



## INSCRIBED C.C.T., F.C.T. & FEDERAL TERRITORY - THE POSTMARKS OF AUSTRALIA'S FEDERAL CAPITAL & JERVIS BAY TERRITORIES 1925 – 1940

The objective of this exhibit is to present a concise study of the various postmarks inscribed C.C.T., F.C.T. and Federal Territory, derived from the post offices located in *Australia's Federal Capital Territory* and its annexe, *Jervis Bay Territory*, prior to the Territory being renamed the *Australian Capital Territory* in 1938.

Post Federation and the establishment of *Australia's Federal Capital Territory*, a Federal Capital Advisory Committee was established and subsequently replaced in 1925, by the Federal Capital Commission (F.C.C.), whose role it was, to prepare Canberra for the transfer of the Commonwealth Parliament and the public service from Melbourne to Canberra, as well as expediting development in the Capital. Incidental to this process and in the lead up to relocation of the Federal Government from Melbourne to the *Federal Capital Territory*, post office date-stamps were progressively changed, either re-engraved or replaced with new date stamps inscribed either, *C.C.T. (Canberra Capital Territory)*, *F.C.T. (Federal Capital Territory)* and in the case of Jervis Bay, *Federal Territory*. Two offices only were issued with C.C.T. date-stamps.

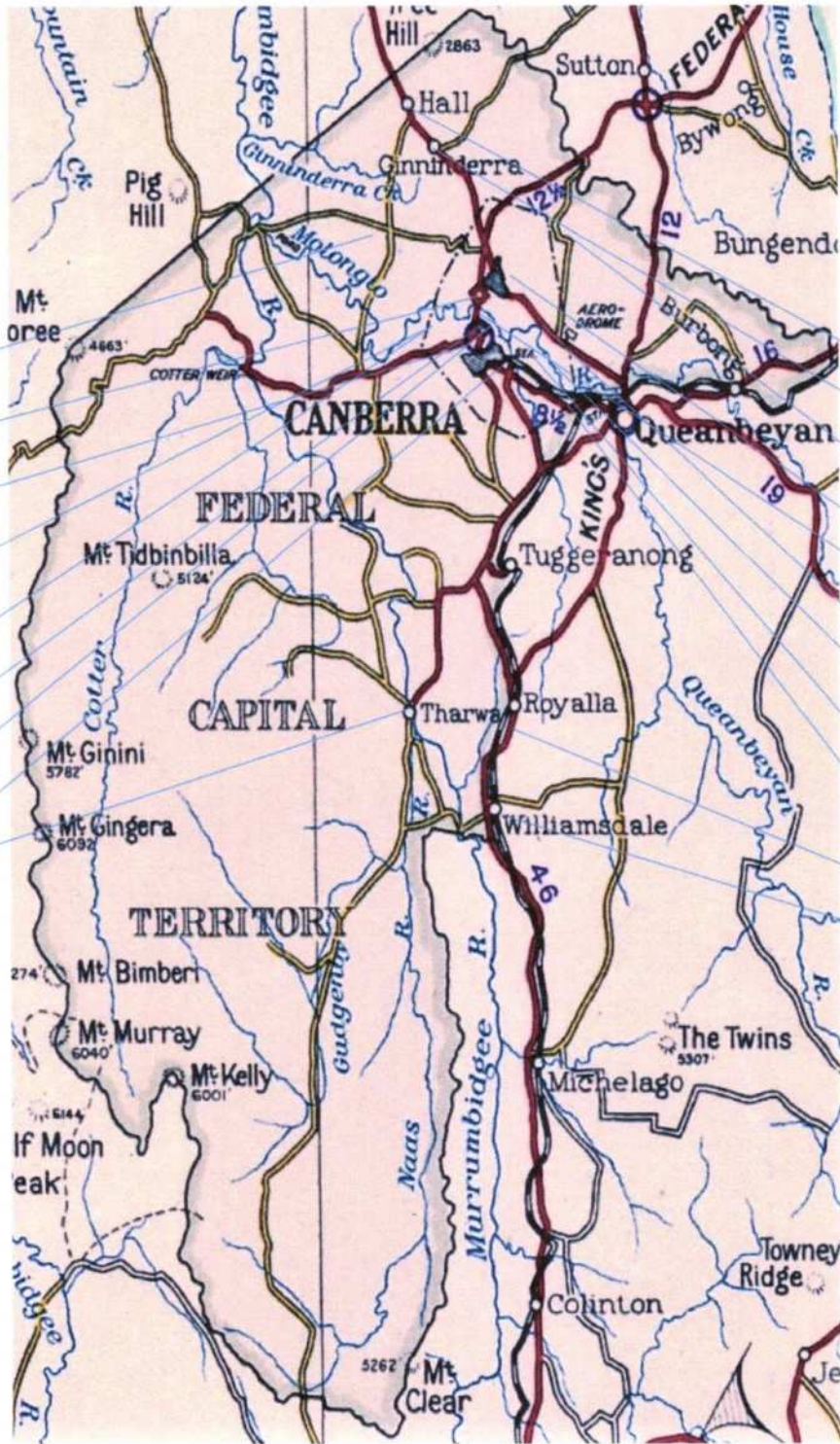
Postmarks in this Exhibit are presented by Post Office of use, the respective offices listed in chronological order of opening. The various postmarks for each office are defined by type, following the general nomenclature of Hopson & Tobin (2).

