

Cinderella Corner

The Empire Of Atlantium: Early Stamp Issues

Welcome to the June edition of *Cinderella Corner*. Micronations, sometimes referred to as new country projects or model countries, are entities that purport or appear to be sovereign states but are not. They have existed in various parts of the world since the early 19 century. Many have issued stamps which are of curious interest to many philatelists, and offer a wealth of material to the avid cinderella collector. Within Australia, the micronation landscape is rich and diverse, with the oldest, Hutt River, forming in 1970 and dissolving 50 years later in 2020.

Australia's oldest extant micronation is the Empire of Atlantium, which was founded on 27 November 1981 in Sydney. Since 2008 Atlantium has occupied a 0.76 sq kilometre pastoral estate near

Boorowa, New South Wales. Known as the Province of Aurora this is the site of Atlantium's capital, Aurora, and is the location of its Government House, General Post Office and a number of monuments, including a Roman-style commemorative column and 4-metre-tall pyramid. Atlantium counts over 3,500

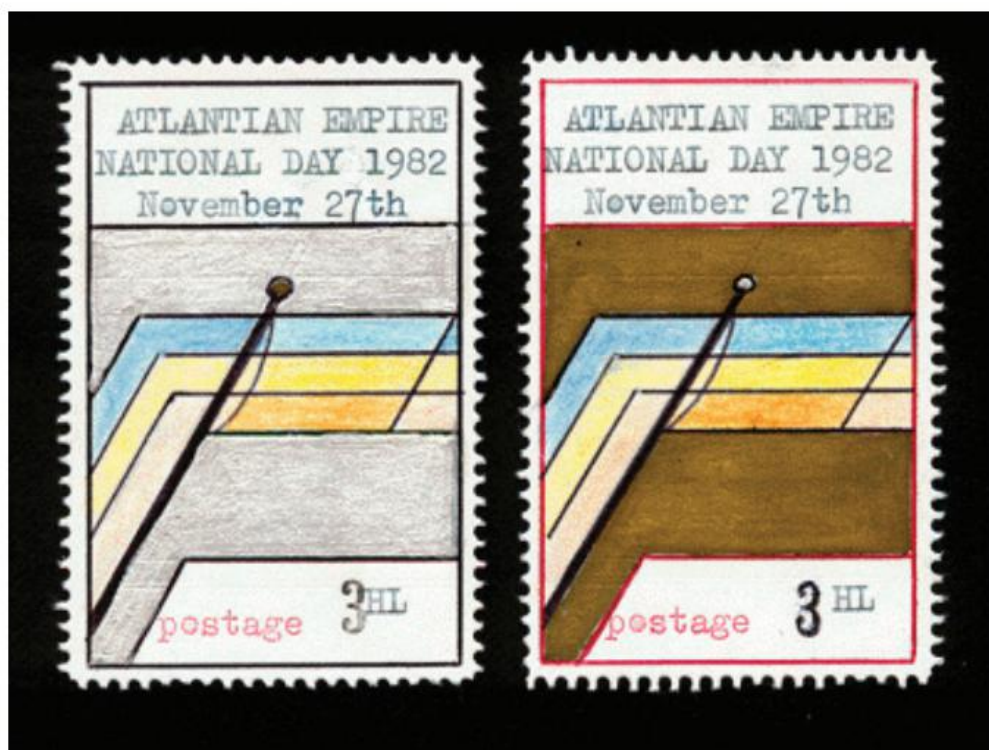


Figure 2



Figure 1

citizens in more than 100 countries.

Earlier Stamp Issues

Recent discussions with George II, Emperor et Primvs Inter Pares and Sovereign Head of State of Atlantium, generated some rigorous discussion on the history of postage stamps issued by Atlantium over the years. These exchanges helped scaffold an understanding of the earlier stamps issued by Atlantium and, ultimately, bring this article to fruition.

Soon after its formation, Atlantium commenced production of postage stamps. Ten different issues were released between 1982 and 1985, with FDCs produced from 1984 onwards. These issues are scarce and are rarely offered for sale. Stamps were issued to affix to mail items between Atlantian Citizens throughout Australia, and minisheets and complete sheets of these early editions were released, too. Many thanks to George II for supplying images of the stamps issued across the first 10 issues, as



Figure 3



Figure 4

explored in this article.

