

**Queensland
1d letter card and reply letter card**

Synopsis

This exhibit showcases the Queensland 1d letter cards and reply letter cards that were on sale from May 1911 to about June 1912 for letter cards and until 1917 for reply letter cards.

Treatment

The exhibit shows all known types. This involves differences in stamp electro, stock used (with and without watermark), size, perforation methods and gauge, as well as available used examples and those distributed to the UPU. Significant items are framed in dark red.

Philatelic importance

On 1 May 1911, the letter rate within Australia and to the British Empire was standardized at 1d per half ounce. The Post Office issued 1d 'Australian' postal cards and letter cards for all states, except New South Wales and Queensland, which continued to produce their stationery, as had been the case since Federation. Queensland began to receive the Australian letter cards from June 1912, and it is assumed that local production had ceased.

On 12 October 1912, the PMG wrote the Treasurer to ask him to 'cause the necessary action to be taken to have all postage stamps, postal notes and letter cards for the Commonwealth printed by the Commonwealth Stamp Printer.' [NAA C85 A571, item 12/1595].

Queensland preceded the Commonwealth in printing a 1d reply letter card. The Commonwealth reply cards were only printed in September 1911 and first distributed to Victoria. In October 1911, Queensland received a supply at an unknown but later date, although it still had Queensland reply cards on hand. While the Queensland letter cards were only on issue for about 18 months, considerable variety exists in the cards as described above, producing a fertile field for collecting, research and display.

Plan

The exhibit is arranged under the following headings:

1. Perforated 10
2. CTO Brisbane 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution
3. Perforated 10
4. Mixed perforations 12 x 10
5. Cream stock - Fleur-de-lis watermark
6. Perforated 12 x 10 - on cream stock
7. Perforated 12 x 12
8. Background to the issue of reply letter card
9. Manufacture of the reply letter card
10. Perf 10 - Normal configuration of perforations
11. Perf 10 - Overlapping perforations
12. CTO Brisbane 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution

Perforation of cards

Mach was written about this by the likes of Samuel Dabry, A F Bassett Hull and others. Much has been changed in the years since. If not inaccurate, it is incomplete and sometimes misleading to modern collectors. I have purposely not used these sources for the exhibit.

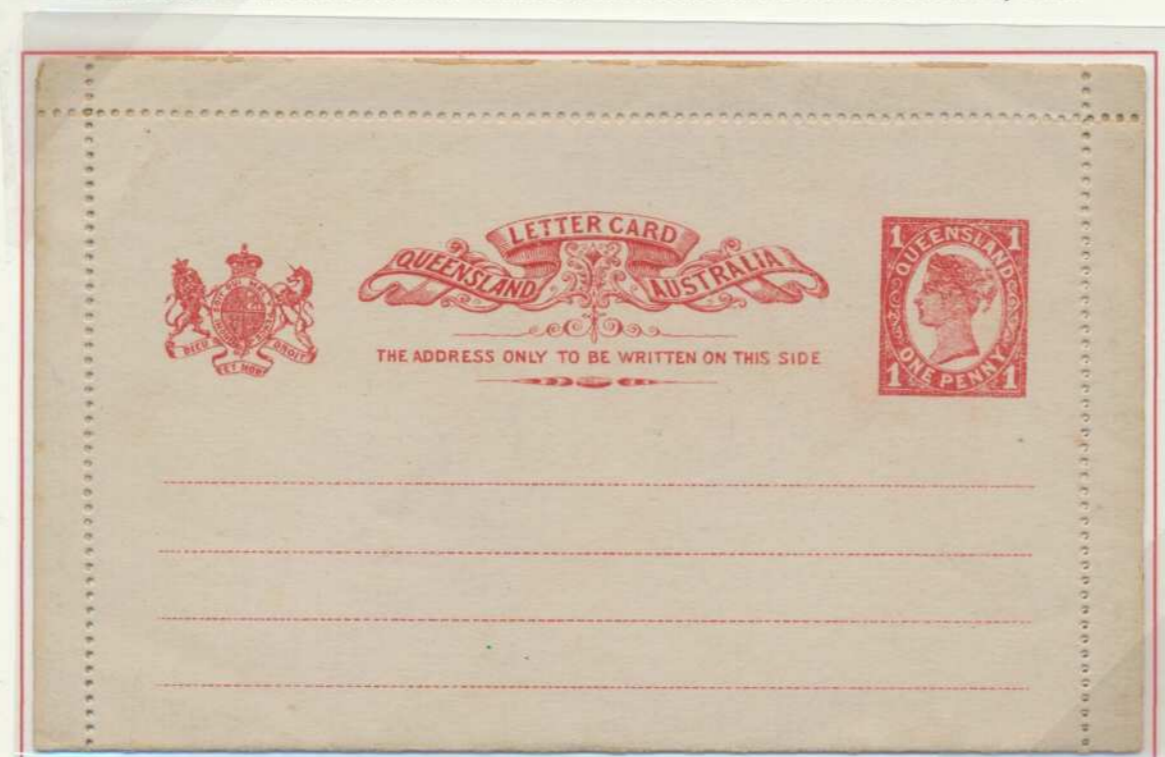
When making a card's perforations, I have used the whole numbers 10 and 12 and refer to the horizontal perforations first. The perforations do not align with available stamp perforation gauges and fall between 10 to 10½ and 10½ and 12½ to 12½.

Bibliography

- Bernie Beston, 'Queensland Lettercards' *Postal Stationery Collector*, February 2002, pp 99-105
- Phil Collins, *Queensland Postal Stationery* (1979) and corrections in *Philately from Australia*, June 1983 pp 38-40 and March 1984 pp 20-21
- Janis Geogh, *The Postal History of the Universal Postal Union The Postal Card Worldwide 1869-1974* Volume 2 Alan Griffiths, *The Postal Stationery of Queensland*, BSNAP (2018)
- Bill Walton, 'Lettercards of Queensland', *Philately from Australia*, September 1988, pp 56-64, December 1988 pp 82-84 and 'A New Sequence Hypothesis for Queensland Letter cards A Summary Update', March 1990 pp 23-25
- Sale of Alan Griffiths' Queensland, Abaco Auctions, Auction 240, 11 March 2020
- Sale of Bernie Beston's Queensland, Leeki Auctions, 27 June 2021

