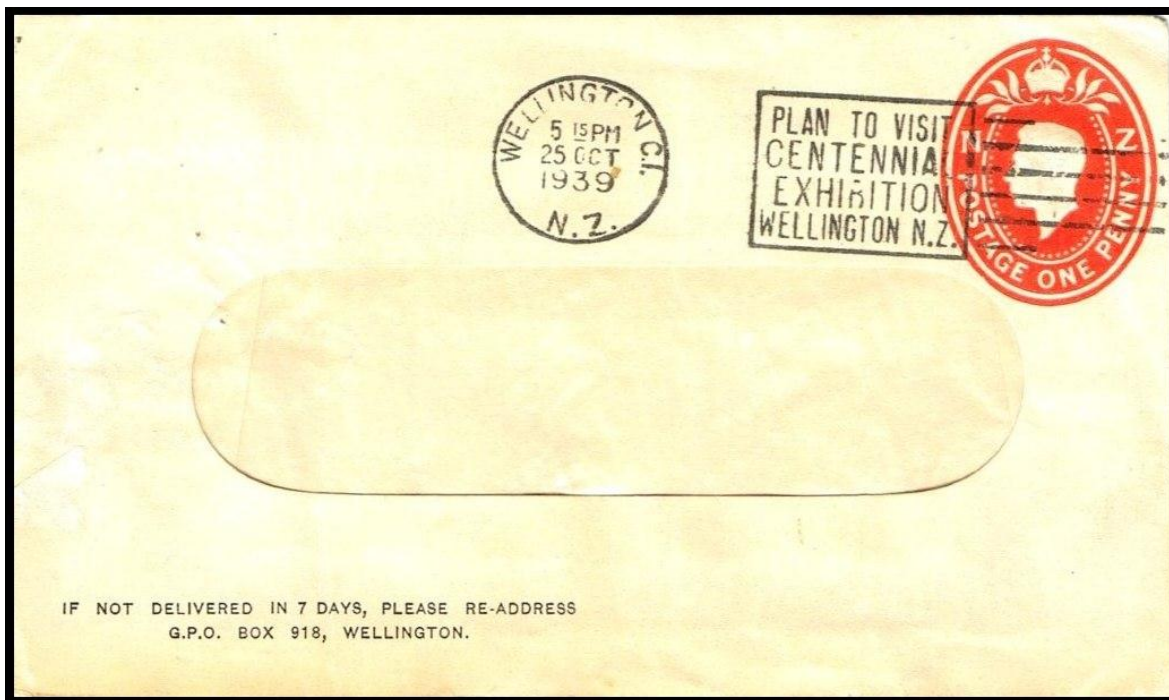


Figure 1. 1938 George VI 1d. Printed to Private Order AFL Type II Envelope on White paper dated 25 OCT 1939
(Envelope courtesy of the John Wilson collection)