(1)	GINNINDERRA	P 3.	(8)	ROYALLA	P 5.	(15)	MOLONGLO SETT'MENT	P 9.
(2)	AINSLIE (1)	P 3.	(9)	JERVIS BAY	P 6.	(16)	WEST LAKE	P 10.
(3)	WILLIAMSDALE	P 4.	(10)	CANBERRA (II)	P 6 & 7.	(17)	CANBERRA PARL'T H'SE	P 10 & 11.
(4)	THARWA	P 4.	(11)	FED. TER. BRICKW'KS	P 8.	(18)	CAMP 'D'	P 11.
(5)	HALL	P 4.	(12)	EASTLAKE	P 8.	(19)	CANBERRA EAST	P 12.
(6)	WEETANGERRA	P 5.	(13)	WESTRIDGE	P 9.	(20)	CANBERRA CITY	P 13 & 14.
(7)	MAJURA	P 5.	(14)	DUNTRON	P. 9.	(21)	MANUKA	P 15 & 16.

At the 1933 Census the Territory's total population stood at 8900, 7300 of whom resided in Canberra. The comparatively small population base, particularly outside of Canberra, goes some way to explaining why so many of the Territory's postmarks are classified as scarce to rare. *\* Unique and/or exceedingly rare cancellations displayed in this exhibit are indicated as such in red type.*

### REFERENCES

- (1) Dale, R. C. M & Canberra & District Historical Society (1958), *Postal history of the Australian Capital Territory*. Canberra & District Historical Society, Canberra.
- (2) Hopson, N. C and Tobin, R (1991), *N.S.W. and A.C.T. post, receiving, telegraph & telephone offices: their circular date-stamps and postal history*. N. Hopson & R. Tobin, [Sydney].
- (3) Curtis, Tony. *Sydney Views*, Journal of the Australian States Study Circle, Issue No. 139 May 2018, pages 15-22
- (4) Curtis, Tony. *Australian Journal of Philately*, Australian Philatelic Society, Issue No. 135 March 2016, pages 8-10
- (5) National Archives of Australia – SP 32/1 Series – N.S.W. Post Office Files
- (6) Tim Cowley and Richard Peck (2015), *New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory Reliefs*. Richard Peck, Drummoyne, NSW.



WEETANGERRA  
 CANBERRA  
 CITY  
 WEST LAKE  
 FED. TERRITORY  
 BRICKWORKS  
 WESTRIDGE  
 CAMP 'D'  
 PARL. HOUSE  
 MANUKA  
 THARWA

JERVIS BAY is located approximately 200kms east north east of Canberra on the N.S.W. south coast.