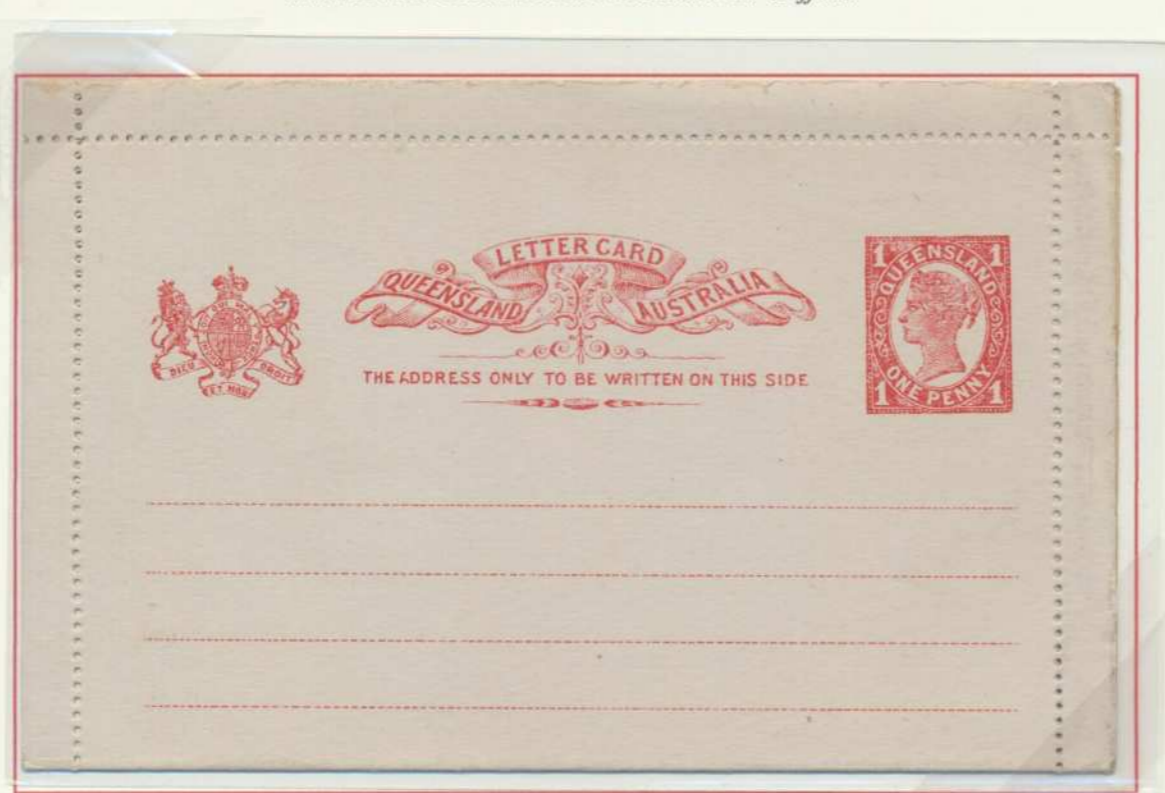
1. Perforated 10 - perforations crossing at the corners

This variety was not recorded by Collas or Walton, but was recorded by Griffiths (2018) and Beston (in 2002) and is a rare card, with less than five known. Within this small number there is a difference in the electro used. The 'old' electro has not been found on any other letter card. It was used on postal cards and woppers. As the perforations cross at the corners, like the previous 2d blue letter card, it is thought to be an early variety of the issue. When the selvage is removed one cannot identify whether it was this variety. It is not known cancelled for UPU distribution (July 1911) so supply of the variety may have been exhausted before then. It has not been recorded on the cream stock but may exist.



With 'old' electro

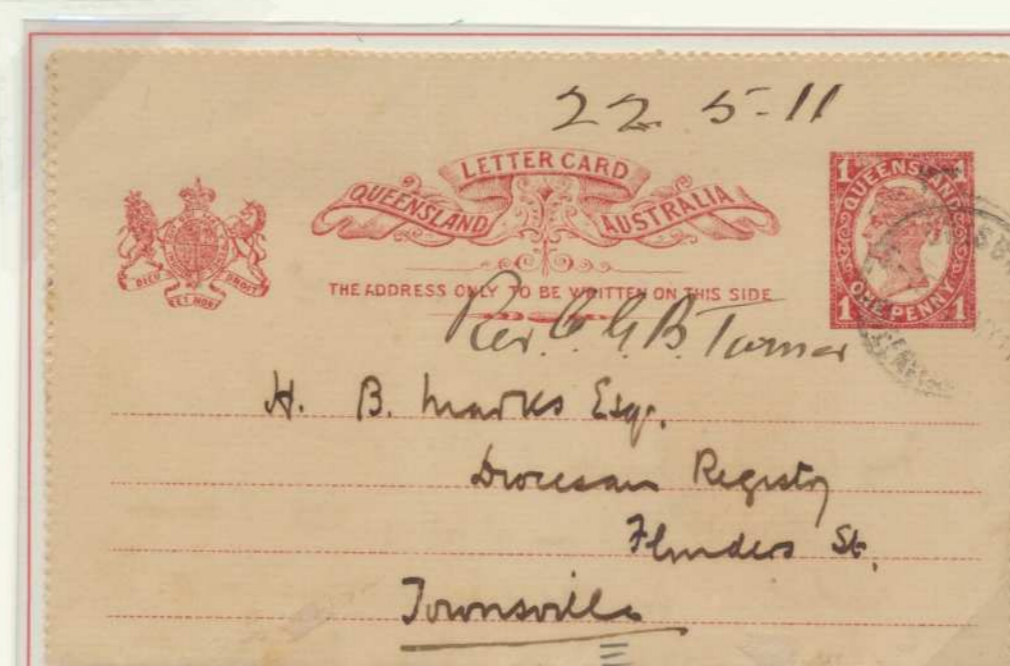
Wmk'd STRATHDEE/FINE, 146x92mm. Ex Griffiths.



With 'normal' electro

No WMK, 144x91mm.

2. Perforated 10



Cream stock. No WMK, 127x82mm without selvage. Intrastrate use on 21 May 1911. Earliest recorded use of a 1d card. As the selvage has been removed one cannot determine if the perforations cross at the corners or not. Ex Beston.



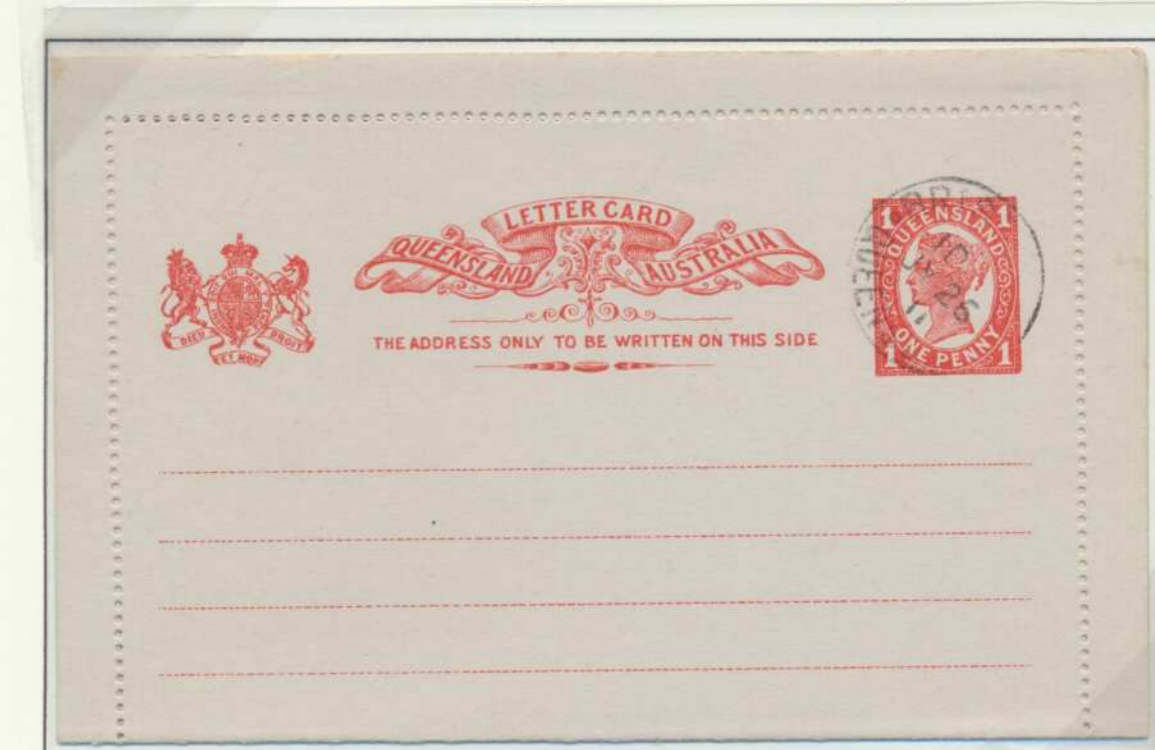
Pale grey stock - which is the norm for the 1d letter card. No WMK, 128x83mm without selvage. Used 30 December 1911 to Egypt. Given the date of use, the perforations were likely to have met and not 'crossed' at the corners. Ex Beston.

