

Philatelic Instances *of the* Letter T

One frame study of philatelic items for which the stand-alone use of the letter T is significant. This is distinct from philatelic subjects "beginning with T", and is both more challenging and intrinsically more significant. One or more pages are devoted to Tasmanian perfins, postage due (*taxe perçue*) markings from several countries, British control letters, Papua New Guinea currency designators, and set codes on stamps of the People's Republic of China.

Introductory T Sampler



▲ Belgian provisional dues opt T, 1919



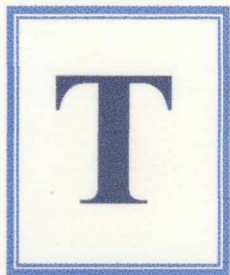
▲ Cut down relief cancel T /NSW, 1934



▲ Tunisia, postage
dues, simulated
perfin T, 1888



◀ Swiss postage stamps paying postage due on piece from France, 1962



A perfin is normally a stamp with one or more *perforated initials*. Official **T** perfins were used by State Government Departments in Tasmania as a security measure during 1902-1913, to deter misuse of postage stamps. These perfins were made with two passes of a 12 gauge perforator, initially comprising 8 holes horizontally and 8 holes vertically. Due to wear and broken pins, in practice several patterns were created, described by horiz × vert hole counts. Also various relative placements and separations of horiz and vert result.



7x8 – 30 Dec 04



7x8 – 16 Jan 06



7x7 – Evandale



7x7 – 16 Jun 03: 1d



8x6 – 6 Dec 04



7x6 – 13 Jun 13



7x5 – 25 May 09



7x7 – 8 Jun 06: 1d



8x7 – 30 Dec 04



7x7 – 6? Nov 07: Claremont



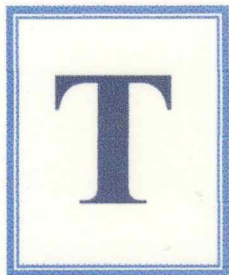
7x7 – Hobart



7x7 – 11 Mar 08



7x7 – 14 Feb 05



T = taxe (French) handstamps have frequently been used to mark mail on which postage is due. The two examples shown here are N.S.W./T/5 in shield, indicating $\frac{1}{2}d = 5$ gold centimes deficiency, on post cards from Australia to France. (In 1905, the correct rate was $1\frac{1}{2}d$, whereas $1d$ paid for British Empire destinations.) The fee was paid in France by 10c postage dues, at "double deficiency". (These post cards were consecutive items in an exchange from K.L. Gower to Mlle M.L. Laurent.)



▲ Waverley, NSW: 21 Sep 1905. NSW/T/5, in shield; boxed *Affranchissement Insuffisant*; French 10c postage due, cds Valence, Rhône, Drôme: 29 Oct 1905

▼ Waverley, NSW: 11 Nov 1905. NSW/T/5, in shield; French 10c postage due, cds Valence, Rhône, Drôme: 16 Dec 1905