HALL  
 GINNINDERRA  
 MAJURA  
 AINSLIE  
 CANBERRA (II)  
 DUNTROON  
 CANB. EAST  
 EASTLAKE  
 MOLONGLO  
 SETTLEMENT  
 ROYALLA  
 WILLIAMSDALE

The F.C.T. , now the A.C.T., comprises an area of approximately 2358 sq. kms.

Location of Federal Capital Territory Post Offices

Overlaid on an extract from *Department of the Interior, Property and Survey Branch, Tourist map of the Federal Capital Territory 1934,*

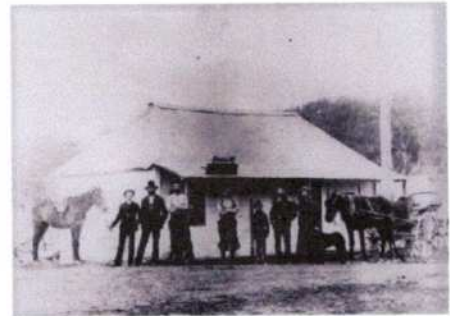
GINNINDERRA (Opened 1 April 1859 - Closed 30 April 1956)

Type 2A dated 16 February 1926.

*A rare example of this postmark.*



The example depicted predates that of Hopson & Tobin's earliest date of use by 9 years and to my knowledge is the earliest recorded example of use of this postmark.



AINSLIE (1) (Changed from Canberra (1) 2 June 1913- Changed to Canberra City 1 January 1939)

Type 2A dated 28 June 1927.



Type 2C dated 2 November 1928. Numeral 2 missing from date & full stops in lieu of arcs.

*Not recorded by Hopson & Tobin - A rare postmark on cover*

The original N.S.W. Type 2A date-stamp was recut to F.C.T in 1927 and the Type 2C issued in the same year. This cover, which was forwarded to RUSSELL HILL was not backstamped at that location, the Office then being a Telephone Office and not designated a post office until 14 June 1929.



**WILLIAMSDALE** (Opened 18 April 1880 - Closed 19 December 1969)

**Type 2A dated 24 July 1937. Not recorded by Hopson & Tobin - Rare postmark**



Recut from previous date-stamp inscribed N.S.W. Hopson & Tobin did not record the Type 2A date-stamp inscribed F.C.T. Period of use believed to have been limited

**THARWA** (Opened 1 February 1882 - Current L.P.O)

**Type 2C dated 28 February 1933.**

**Not recorded by Hopson & Tobin - Rare postmark**



Hopson & Tobin speculated that a Type 2A date-stamp inscribed N.S.W had been recut to F.C.T. I have not sighted examples of either, although a cover dated 1926 exists, type unknown. Tharwa is also known to have used a N.S.W. single letter cut-down relief date-stamp "K" in June 1925.

**HALL** (Opened 1 June 1888 - Current L.P.O)

**Type 2C on cover to Tasmania dated 3 August 1936.**



**Type 1D(i) dated 18 April 1926.**

Recut from earlier N.S.W. date-stamp. Predates H&T by 3 years. A very scarce postmark from this Office.



**WEETANGERRA** (Opened 25 June 1896 - Closed 30 November 1967)

*Type 2C dated 3 July 1936.*

**Not recorded by Hopson & Tobin - A rare postmark**



Hopson & Tobin only recorded a later Type 2C date-stamp inscribed at base A.C.T.

**MAJURA** (Opened 1 August 1898 - Closed 28 February 1958)

*Type 2C dated 2 May 1926.*

*Type 2C dated 28 January 1929.*

*Type 2C dated 22 May 1930.*

*Inscribed C.C.T*

*Inscribed F.C.T*

*Inscribed F.C.T*

**Not recorded by Hopson & Tobin**

**Unique - Only known example.**



**ROYALLA** (Opened 13 November 1905 - Closed 30 June 1971)

*Type 2C dated 1 December 1938.*

**Only recorded date - Very rare postmark**



The late use date and apparent scarcity of this postmark suggests that the date-stamp was one of the last of the Type produced in the Federal Capital Territory and in use for a noticeably short period of time.