**3.1 CTO Brisbane - 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution
Perforated 10**

The letter cards provided to the UPU were all perf 10.



Cream paper. With full STRATHDEE/FINE WMK, 143x91mm. Ex Beston who stated that such a card was not recorded by Walton or Collas and was the only known card.



Pale grey stock. No WMK, 144x91mm.

**3.2 CTO Brisbane - 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution
Perforated 10**

This card, from the Madagascar collection, is unfolded and is the only such card recorded. There must be others, if they were distributed to the UPU unfolded. The back of this card (as shown below) was the same for all 1d letter cards.



Partial STRATHDEE/FINE WMK, 143x182mm (opened out). Ex Beston.

4.1 Mixed perforations - 12 x 10

Normal configuration of perfs, portion of WMK, 145x90mm.



Crossed corner perfs, no WMK, 141x88mm.

4.2 Mixed perforations - 12 x 10



No WMK, 145x89mm. Two crossed corner perfs. Used to Germany on 29 November 1912 and underpaid 1d and taxed accordingly.



No WMK, 142x90mm. With vertical overlap of perfs. Used interstate on 10 May 1912.

4.3 Mixed perforations 12 x 10



WMK STRATHDEE/FINE 127x83 without selvage. Intrastrate usage on 3 Jan 1912.



No WMK, 127x83mm without selvage. Updated to 25½ foreign rate. Used 21 Aug 1912.



No WMK, 123x81mm without selvage. Underpaid 1d for the 2½d foreign rate. Taxed accordingly and 20c stamp applied at destination.

5. Cream stock - Fleur-de-lis watermark

A small supply of laid stock, watermark STRATHDEE/FINE, was also used. This card is perforated 12 x 10, 128x22mm without selvage. Used interstate from Brisbane and cancelled 18 October 1911.



Ex Griffiths.

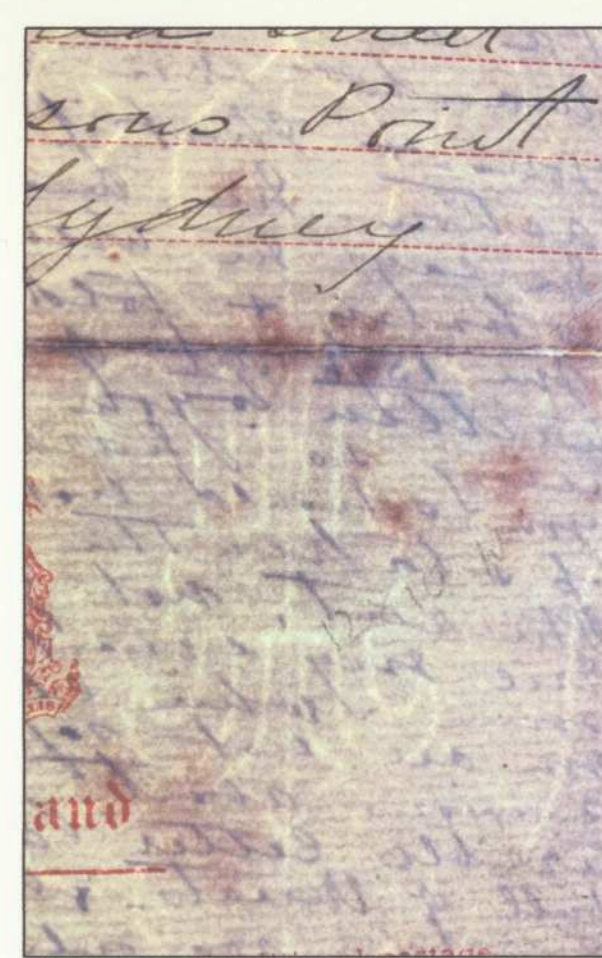


Illustration of the watermark, which Griffiths describes as 'original Monksburn'.

6. Perforated 12 x 10 - on cream stock

Records indicate the first issue of Australian letter cards was made to Queensland in June 1912. Presumably, the Government Printer would have begun to exhaust his supply of cards, which may have included small quantities of older cards not previously perforated. Chalmers is a Brisbane suburb and one would expect normal turnover of postal products.



No WMK, 130x85mm, without selvage. Used 15 May 1912

7. Perforated 12 x 12 - on pale grey stock

Bill Walton (1988) speculated that the single card perf 12 x 12 would eventually be found. It was described by Griffiths in 2018.



No WMK, 126x82mm, without selvage. Used November 1911. Ex Griffiths.