Issue 1

The first issue from Atlantium was released on 8 May 1982. Coloured red, yellow and blue, the cinderella is illustrated in Figure 1. Along with the image of the Atlantium Imperial Flag in motion, the label features the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / postage 1 HL*

Issue 2

Five months after Issue 1's release, two further stamps were produced. The pair, as illustrated in Figure 2, celebrate the Atlantian Empire National Day. They feature central images of the Atlantian flag along with the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE NATIONAL DAY 1982 / November 27th / postage 3HL*

Issue 3

The following year, on 26 October 1983, saw the release of a HIM George II Definitive stamp. Coloured black and white, the label features a central visage of George II along with the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / 1HT postage*

An example of this cinderella is illustrated in

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Figure 3. A few months later, on 7 December 1983, five more stamps were issued with the same design alongside different postage rates and colours. These are illustrated collectively in Figure 4. The 7 December releases also included a pair of minisheets for two of the labels with *Emperor's Birthday* overprints.

Issue 4

To help commemorate the Emperor's Birthday, a fourth stamp issue was released on 30 June 1984. Coloured beige and black, the label features the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / 1984 / 1 POSTAGE HL / EMPEROR'S BIRTHDAY*

A silhouette of the Emperor features centrally on the stamp; an example of the cinderella is illustrated in Figure 5.



Left : Figure 5 Above : Figure 6

Issue 5

A pair of high value stamps was issued on 1 August 1984, as illustrated in Figure 6. Coloured bright yellow and black, and bright red and black, the labels feature the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / 1L POSTAGE* (yellow / black) *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / 3L POSTAGE* (red / black)

Issue 6

A single stamp formed Issue 6 and was also released in 1984, on 10 October. Coloured peach and black, the cinderella, as illustrated in Figure 7, is perforated and features the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / 1HL POSTAGE*

The label was issued to commemorate the 1984 Commemorative Day.

Issue 7

A final stamp was produced in 1984, released to help commemorate Christmas that year. Coloured bright green and black, the cinderella is perforated and features the central image of the Madonna and Child. It includes the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / CHRISTMAS 1984 / 3HL POSTAGE*

An example of this label is illustrated in Figure 8.

Issue 8

To commemorate the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Hutt River Principality, four different square stamps, in two different pairs, were issued on 21 April 1985. Each label is perforated and features



Figures 7 & 8



Above :Figure 9
 Above right : Figure 10
 Right :Figure 11

different ‘scenes’ from Hutt River. Each label also includes the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / HUTT RIVER PROVINCE PRINCIPALITY / 1970 APRIL 21 1985 / 1HL POSTAGE*

The four labels are collectively illustrated in Figure 9. This issue unexpectedly became a source of friction with the governor of the Province of Bumbunga – a micronation in South Australia. These events were widely documented by Bill Hornadge in the pages of *Cinderella Corner* at the time.

Issue 9

A pair of stamps was issued to commemorate the Emperor’s Birthday and the International Youth Year. Coloured pale yellow and black, each label features the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / 1 HL / International Youth Year & Emperor’s Birthday / Postage*

The labels are perforated and feature the year 1985 towards the centre. An example is illustrated in Figure 10.

Issue 10

The final release of the earlier Atlantian stamps explored in this article is represented in Figure 11. Coloured orange and brown, the two labels were issued on 12 December 1985, to commemorate Christmas,



and feature the text: *ATLANTIAN EMPIRE / CHRISTMAS 1985 / POSTAGE 3 HL*

Each is perforated and features images of detailed Christmas engravings.

Conclusion

The Empire of Atlantium has established itself as an enduring presence in the world of Australian micronations. Having released stamps for nearly 40 years, Atlantium’s contribution to Australian philately is sound - and it continues to release stamps, the most recent dating to 2006. While the earlier issues are scarce, later ones are readily available from the Empire of Atlantium website, and remain in use as part of the irregular private local postal service operated by Atlantium between its capital and its metropolitan representative office in the inner Sydney suburb of Marrickville.

Thanks are again extended to Emperor George II for his valued contributions, including the sharing of information and the provision of scans, towards the completion of this article.