**JERVIS BAY** (Opened 12 August 1912 - Current L.P.O)

*Type 2A inscribed FEDERAL TERRITORY on Registered Cover dated 20 July 1934 (Ex Allison).*



Early use of this circular date - stamp, seen between 1934 and 1945. The date-stamp was the only one issued that was inscribed Federal Territory at the base.

**CANBERRA (II)** (Changed from Acton 2 June 1913 - Changed to Queen Victoria Terrace 1 February 1983)

*Type 2A dated 25 November 1925, on Registered cover to Victoria (early use).*



*Newspaper Postage Paid at Canberra dated 7 October 1927.*

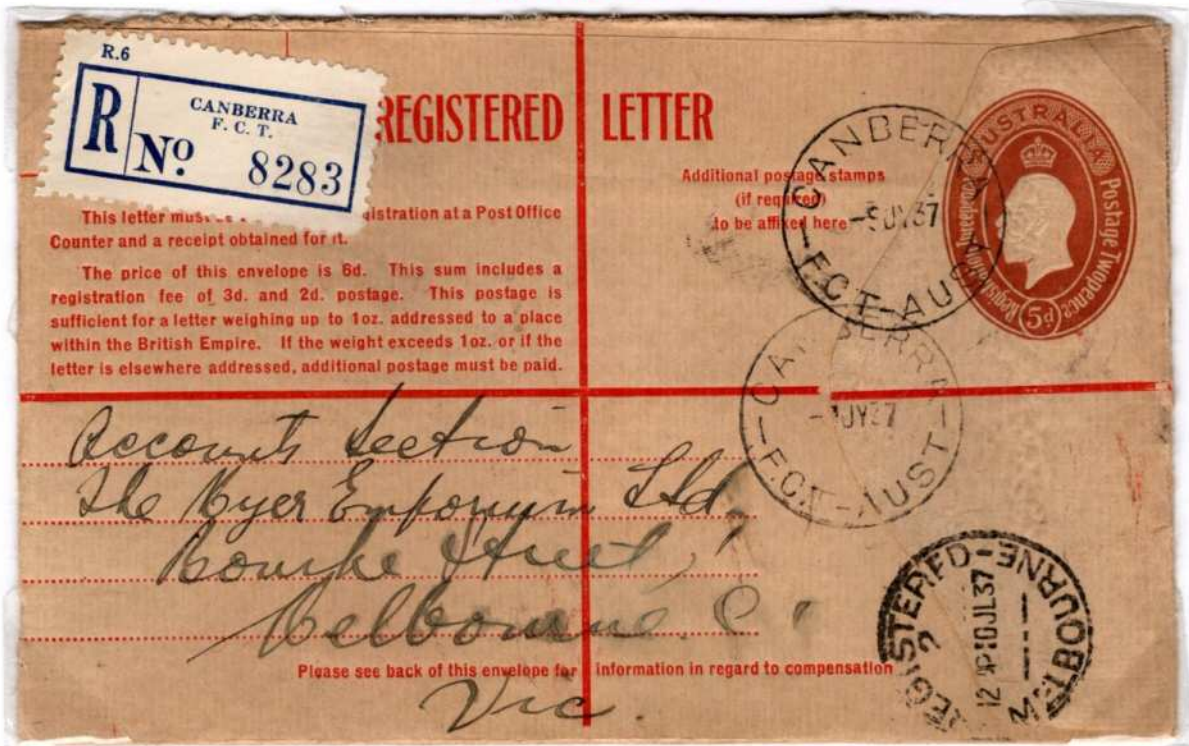


*Postage Paid Canberra dated 13 September 1936.*



Type 3(ii) dated 9 July 1937, on Registered Letter to Victoria.