8. Background to the issue of the 1d reply letter card

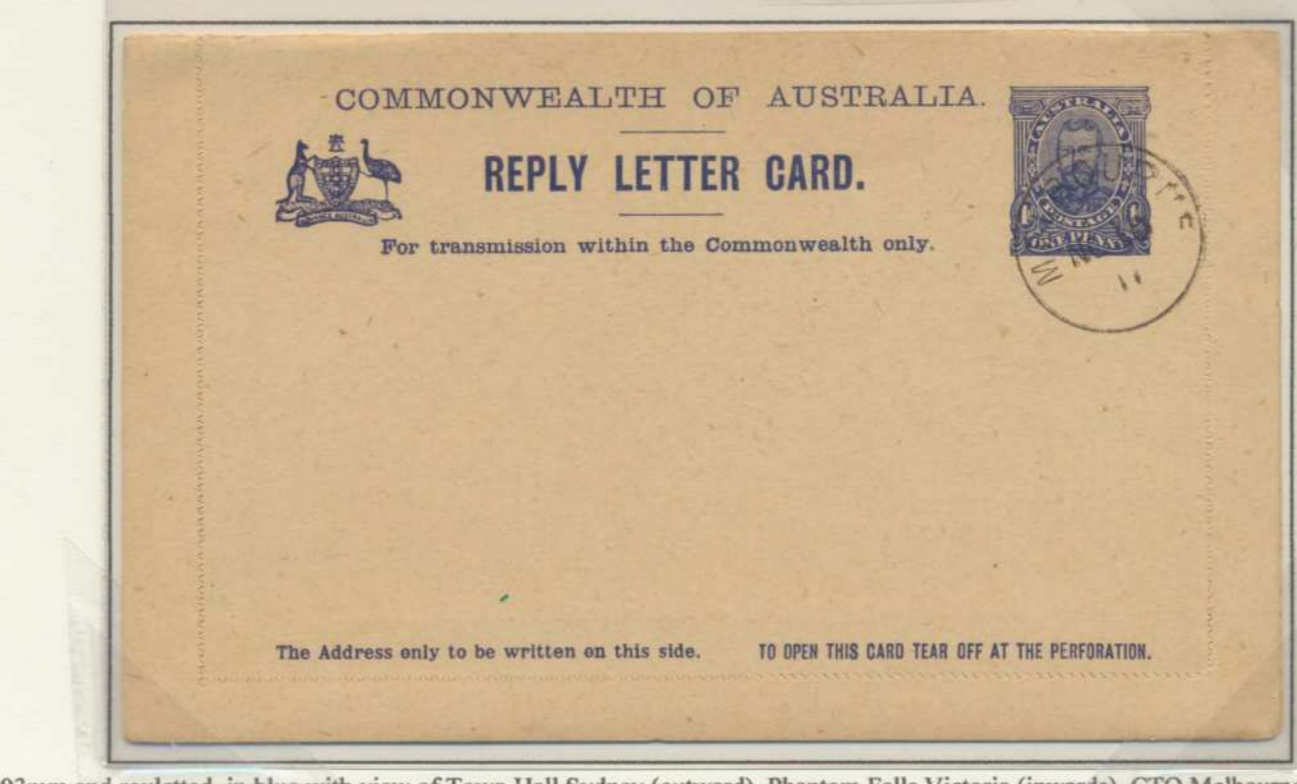
The first reply letter card was produced by Argentina in 1882, followed by France (1894), Madagascar and Salvador (1895), Uruguay (1897), Mexico (1899) and Portugal (1902). In the British Empire, only Queensland and Australia (1911) and Newfoundland (1912) issued them. The concept was rejected at the UPU Vienna Congress in 1891.

The impetus for the manufacture of a Queensland 1d reply letter card appears to be nothing more than its inclusion in the *Postal Rates Act 1910* (C8). The basis for the inclusion remains unknown, although the Post Office was aware of several types of privately printed and commercially available examples, such as the Henry 'Universal' and 'Goodman's Patent'. The Post Office could only be transmitted within the Commonwealth and was never popular. A properly used example of a Queensland outward or inward card is not recorded. About 4,000 cards were produced.

3,030 of the Queensland reply letter cards remained on hand in Brisbane, when in March 1917 the Department decided to recall all reply letter cards, convert them into single cards, return them to the state of origin and sell them at the new price of 5 for 5½d each. The converted Queensland cards were placed on sale at the CPO Brisbane on 28 March 1917.



Portugal and Colonies issued a reply letter card in 1902 or 1903. This is the card issued for Angola. The Queensland and Australian cards are based on this type, 129x80mm, perf 12.



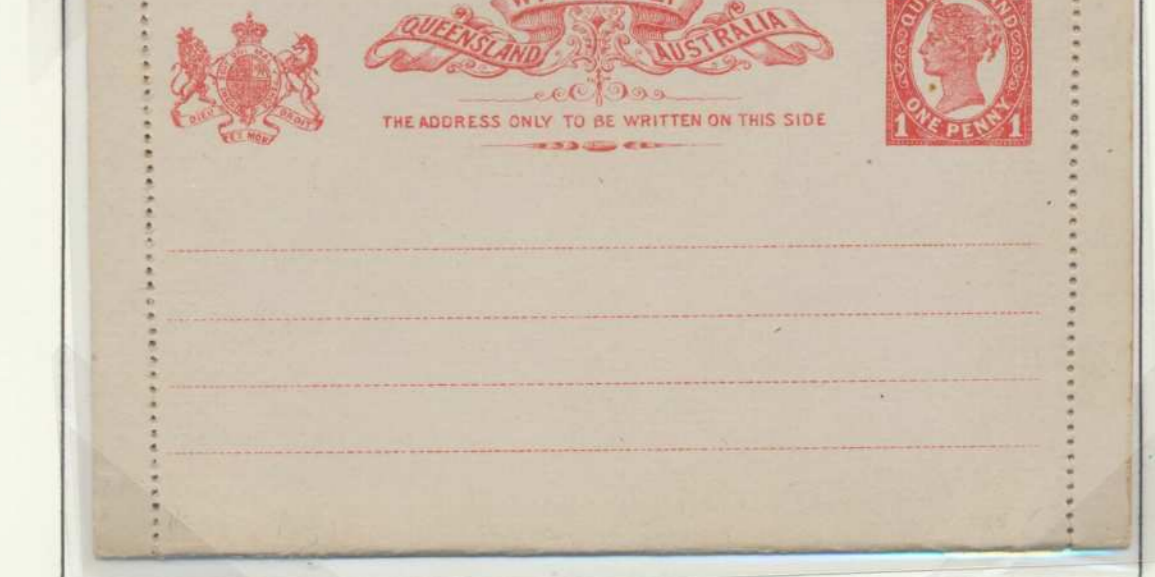
153x91mm and ruled, in blue with view of Town Hall Sydney (outward), Phantom Falls Victoria (inward), CTO Melbourne 11 November 1911, for UPU distribution. The Australian card was issued in October 1911, due to difficulties J B Cooke had with procurement of suitable stock and issues encountered with perforation. While the cards sold for 2d each, they were never popular.

9. Manufacture of the reply letter card

Griffiths describes the 'intricate construction' of the card as "comprising two elements, printed in one operation on one piece of card, with one part - the reply half - cut to fit inside the other. This involved a very complicated series of perforations in conjunction with a guillotine, which enabled the reply card part of the process to be effected".

The complicated process also involved perforating some sides of the card from the back and some from the front and the direction of the perforation can be observed. For example, on the examples below, the perforations at left were done from the back while the others were done from the front. Two perforating gauges - 10 and 12 - were used in the production of the cards. Perf 12 appears to be the scarcer of the two.

Gough comments about the lack of positive reception to the reply letter card in Vienna '91 as "It seems that the technical complexity of printing, perforating and folding such a card was a deterrent for many delegates with normal operations backgrounds as they could imagine many things that could go wrong in the production and sale of it".



Perf 10, 137x88mm.



Perf 12, 138x89mm.

**10.1 Perf 10
Normal configuration of perforations**

138x89mm.



**11. Perf 10
Overlapping perforations**

138x82mm. Griffiths reported one example CTO Brisbane in 1912, with an Australian dealer's address handstamp added to both cards. Beston had one unused example. No overlapping perf 12 card has been discovered. This is a rare card.