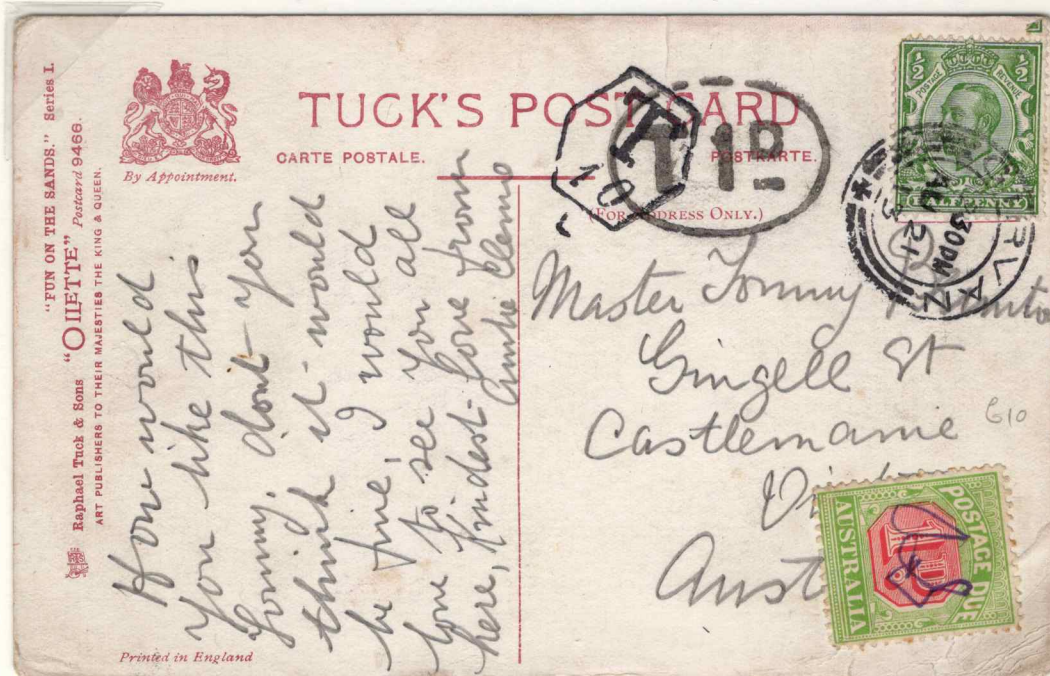
T = tax (French) handstamps have frequently been used to mark mail on which postage is due. (The marking is French, as the principal language of the Universal Postal Union.)

Two postcards between Australia and Britain (one each way), marked postage due. The 1905 card originated in Sydney, where it was assessed 5 gold centimes due, collected as 1d in London after redirection from Petworth. The 1913 card from Girvan, Scotland, was assessed 10 gold centimes in London, collected as 1d in Castlemaine, Vic, receipted by an Australian postage due.



▲ Sydney duplex 11 Apr 1905: black N.S.W./T/5 in shield; Petworth 15 May; 1d F.B. [Foreign Branch]/E, cancelled London, 15 May.

▼ Girvan double ring 21 Aug 1913; hexagonal framed T 10 gold centimes in London; Australian T 1d in oval; 1d postage due, ms cancel.





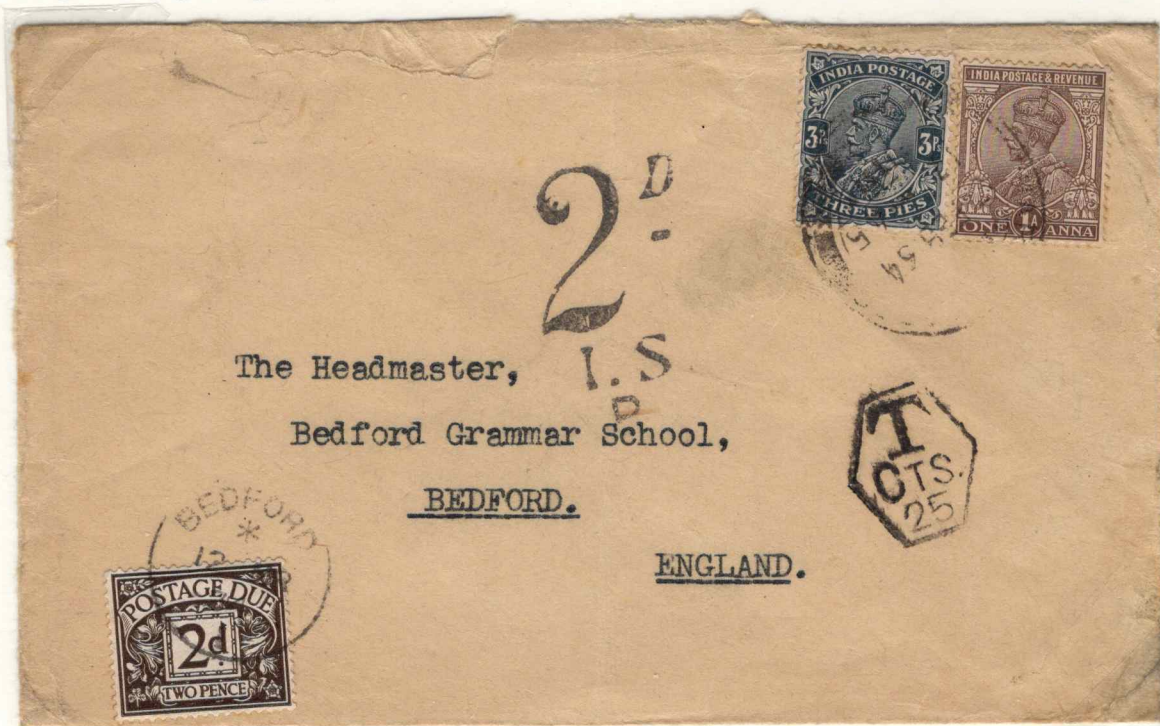
T = taxe (French) handstamps have frequently been used to mark mail on which postage is due. (The marking is French, as the principal language of the Universal Postal Union.)

