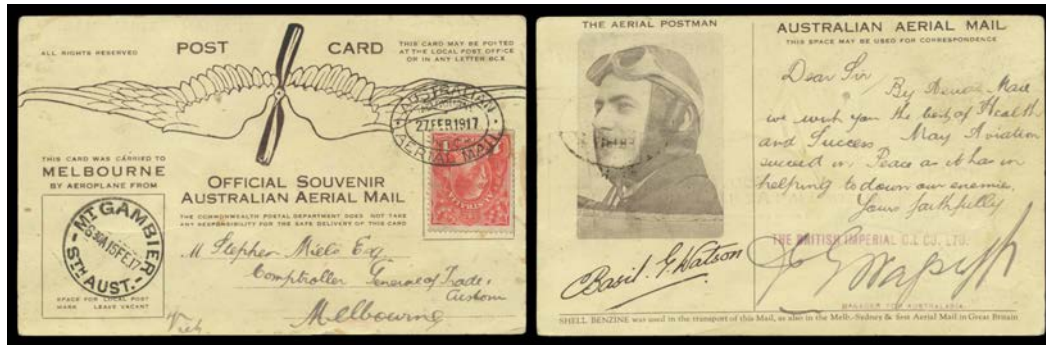


Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Lot 285

285 C

C

AVIATION: 'Official Souvenir/Australian Aerial Mail' brown/yellow card with a photograph of the pilot *Basil Watson* on the message side, superb 'MT GAMBIER/15FE17/STH AUST.' & KGV Penny Red tied by double-oval 'AUSTRALIAN/ MELBOURNE/27FEB1917-/VIC-/AERIAL MAIL' datestamp, the message with *British Imperial Oil Co* handstamp in violet & signed "EE Wagstaff" who states "...May Aviation succeed in Peace as it has in helping to down our enemies", some minor creasing & light spotting but most presentable, AAMC Cat \$600. [In 1904, *Ernest Edward Wagstaff* established *British Imperial Oil* as a subsidiary of *Royal Dutch Petroleum*. In 1927, it was renamed *Shell Co of Australia Ltd*. Only five weeks after completing this flight, *Basil Watson* died when his plane crashed at Laverton, SW of Melbourne]

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