12.1 CTO Brisbane 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution.

Unusually, on cream stock/perf 10, with 'S' of STRATHDEE/FINE WMK, 138x89mm. 'Extended' perf at right and not noted by Collas, Walton or Griffiths. Ex Beston. As the card was acquired in this condition it is felt best to display the cards in this way.



12.2 CTO Brisbane 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution.

Below all on the 'normal' light grey stock for the issue. No proper use of an outward or inward card has been discovered and such examples remain among the holy grail of Australian philately. All are 138x89mm.



Perf 10.

Perf 10. With Madagascar collection cancel. Ex Beston.

Perf 12.

Queensland

1d letter card and reply letter card



Synopsis

This exhibit showcases the Queensland 1d letter cards and reply letter cards that were on sale from May 1911 to about June 1912 for letter cards and until 1917 for reply letter cards.

Treatment

The exhibit shows all known types. This involves differences in stamp electros, stock used (with and without watermarks), size, perforation methods and gauge, as well as available used examples and those distributed to the UPU. Significant items are framed in dark red.

Philatelic importance

On 1 May 1911, the letter rate within Australia and to the British Empire was standardised at 1d per half ounce. The Post Office issued 1d 'Australian' postal cards and letter cards for all states, except New South Wales and Queensland, which continued to produce their stationery, as had been the case since Federation. Queensland began to receive the Australian letter cards from June 1912, and it is assumed that local production had ceased.

On 12 October 1912, the PMG wrote the Treasurer to ask him to "*cause the necessary action to be taken to have all postage stamps, postal notes and letter cards for the Commonwealth printed by the Commonwealth Stamp Printer.*" [NAA CRS A571, item 12/15905].

Queensland preceded the Commonwealth in printing a 1d reply letter card. The Commonwealth reply cards were only printed in September 1911 and first distributed to Victoria, in October 1911. Queensland received a supply at an unknown but later date, although it still had Queensland reply cards on hand.

While the Queensland letter cards were only on issue for about 18 months, considerable variety exists in the cards as described above, producing a fertile field for collecting, research and display.

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1. Perforated 10 – perforations crossing at the corners

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4. Mixed perforations 12 x 10
5. Cream stock – Fleur-de-lys watermark
6. Perforated 12 x 10 – on cream stock
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Perforation of cards

Much was written about this by the likes of Samuel Dalby, A F Bassett Hull and others. Much has been challenged in the years since. If not inaccurate, it is incomplete and sometimes misleading to modern collectors. I have purposely not used these sources for the exhibit.

When noting a card's perforations, I have used the whole numbers 10 and 12 and refer to the horizontal perforations first. The perforations do not align with available stamp perforation gauges and fall between 10 to 10¼ and 10½ and 12¼ to 12½.

Bibliography

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1. Perforated 10 - perforations crossing at the corners

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Wmkd STRATHDEE/FINE. 146x92mm. Ex Griffiths.



With 'old' electro



No WMK. 144x91mm.



With 'normal' electro

2. Perforated 10



Cream stock. No WMK. 127x82mm without selvedge. Intrastate use on 21 May 1911. Earliest recorded use of a 1d card. As the selvedge has been removed one cannot determine if the perfs crossed at the corners or not. *Ex Beston.*



Pale grey stock - which is the norm for the 1d letter card. No WMK. 128x83mm without selvedge. Used 30 December 1911 to Egypt. Given the date of use, the perfs were likely to have met and not 'crossed' at the corners. *Ex Beston*

3.1 CTO Brisbane - 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution Perforated 10

The letter cards provided to the UPU were all perf 10.



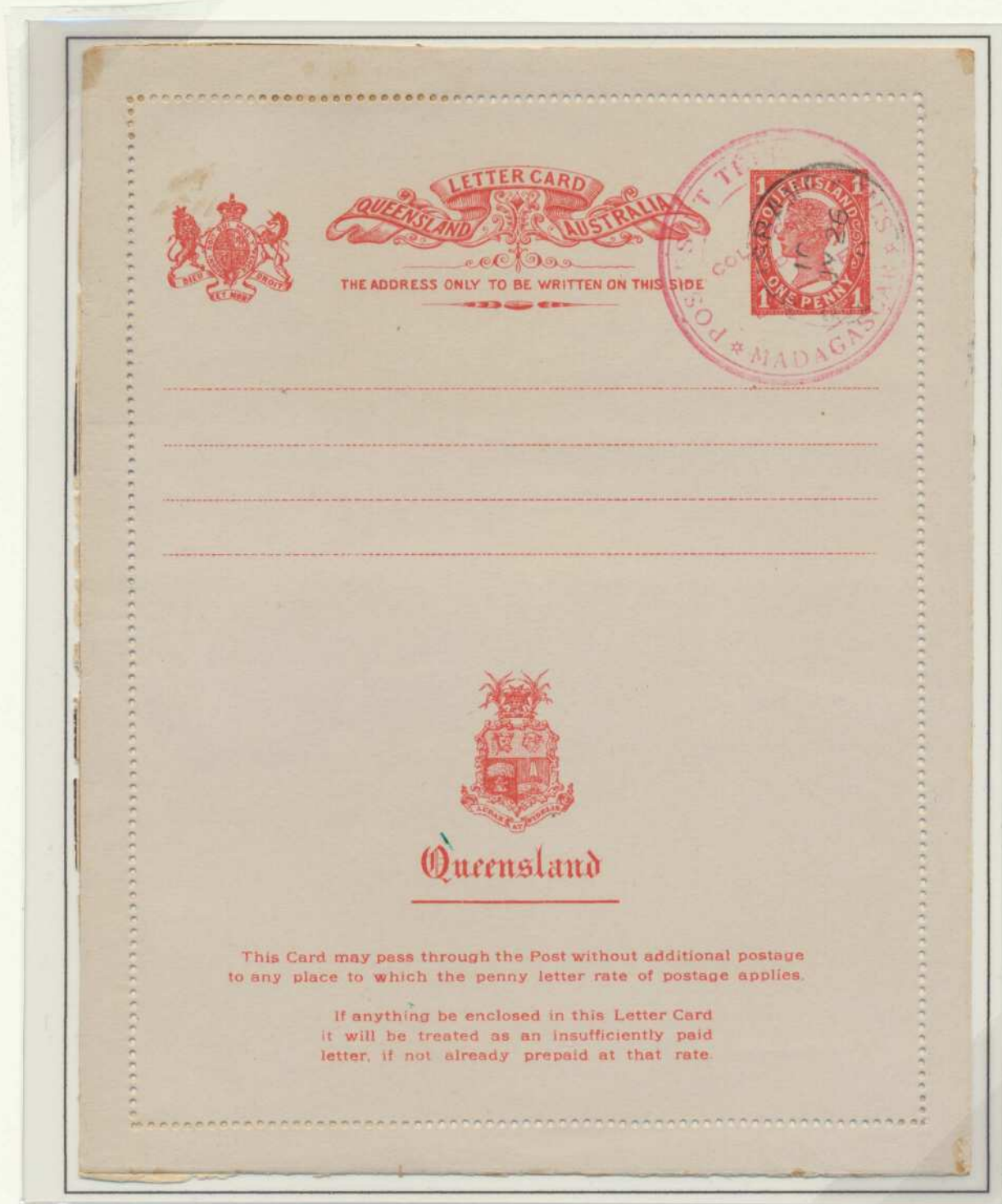
Cream paper. With full STRATHDEE/FINE WMK. 143x91mm. *Ex Beston* who stated that such a card was not recorded by Walton or Collas and was the only known card.