Not recorded by Hopson & Tobin - Rare postmark



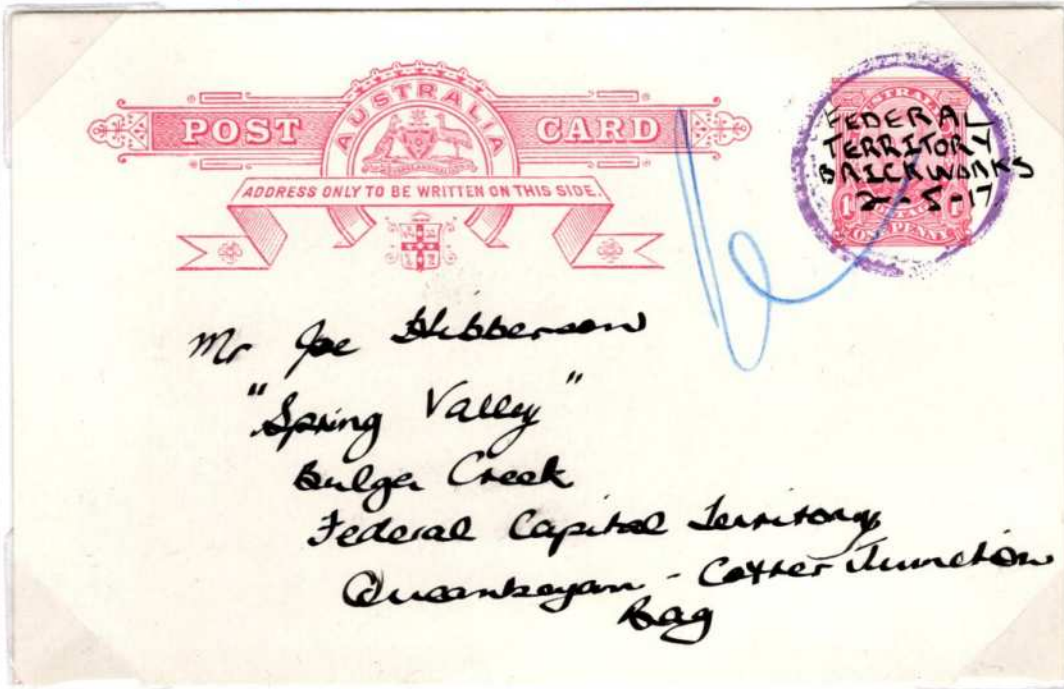
Hopson & Tobin recorded Type 3(ii)T only (with time).

Machine cancellation dated 14 April 1931 together with violet double ring cancellation of same date on Postmaster General's Department cover to U.S.A.



**FEDERAL TERRITORY BRICKWORKS RECEIVING OFFICE** (Opened January 1917 - Changed to West Ridge Receiving Office March 1917)

*Manuscript cancellation 'FEDERAL TERRITORY BRICKWORKS 19-5-17' within 30mm violet handstamp.*  
**Previously unrecorded - Extremely rare postmark**



One of two recorded examples of this unique manuscript cancellation believed to have originated from the predecessor to the Westridge Receiving Office, opened in June 1917. The unapproved Office was likely the result of the applicants pre-empting a formal decision by the P.M. G's Department after initial Ministerial approval of the name was subsequently withdrawn (3).

**EASTLAKE** (Opened 21 March 1917 - Changed to Canberra East 1 January 1929)

Type 2A dated 9 May 1927, on **Scarce** First Day of Issue cover to Bega N.S.W.

The Type 2A date-stamp is the only one that has been recorded as having been used at this office and was recorded in use between 1927 and 1928 only.



**WEST RIDGE** (Opened June 1917 - Changed to Yarralumla (II) 2 March 1953 *Type 2C dated 20 February 1928*)



National Archives of Australia - NAA A7973 INT6

*Recut from earlier date-stamp inscribed N.S.W. Hopson & Tobin did not record any dates. Later recut to A.C.T. and following closure. 'TR' relief.*



**DUNTRON** (Opened 1 September 1917 - P.O.A. 1987 - Closed)

*Type 2C dated 26 July 1926. Type 2C dated 12 November 1927.*



Side arcs substituted with full stops. Postmark recorded between 1926 and 1937 yet is relatively scarce as Office was closed between 31 December 1930 and 1 July 1933.

