

## The privately produced Australian Aerogrammes ("The Private Issues")

Every collector of Australian aerogrammes is familiar with the aerogrammes without value stamps with the imprinted text "Approved by Postmaster-General for acceptance as Aerogramme" with a subsequent number. This article describes the origin of these aerogrammes and show some examples from my collection..

Originally AIR LETTERs - later renamed AEROGRAMME - were used for communication with Australian soldiers during World War II. The sentence "For letters to members of Overseas Forces" pointed this out. Soon the AIR LETTERs were approved for the general public and this sentence was crossed out..

Aerogrammes were very popular because they were an inexpensive and fast means of communication abroad for private individuals. However, there was a major shortcoming for commercial users: once making a spelling mistake or necessary content corrections made the aerogramme useless, the postage was lost.

To avoid this, the Blake & Hargreave printing company contacted the Postmaster General's Department (PGD) in 1945 and asked them to be allowed to print aerogrammes without stamped values according to the requirements of the authorities..

In his excellent study "The Private Issues - A study into the Airletters and Aerogramme Issues of 1946 to 1966", Neil W. Cornish documents the correspondence with the PGD on the basis of the original documents.

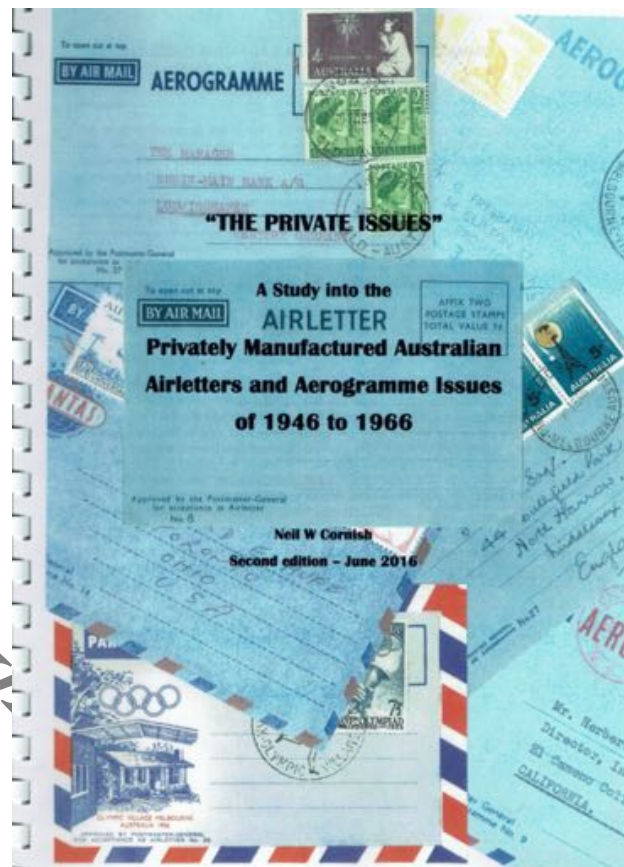


Fig. 1. Neil W. Cornish : "THE PRIVATE ISSUES - A study into the Airletters and Aerogramme Issues of 1946 to 1966", A4 format, ca. 140 pages, spiral binding

In a press release dated 29 May 1946, the first approval was finally granted. The requirements of the PGD were very rigid and the layout of the aerogrammes precisely defined. Each subsequent change to the layout had to be submitted to the PGD and approved individually. However, once the approval number has been assigned, it has not been changed.

As a result, a large number of different variants of the aerogramme can exist for a given approval number.

The permission was given to the print shop; there were no restrictions on use. Therefore, the same approval number may also have been used by different institutions or companies..

Neil W. Cornish's reference work lists all known pre-decimal private aerogrammes both in tabular form and in photographs with varieties. In addition, the work contains a large appendix of relevant documents. Any collector of private aerogrammes can only be recommended to buy this reference work - in the meantime in the second edition in 2016.

The study is available for AUD 45.00 + postage. The email address of Neil W. Cornish can be requested from the author of this article.

Peik Bremer is also working on research into private issues, for more information see his publications on Stampboards.

Since this is (still) a small collection area, there is of course no catalogue with prices. Private aerogrammes are rarely offered on Ebay. The lots are (almost) always sold. The number printed of each aerogramme is not known. There is still a lot of research to be done here.

