

Lot Type Grading Description

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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 285

285 PS A- **RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF:** Die 1 printed on letter card with pre-printed address of the *District Engineer* at Melbourne & 'This card may pass through the post from any place within Victoria' on the reverse, printed 'Registration of Unemployed from COUNTRY DISTRICTS' advice within, stuck along one side otherwise very fine unused. This is the only franked letter card recorded: only four examples recorded, all unused. [Hans Karman's example sold for \$690]

500

TPOs: BALLARAT-ARARAT-STAWELL 1876-1895

In 1876, the TPO service was extended westwards from Ballarat, to Ararat and later to Stawell. This service was withdrawn in 1895.

337 PS A A1 **UP TRAIN 7:** Type 1 (CDS) very fine strikes **1)** of OC7/84 on face of Postal Card from 'PIMPINIO' (ERD by 16 years!) to Hochkirch (faint b/s, ERD), carried via Horsham to Stawell & by train to Ararat only, then by train SW to Hamilton (21½mm transit on the face, LRD); and **2)** of SE26/93 b/s on Letter Card from 'ELMHURST' to Melbourne, carried to Ararat & by train to Melbourne via Ballarat. The latter is the latest recorded usage on cover. [The first is illustrated at page 45] **(2)**

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