Pale grey stock. No WMK. 144x91mm.

3.2 CTO Brisbane - 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution Perforated 10

This card, from the Madagascar collection, is unfolded and is the only such card recorded. There must be others, if they were distributed to the UPU unfolded. The back of this card (as shown below) was the same for all 1d letter cards.



Partial STRATHDEE/FINE WMK. 143x182mm (opened out). *Ex Beston.*

4.1 Mixed perforations – 12 x 10

Normal configuration of perfs, no WMK, 145x90mm.

Vertical overlap of perfs, portion of WMK, 145x90mm.

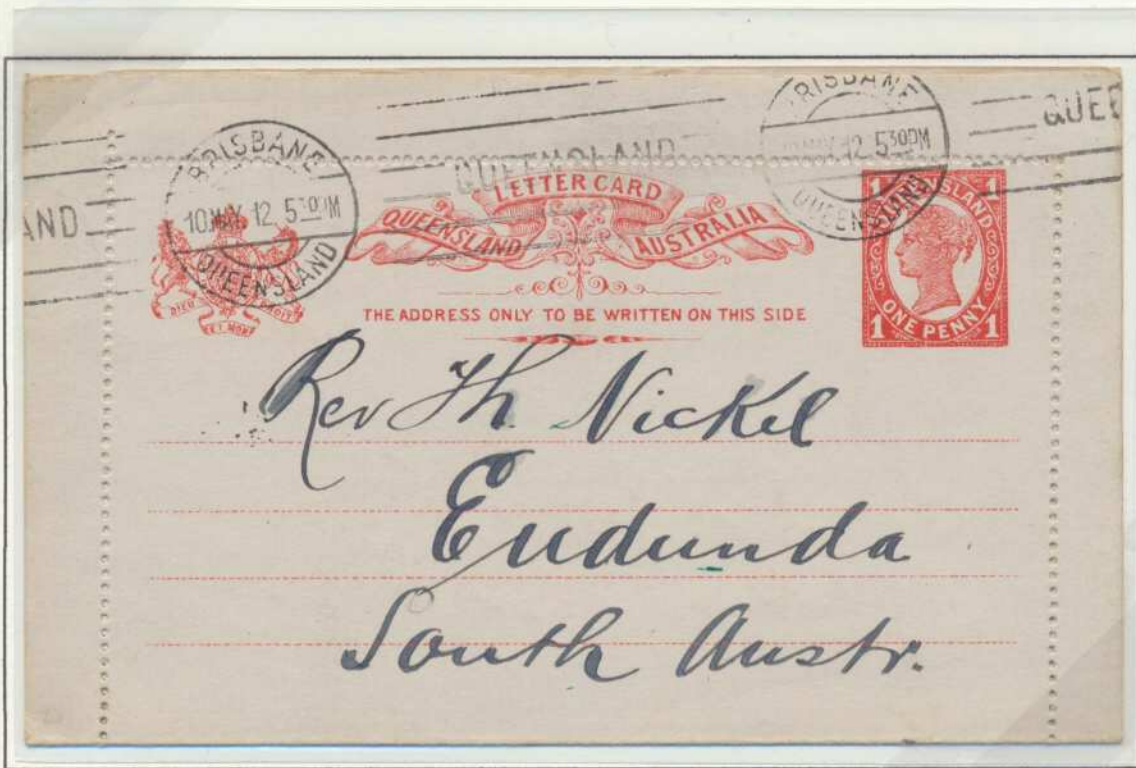


Crossed corner perfs, no WMK, 141x88mm.

4.2 Mixed perforations – 12 x 10



No WMK. 145x89mm. Two crossed corner perfs.
Used to Germany on 29 November 1912 and underpaid 1d and taxed accordingly.



No WMK. 142x90mm. With vertical overlap of perfs. Used interstate on 10 May 1912.

4.3 Mixed perforations
12 x 10



WMK
STRATHDEE/FINE.
127x83 without
selvedge. Interstate
usage on 3 Jan 1912.



No WMK.
127x82mm
without
selvedge.
Up rated to 2½d
foreign rate.
Used 21 Aug
1912.

No WMK. 123x81mm
without selvedge.
Underpaid 1d for the
2½d foreign rate.
Taxed accordingly and
20c stamp applied at
destination.



5. Cream stock - Fleur-de-lys watermark

A small supply of laid stock, not watermarked STRATHDEE/FINE, was also used. This card is perforated 12 x 10. 128x82mm without selvedge. Used interstate from Brisbane and cancelled 18 October 1911.



Ex Griffiths.

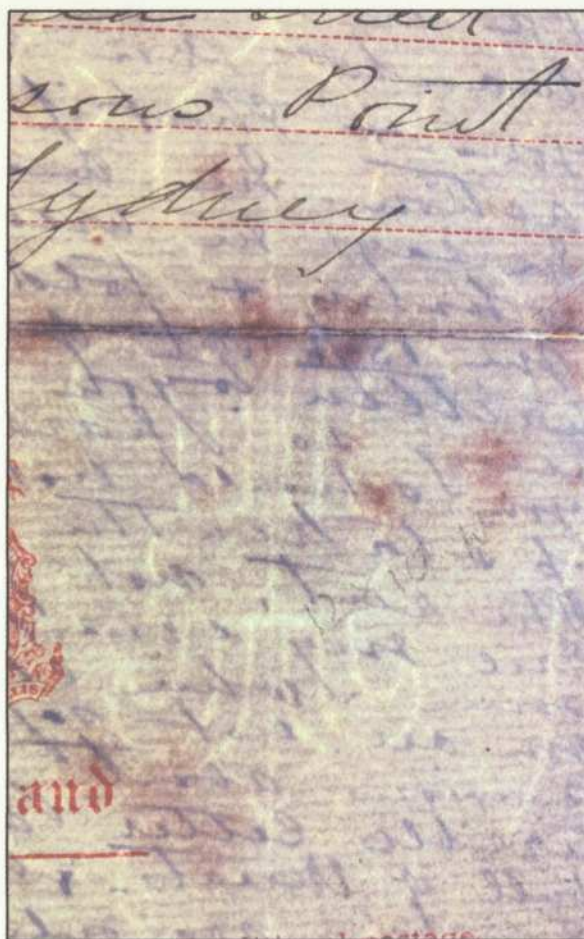


Illustration of the watermark, which Griffiths describes as 'original Monksburn'.

6. Perforated 12 x 10 – on cream stock

Records indicate the first issue of Australian letter cards was made to Queensland in June 1912. Presumably, the Government Printer would have begun to exhaust his supply of cards, which may have included small quantities of older cards not previously perforated. Chelmer is a Brisbane suburb and one would expect normal turnover of postal products.