The following is an exemplary selection of private aerogrammes from my collection.

Literature:

Neil W. Cornish: "The Private Issues – A Study into the Airletters and Aerogramme Issues of 1946 to 1966"

Translated with deepl.com

[www.sammlerring-australia.de](http://www.sammlerring-australia.de)



# Australia

## *The Private Issues*



Private Aerogramme No. 2, approved for acceptance October 13, 1953  
 Stamp Notation: "AFFIX TWO POSTAGE STAMPS TOTAL VALUE 10c"  
 Printing on reverse side: "*Souvenir of the Royal Visit to Australia, 1954*"

Printed by Blake & Hargreaves Pty Ltd, Sydney

N. Cornish No. 28



# Australia

## The Private Issues



Private Aerogramme No. 2, approved for acceptance July 16, 1959  
 Stamp Notation: A 10d Postage Stamp to be affixed, wide box format

Printed by Blake & Hargreaves Pty Ltd, Sydney

N. Cornish No. 29





# Australia

## The Private Issues



Private Aerogramme No. 2, approved for acceptance July 16, 1950  
 Stamp Notation: A 10d Postage Stamp to be affixed, wide box format

Printed by Blake & Hargreaves Pty Ltd, Sydney

N. Cornish No. 29



# Australia

## *The Private Issues*



Private Aerogramme No. 3, approved for acceptance September 12, 1947  
Stamp Notation: "AFFIX TWO POSTAGE STAMPS TOTAL VALUE 7d"