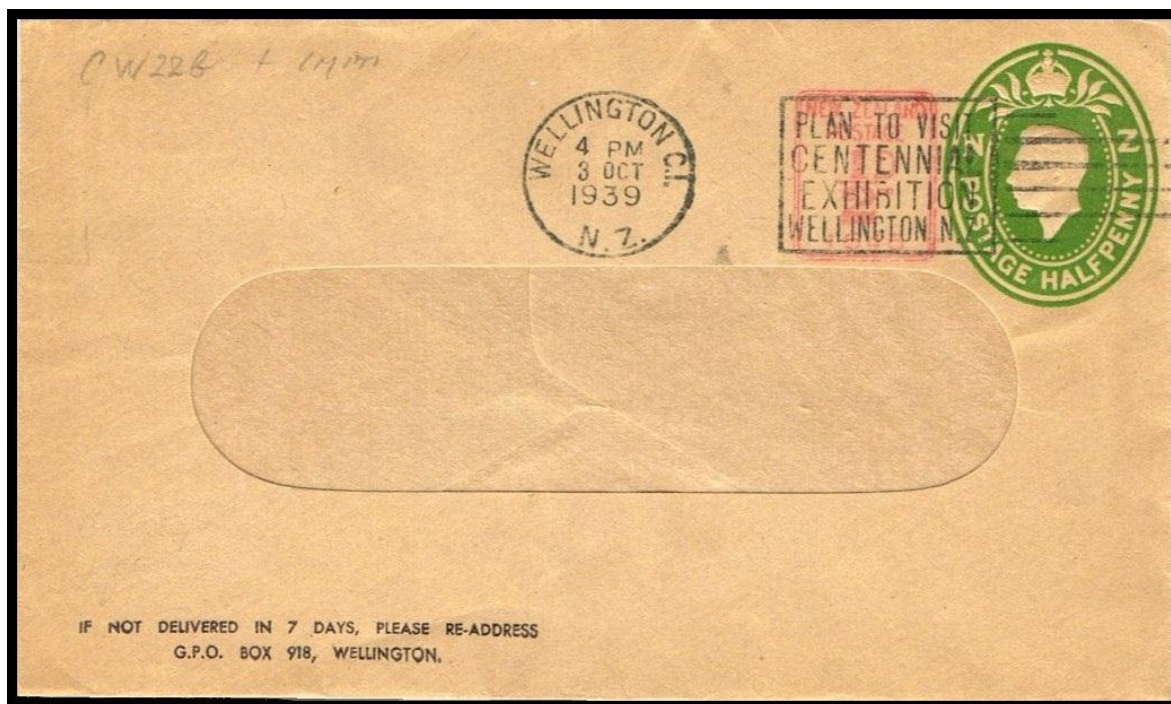


Figure 2. 1938 George VI ½d. Printed to Private Order AFL Type III Envelope on Buff paper dated 3 OCT 1939
 Up-rated with a ½d. meter stamp (No. 1546)
(Envelope courtesy of the John Wilson collection)

Acknowledgement: Mr. Paul Wales of Classic Stamps Ltd. graciously provided access to and permission to use images of the three Allied Finance Ltd envelopes formerly held in the John Wilson Collection and sold in Classic Stamps Auction No. 61, April 2012. Paul's assistance in providing access to these Allied Finance envelopes is gratefully acknowledged.

Relative Scarcity - The League Table

With the kind assistance of other New Zealand postal history philatelists and dealers, the authors have now examined or been made aware of 26 examples of Allied Finance Ltd Printed to Private Order envelopes. Taking into account the differentiating characteristics of the printed stamp denomination, Type Setting of the return address inscription, paper, flap design and back flap embossing, some 10 different categories or varieties of these envelopes have been identified.

To date, one example has been recorded for five of the ten different categories identified in this study while at least two or more examples have been recorded of the other five categories. The ten different categories are shown below in the form of a “League Table” which provides readers an overview of implied scarcity in terms of numbers of examples that have been surveyed to date for each class.

Allied Finance Ltd. Envelopes - Scarcity Ranking as of October 2012

AFL Envelopes of which only one example has been identified to date				
Setting	Die (Stamp colour)	Paper	Flap Design	Flap Embossed
Type I	1936 KGV 1d. (Red)	Buff	Rounded	No
Type I	1938 KGV ½d. (Deep Green)	White	Ellipse	No
Type II	1938 KGV 1d. (Red)	White	Ellipse	No
Type II	1938 KGV ½d. (Green)	White	Ellipse	No
Type III	1938 KGV ½d. Uprated with ½d. meter stamp	Buff	Rounded	No
AFL Envelopes of which only two or more have been identified to date (numbers in parenthesis)				
Type I	1935 Pictorials ½d. Fantail (Green) - (2)	White	Ellipse	Surface Printed
Type II	1938 KGV ½d. (Green) - (3)	Buff	Ellipse	No
Type III	1938 KGV ½d. (Green) - (3)	Buff	Rounded	No
Type III	1938 KGV 1d. (Orange Red) - (6)	Buff	Rounded	No
Type II	1938 KGV ½d. (Green) - (7)	White	Ellipse	Yes (faint)

The authors anticipate that further examples of AFL envelopes reside in other philatelists' collections and dealer stocks and would welcome receiving information about these over time so that they may be incorporated into the survey of this class of New Zealand postal history. The authors can be contacted via email at stephen.prest@gmail.com, by regular mail at their contact address listed on the King George VI New Zealand website at www.kgvi.co.nz or through the kind auspices of our Editor of the *Kiwi*.

References:

1. Printed to Private Order Postal Stationery Envelopes Allied Finance Ltd – 1938 to 1940 by S. Prest and P. Skinner, *The Kiwi*, Volume 61, No.5, (September 2012) pp. 117 -124
2. Postage Stamps of New Zealand Volume IX, published by the RPSNZ, 2006, p. 223