Postage due was calculated at "double deficiency", equal to twice the underpayment. These foreign origin items mailed to England were hand stamped T for postage due, with assessment specified by large numeral sterling "amount" hand stamps applied in the London **Inland Section** = I.S., each with index letter.



▲ Postcard from Switzerland, 17 Jun 1929: black circled T, Inland Section 1½d I.S./F, paid by postage dues 1d&½d.

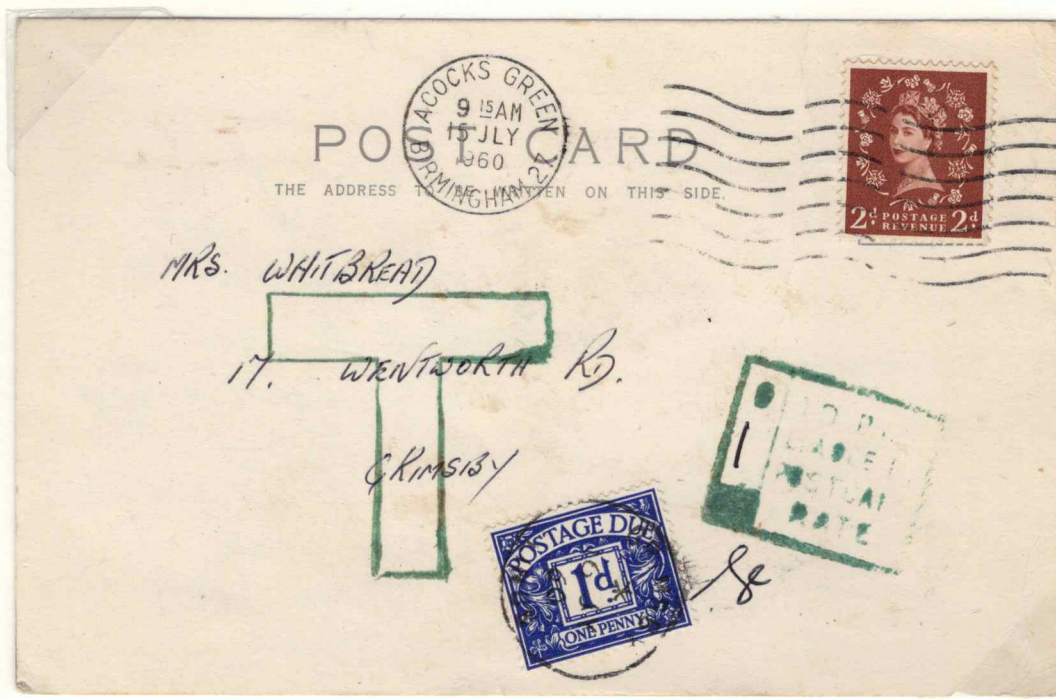
▼ Cover from India, 12 Feb 1934: hexagonal framed T 25 gold centimes, 2d I.S./D, paid by 2d postage due.





