

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

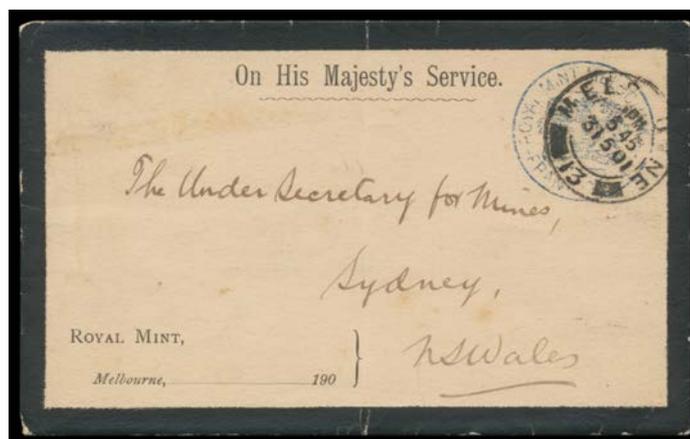
OFFICIAL MAIL - FRANK STAMPS

We are pleased to present the most extensive collection ever formed of this interesting material. Max Watson is the first collector ever to assemble examples of every frank stamp recorded on cover. His collection incorporates Carl Stieg's extensive reference holdings & collection, key items from Hans Karman's and Guy Linfield's collections, plus several important recent discoveries. The collection is offered alphabetically by "department" (an expression that is used rather loosely as it includes many officials as distinct from departments or ministries). Unless stated otherwise, impressions are printed, in black. Die patterns & rarity ratings are from the definitive study "Franked! The Official Mail of Victoria 1864-1902" by Carl Stieg & Max Watson (2008). The book includes a census of all items recorded until that time: items offered here are shown as "S&W #---". Note that items from the 1860s are rare, and from the 1870s are scarce: this collection includes more than twice as many as were in the Karman and Linfield collections combined. It should be noted that handstruck franks are often incomplete or badly worn: the quality of such strikes here is generally above-average, with many being quite exceptional. Probably 95% of all franked items are envelopes: this collection includes many postcards, plus very elusive wrappers, parcel tags, address labels & even a lettercard.

**Lot 288**

288 C A **ROYAL MINT:** Largely very fine h/s in black on 1899 envelope with sans serif 'ROYAL MINT/...' imprint at L/L (S&W #E10), Carlton arrival b/s. Another rating anomaly: *Stieg & Watson* state "Only five covers have been reported...Covers are therefore rare (RRR)". However, 3 to 6 recorded is RRRR, and this is the only recorded cover with the frank in black so it should be RRRRR. Probably the finest of the handful of covers known. [The inscription is 'ROYAL MINT, MELBOURNE', the only frank with 'MELBOURNE' in the inscription, & the only one with 'VICTORIA' omitted]

600

**Lot 289**

289 C B - Very fine h/s in blue on 1901 mourning envelope with seriffed 'ROYAL MINT/...' imprint at L/L (S&W #E20), to NSW with Sydney arrival b/s, light overall aging.

500

OFFICIAL MAIL - FRANK STAMPS (continued)

Lot	Type	Grading	Description	Est \$A
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**Lot 290**

290

C

B

- Superb h/s in blue on 1900 grey envelope with seriffed 'ROYAL MINT/...' imprint at L/L (S&W #E30), registered with 'LAW COURTS' cds, superb 'R'-in-circle h/s & 'ROYAL MINT/[arms]/VICTORIA' seal impressed in red wax on the flap, 'AVOCA' arrival b/s, a few minor defects. An outstanding item for a collection of registered mail.

600