**MOLONGLO SETTLEMENT** (Opened 30 May 1922 - Closed 30 November 1947)

*Type 2C dated 21 July 1927, on mourning cover to Victoria.*



The Type 2C date-stamp was originally inscribed N.S.W. and in 1925 was recut to C.C.T (Canberra Capital Territory) and then F.C.T. Only the second recorded post office to use C.C.T.



COPY

**WESTLAKE** (Opened 6 April 1925 - Closed 31 May 1955)

*Type 2A dated 11 January 1928.*



Recut from date-stamp inscribed N.S.W. However, Hopson and Tobin did not record any dates for either postmark. Comparatively scarce.

Later recut to A.C.T. and following closure was recut as 'STL' relief.



**CANBERRA PARLIAMENT HOUSE** (Opened late 1926 - Closed 8 May 1988)

*Type 2A 26mm dated 9 May 1927.*



Postmark applied at temporary post office established for the opening of the Provisional Parliament House on 9 May 1927. Office was initially only open during sitting periods of the Parliament.

*Type 2A(T) 31mm dated 17 November 1931, on Registered cover to U.K.*



*Type 2A 30mm inscribed PARL'MT. HOUSE dated 10 December 1937, on cover to Sydney.*



Cancellation recorded in 1937 – 1938 only. Date-stamp was later recut to A.C.T.

**CAMP "D"** (Temporary postal facility opened for approximately 1 week in May 1927 only)

**Double ring violet cancellation dated 9 May 1927. Rare cancellation**



Previously thought to have been used at a military camp associated with the opening of the Provisional Parliament House in Canberra on 9 May 1927, CAMP "D" was in fact a designated civilian camp for interstate camping motorists attending the opening. The facility was operated from two cubicles located on the Western side of No.1 Secretariat Building (4).

CANBERRA EAST (Changed name from Eastlake 1 January 1929 - Name changed to KINGSTON 1 October 1944)

Type 2A 26mm dated 26 June 1936 on Registered cover to Melbourne, Victoria.



Recorded use of date-stamp during period 1932 to 1936.

Type 2C 28mm dated 16 August 1932, on Official local cover FCC to Canberra Hospital, Acton.



Recorded use of date-stamp during the period 1932 to 1937.

CANBERRA CITY (Changed name from AINSLIE (I) early 1929 - Closed 12 April 1984)

Type 2A with no full stops in F C T dated 4 June 1930 on Registered Cover to Scotland



CANBERRA CITY

Type 2C dated 19 June 1929 on cover to South Australia.



Type 2A Single letter cut-down relief, 'A' F.C.T, dated 21 August 1938 - day inverted in dateline. Believed to have been in use at Canberra City Post Office at this time.



Source of the original date-stamp has not been determined and could possibly have been re-cut from an unissued date-stamp or originally engraved as such. The existing Hall, Royalla & Tharwa date-stamps have been discounted. Cowley & Peck do not record any identified office of use (6)

**MANUKA** (Opened 1 May 1935 - Current L.P.O)

**Manuscript cancellation 'Manuka' to double ring violet Canberra Post Office date stamp. Registered item No.1 on opening day (Ex Turley). A unique cancellation.**



1<sup>st</sup> Registration  
Issued.  
Sorry no lower  
numbers  
Bears alteration  
on date stamp  
no proper stamp  
being yet supplied.

Copy of handwritten note in the hand of Manuka Postmistress, Eva Yelland, notifying Mr. Turley that this cover is the 1<sup>st</sup> Registration issued on opening of the Office and that no lower numbers were available. Each of the four Canberra F.C.T cancellations that have been altered in manuscript to read Manuka are also in the hand of Ms Yelland. Copy of rear below.



Type 2C dated 25 November 1936 on Registered Cover to Melbourne



Enlarged copy of rear of cover depicting Type 2C MANUKA F.C.T. cancellation dated 25 November 1936.