T = taxe (French) handstamps have frequently been used to mark mail on which postage is due. (The marking is French, as the principal language of the Universal Postal Union.)

Typically, postage due was calculated at "double deficiency", equal to twice the underpaid amount. These 1960s British postal items to Grimsby were underpaid, and received a large outlined block T postage due marking, with double deficiency postage due paid in Grimsby, receipted with date stamped postage dues.



▲ P.C., 1d To Pay Changed Postal Rate: 15 Jul 1960

Outlined block T, in blue-green

▼ Cover, 6d To Pay: 18 Oct 1960

Outlined block T, in blue-black





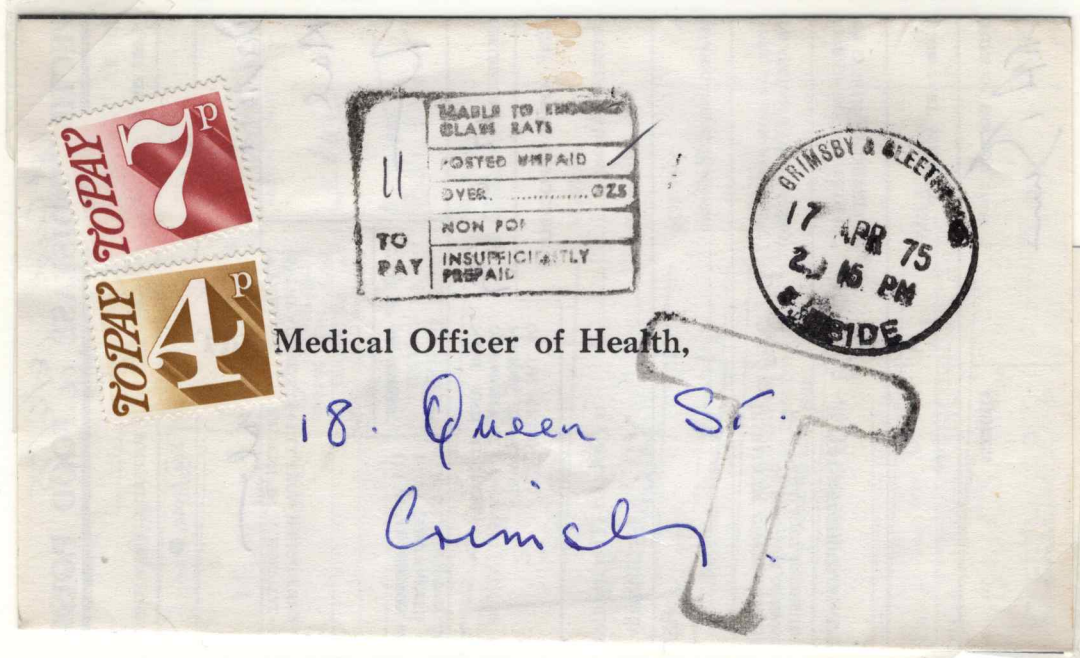
T = taxe (French) handstamps have frequently been used to mark mail on which postage is due. (The marking is French, as the principal language of the Universal Postal Union.)

Postage due was calculated at "double deficiency", equal to twice the underpaid amount. These British postal items to Grimsby, NE Lincolnshire received a large outlined block T postage due marking, with double deficiency postage due paid in Grimsby. Predecimal (1962) and decimal (1975) postage dues shown.



▲ Cover, 1d To Pay, wrongly
"Posted Unpaid": 10 Jul 1962
2x Outlined block T, in blue-green

▼ Folded Infectious Disease Notification,
"Posted Unpaid", 11p due: 17 Apr 1975
Outlined block T, in black





T = taxe (French) handstamps have frequently been used to mark mail on which postage is due. In **Belgium** in 1919, following WWI, a shortage of **postage due** stamps was solved by provisionally applying a hand-stamped T on low face value Albert I definitives. Officially postage dues, the overprinted stamps were originally issued in 1915, early in the German Occupation (4 Aug 1914 – 11 Nov 1918). The overprint also served to deface stamps from an unpopular era of Belgian history.