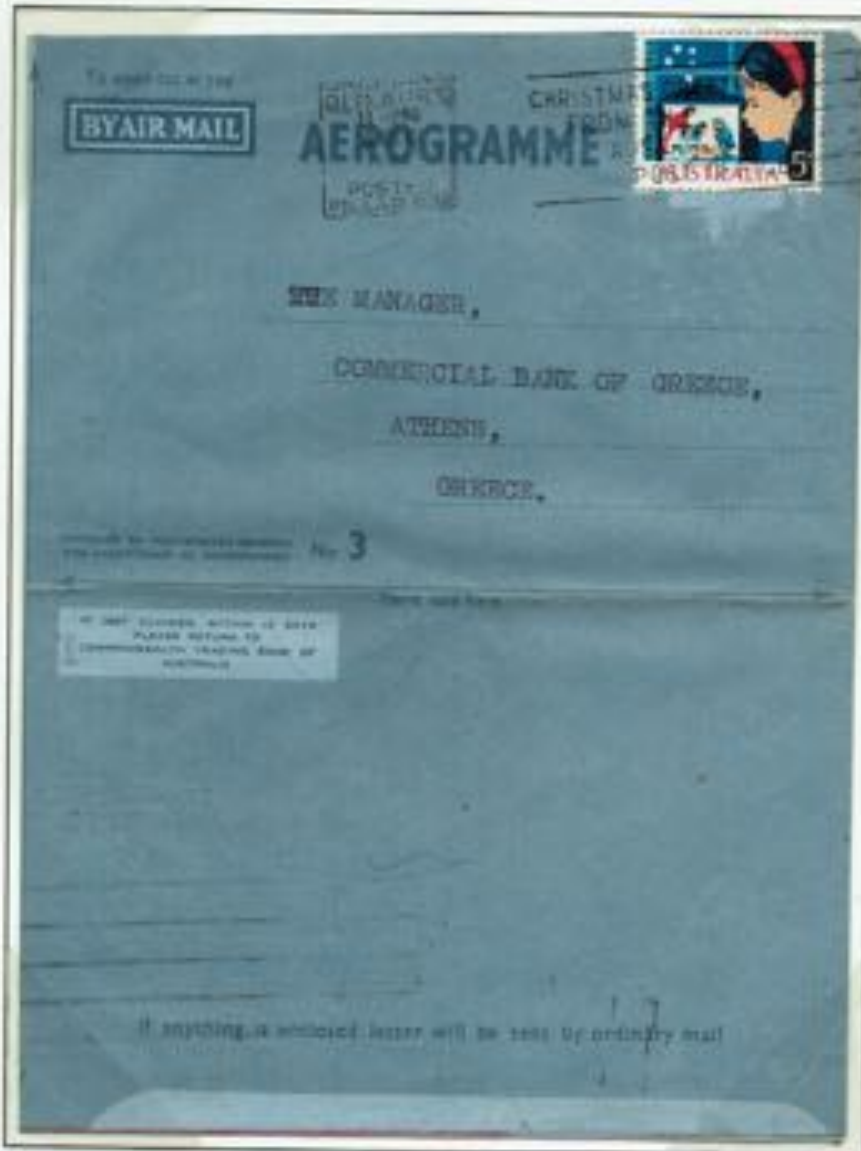
Printed by John S. Sands, Sydney

N. Cornish No. 3.1



# Australia

## *The Private Issues*



The aerogramme sent from Brisbane December 16, 1964 to Athens, Greece.  
 The aerogramme is underpaid, 10d were required. The aerogramme was not taxed.

Private Aerogramme No. 3, approved for acceptance December 13, 1957  
 Stamp Notation: "A 10d POSTAGE STAMP TO BE AFFIXED"

Printed by John S. Sands, Sydney

N. Cornish No. 33



# Australia

## *The Private Issues*



Private Aerogramme No. 9, approved for acceptance as Air Letter August 1952  
 Stamp Notation: "Affix Two Postage Stamps Total Value 10d"

Printed by Marchant & Co., Broadway, NSW

N. Cornish No. 92





# Australia

## The Private Issues



Private Aerogramme No. 9, approved for acceptance date as Aerogramme is unknown.  
Only sighted unused examples

N. Cornish No. 9.6a

Printed by Marchant & CO., Broadway, NSW



# Australia

## *The Private Issues*



Private Aerogramme No. 14, approved for acceptance as Airletter September 1952?  
Stamp box is blank

Printed by QANTAS Empire Airway, Sydney

N. Cornish No. 14.2



# Australia

## *The Private Issues*



Private Aerogramme No. 14, approved for acceptance as Airletter April 29, 1953  
Stamp box is blank

Printed by QANTAS Empire Airways, Sydney

N. Cornish No. 143



# Australia

## *The Private Issues*



Special Olympic Village Commemorative

Private Aerogramme No. 26, approved for acceptance as Airletter November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1956  
Stamp Notation: "AFFIX TWO POSTAGE STAMPS TOTAL VALUE 10d."

Printed by: The Specialty Press Ltd





# Australia

## *The Private Issues*



Private Aerogramme No. 38, approved for acceptance as Aerogramme July 19, 1957  
 Stamp Notation: "A 10d POSTAGE STAMP TO BE AFFIXED"