No WMK. 130x85mm, without selvedge. Used 15 May 1912

7. Perforated 12 x 12 – on pale grey stock

Bill Walton (1988) speculated that the single card perf 12 x 12 would eventually be found. It was described by Griffiths in 2018.



No WMK. 126x82mm, without selvedge. Used November 1911. Ex Griffiths.

8. Background to the issue of the 1d reply letter card

The first reply letter card was produced by Argentina in 1882, followed by France (1894), Madagascar and Salvador (1895), Uruguay (1887), Mexico (1899) and Portugal (1902). In the British Empire, only Queensland and Australia (1911) and Newfoundland (1912) issued them. The concept was rejected at the UPU Vienna Congress in 1891.

The impetus for the manufacture of a Queensland 1d reply letter card appears to be nothing more than its inclusion in the *Postal Rates Act 1910* (Cth). The basis for the inclusion remains unknown, although the Post Office was aware of several types of privately printed and commercially available examples, such as the Henly 'Universal' and 'Goodman's Patent'. The Post Office card could only be transmitted within the Commonwealth and was never popular. A properly used example of a Queensland outward or inward card is not recorded. About 4,000 cards were produced.

3,030 of the Queensland reply letter cards remained on hand in Brisbane, when in March 1917 the Department decided to recall all reply letter cards, convert them into single cards, return them to the state of origin and sell them at the new price of 5 for 5½d each. The converted Queensland cards were placed on sale at the GPO Brisbane on 28 March 1917.



Portugal and Colonies issued a reply letter card in 1902 or 1903. This is the card issued for Angola. The Queensland and Australian cards are based on this type. 129x80mm. Perf 12.



153x93mm and rouletted, in blue with view of Town Hall Sydney (outward), Phantom Falls Victoria (inwards), CTO Melbourne 11 November 1911, for UPU distribution. The Australian card was issued in October 1911, due to difficulties J B Cooke had with procurement of suitable stock and issues encountered with perforation. While the cards sold for 2d each, they were never popular.

9. Manufacture of the reply letter card

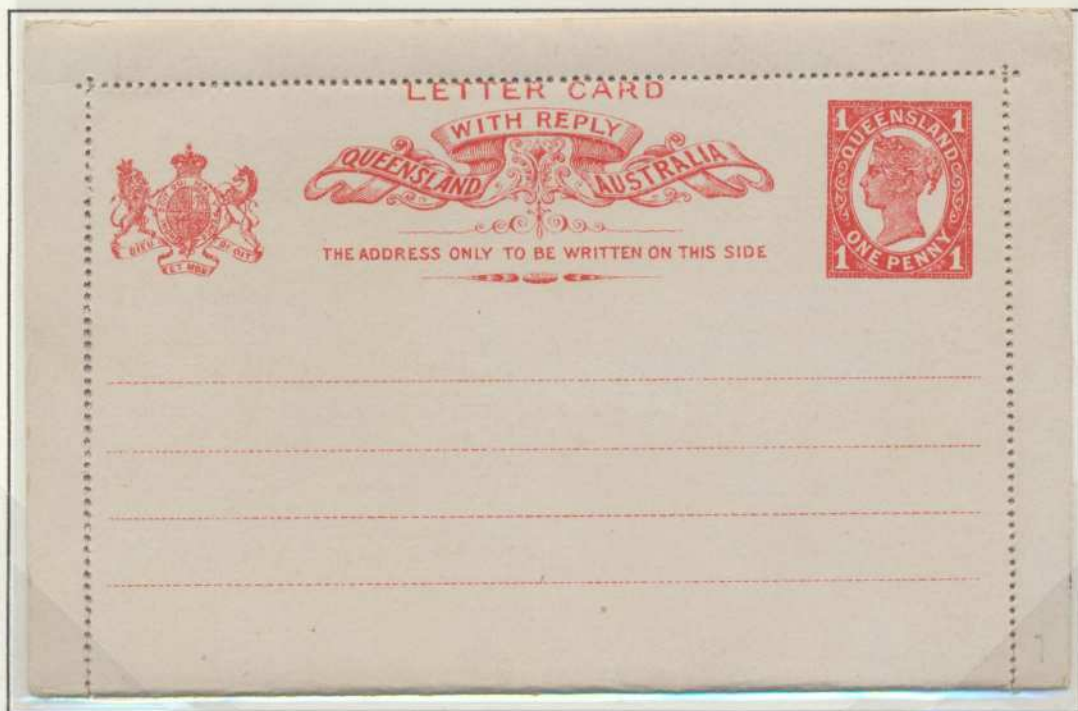
Griffiths describes the 'intricate construction', of the card as "*comprising two elements, printed in one operation on one piece of card, with one part – the reply half – cut to fit inside the other. This involved a very complicated series of perforations in conjunction with a guillotine, which enabled the reply card part of the process to be effected.*"

The complicated process also involved perforating some sides of the card from the back and some from the front and the direction of the puncture can be observed. For example, on the examples below, the perforations at left were done from the back while the others were done from the front. Two perforating gauges - 10 and 12 - were used in the production of the cards. Perf 12 appears to be the scarcer of the two.

Gough comments about the lack of positive reception to the reply letter card at Vienna '91 as "*It seems that the technical complexity of printing, perforating and folding such a card was a deterrent for many delegates with postal operations backgrounds as they could imagine many things that could go wrong in the production and sale...*".