Printed by University of Tasmania, Hobart

N. Cernish No.38.1



# Australia

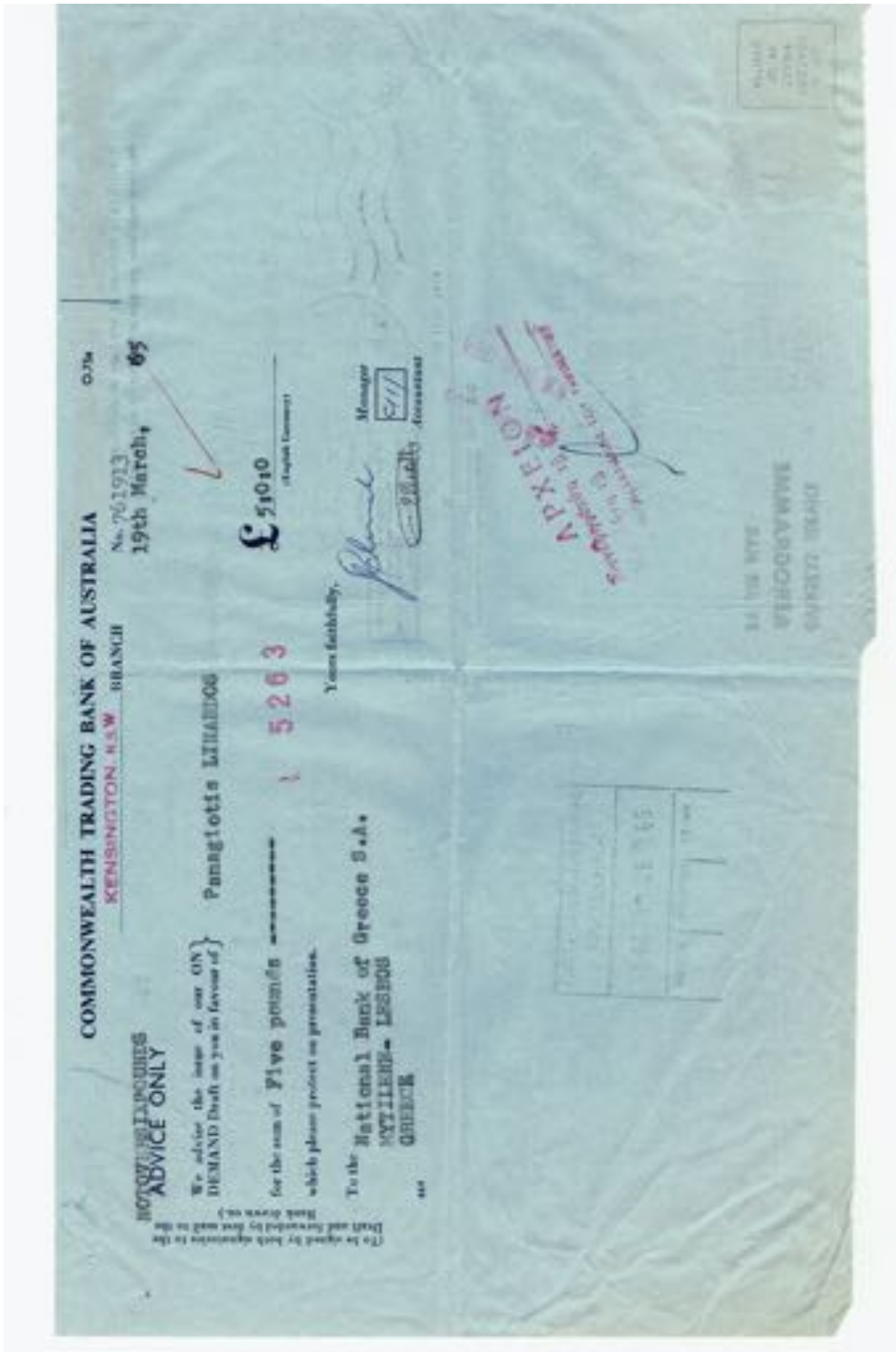
## *The Private Issues*



Private Aerogramme No. 54, approved for acceptance unknown,  
used item dated December 7, 1963  
Stamp Notation: "AFFIX A 10d POSTAGE STAMP"

Printed by: English, Scottish & Australian Bank, Melbourne





Typischer Inhalt eines Formular-Aerogrammes





Australia  
The Private Issues



Private Aerogramme No. 61, approved for acceptance as Aerogramme July 2, 1962  
Stamp Notation: "AFFIXE A 10d POSTAGE STAMP"

Printed by Alexander Bros Pty Ltd

N. Cornish No.61.2.2 Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney



# Australia

## The Private Issues



Private Aerogramme No. 61, approved for acceptance as Aerogramme July 2, 1962  
Stamp Notation: \* AFFIXE A 10d POSTAGE STAMP\*

Printed by Alexander Bros Pty Ltd

N. Cornish No.61.2.2 Sydney Harbour Bridge, Sydney



# Australia

## The Private Issues



Private Aerogramme No. 61, approved for acceptance as Aerogramme July 2, 1962  
 Stamp Notation: "AFFIXE A 10d POSTAGE STAMP"  
 "ST. GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY SILVER JUBILEE" overprint

Printed by Alexander Bros Pty Ltd

N. Corriah No 61/4, Southgate Fountain, Snowden Gardens, Melbourne





# Australia

## The Private Issues



Private Aerogramme No. 61, approved for acceptance as Aerogramme July 2, 1962  
Stamp Notation: " AFFIXE A 10d POSTAGE STAMP"  
"ST. GEORGE PHILATELIC SOCIETY SILVER JUBILEE" overprint

Printed by Alexander Bros Pty Ltd

N. Cornish No. 61 A, Southgate Fountain, Snowden Gardens, Melbourne

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