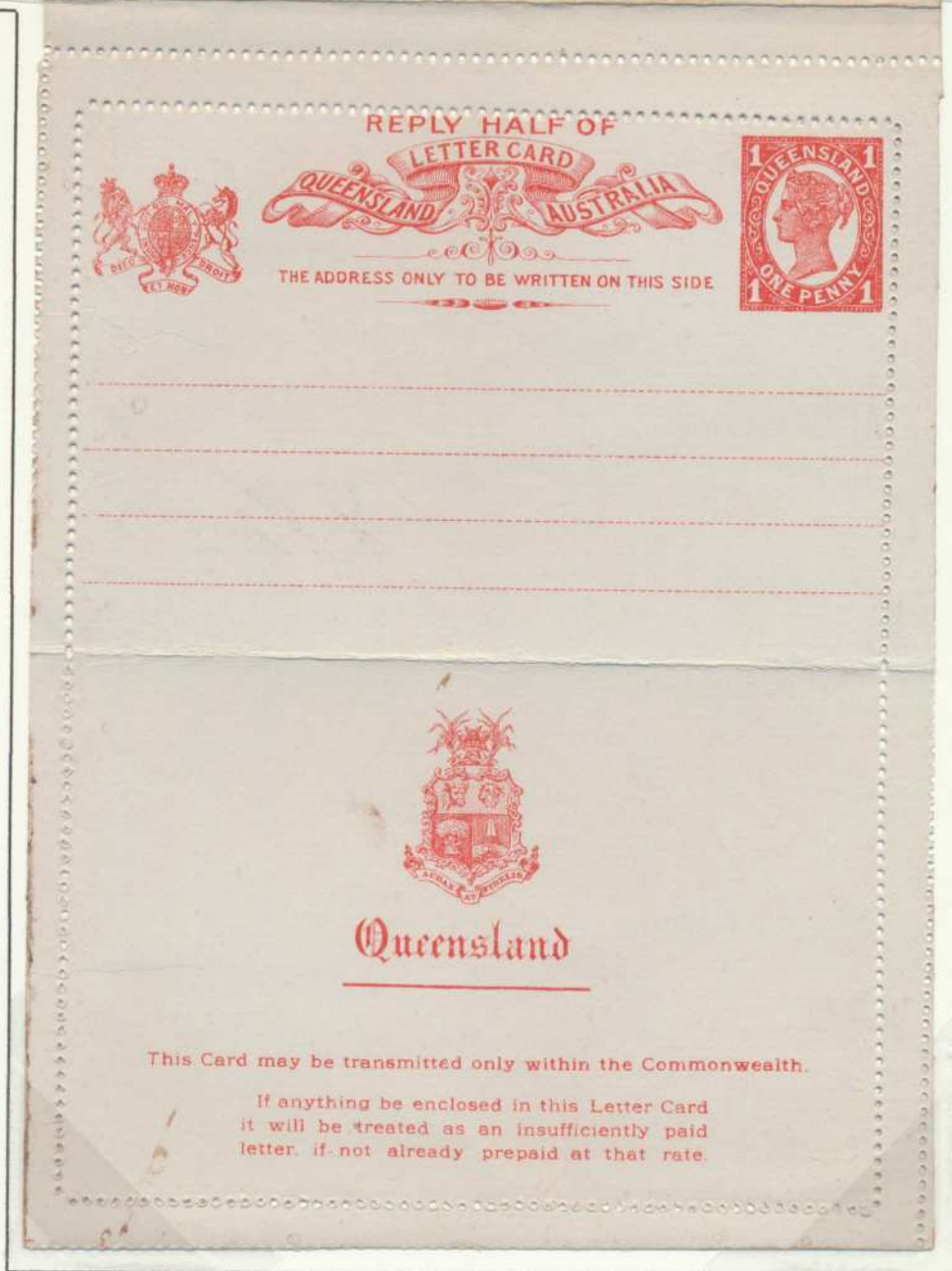
Perf 10. 137x88mm.



Perf 12. 138x89mm.

**10.1 Perf 10
Normal
configuration
of perforations**

138x89mm.

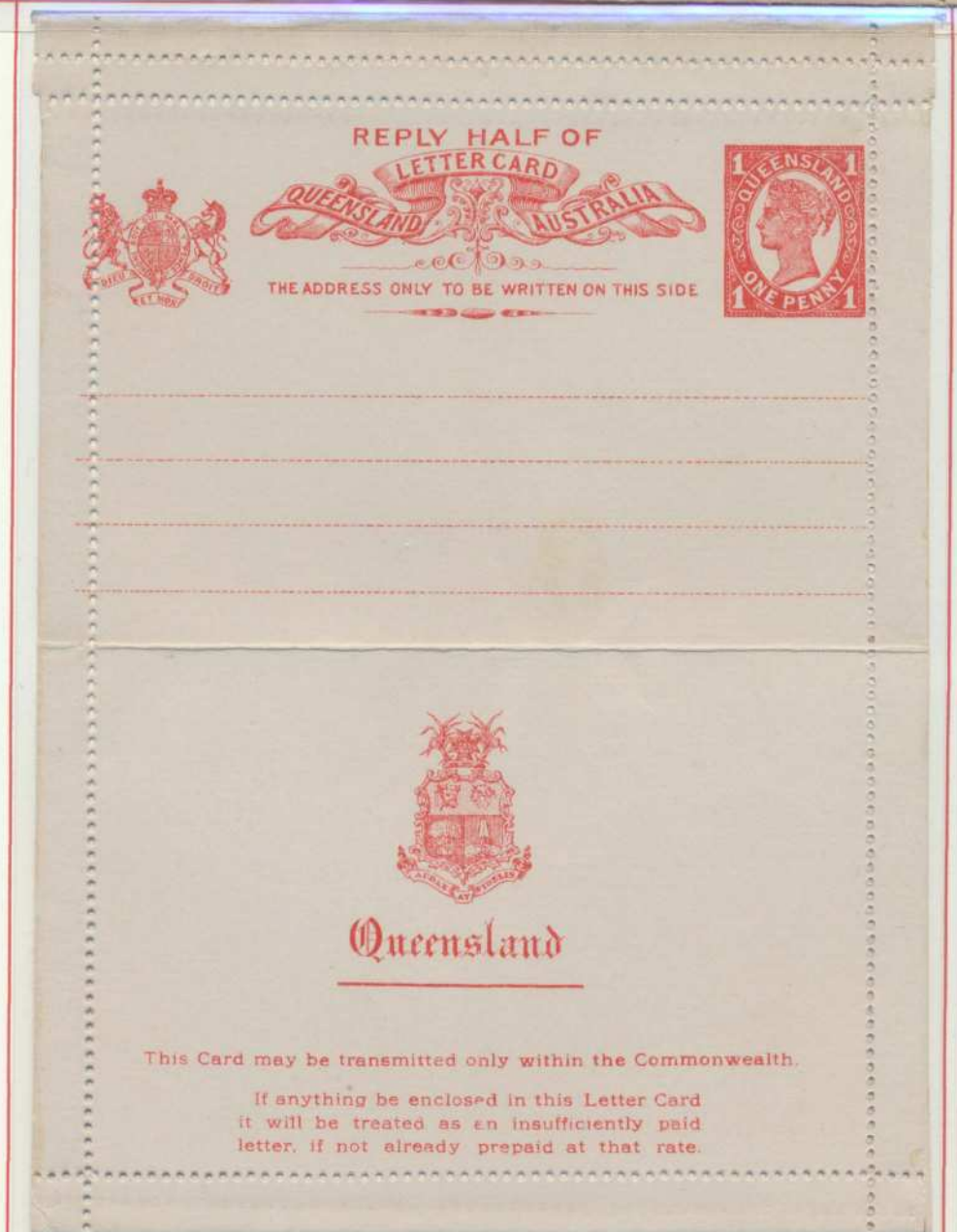


11. Perf 10 Overlapping perforations

138x92mm. Griffiths reported one example CTO Brisbane in 1912, with an Austrian dealer's address handstamp added to both cards. Beston had one unused example.

No overlapping perf 12 card has been discovered.

This is a rare card.



12.1 CTO Brisbane 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution.

Unusually, on cream stock, (perf 10, with 'S' of STRATHDEE/FINE wmk, 138x89mm. 'Extended' perf at right and not noted by Collas, Walton or Griffiths. *Ex Beston*. As the card was acquired in this condition it is felt best to display the cards in this way.



Commonwealth.

12.2 CTO Brisbane 26 July 1911 for UPU distribution.

Below all on the 'normal' light grey stock for the issue. No proper use of an outward or inward card has been discovered and such examples remain among the holy grail of Australian philately. All are 138x89mm.



←
Perf 10.



←
Perf 10.

With
Madagascar
collection
cancel.
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→
Perf 12.