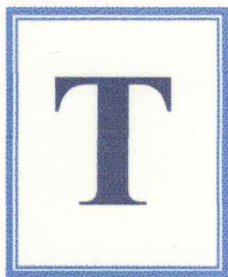


▼ A similar treatment was later applied to the low values of the 1922 issue.

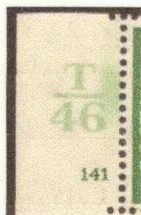


▼ Other countries did similarly. Example: **Hungary**, early 1920s.





Printings of low denomination British definitives had to be made in large quantities, so during 1884–1947 the practice of printing a **control letter** in the margin was used to assist accounting by the printers. The control letters were applied in alphabetical order, recommencing at A with each new monarch. Beginning with C4 in 1904, a number indicating the year was added. Thus KGV1 definitives with **control T46** were printed in 1946. As a quality control measure, a microprinted number beneath the control indicates the cylinder on which the stamps were printed.



T46 ½d
cyl 141 no dot



T46 ½d
cyl 142 dot



T46 1d
cyl 141 no dot



T46 1d
cyl 142 dot





Printings of low denomination British definitives for KGVI were made in large quantities, so during 1936–1947 the practice of printing a **control letter** in the margin was continued, the series recommencing with the letter A. When plates wore and were replaced by new ones, the control letter advanced to the next in the alphabet. The controls were primarily to assist accounting by the printers. A number indicating the printing year was added, so KGVI definitives with **control T46** were printed in 1946. The practice ceased in 1947, as post office staff were often “pestered”



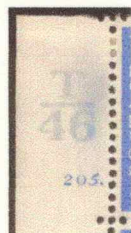
T46 2d
cyl 47 no dot



T46 2d
cyl 47 dot



T46 2½d
cyl 205 no dot



T46 2½d
cyl 205 dot





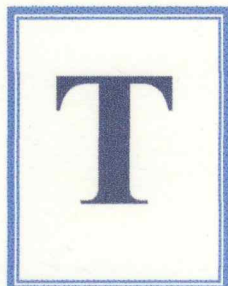
T is the symbol for *toea* [ˈtoʊə], the fractional currency unit of Papua New Guinea. The main currency unit is the *kina*, divided into 100 *toea*. In a Papuan language, *toea* is a piece of shell money. Papua New Guinea became self-governing on 1 Dec 1973, and achieved independence on 16 Sept 1975. In the interim, this new currency (1 *kina* = 100 *toea*) was introduced on 19 April 1975. It superseded Australian currency (1 dollar = 100 cents), replaced at par. Both currencies circulated concurrently until 1 Jan 1976.



1975 Independence: During the currency transition period, stamps showed a numerical value **without an explicit currency unit**.



1981 Kingfishers:
Currency unit *toea* now explicitly specified by **t**.



T is the symbol for *toea* [*toea*], the fractional currency unit of Papua New Guinea. Traditionally, *toea* is a piece of shell money.

After the dual currency period currency, 19 April 1975 – 1 Jan 1976, all stamps showed the currency units **t** = *toea* and **K** = *kina* explicitly.



1981 Land snails: currency unit **t** = *toea*, explicit



1984 Turtles: currency unit **t** = *toea*, explicit

T

The post-Independence stamp issuing policy of Papua New Guinea was moderate, and mostly featured natural history subjects. The anemone fish set shown was issued in 1987. The people were regular users of the postal service, so a substantial supply of inland postage base rate stamps had to be on hand. It occasionally happened that printings lagged behind consumption, so provisional surcharges were needed, some shown here. Surcharged by local printers, quality control was a problem.



In 1992 Papua New Guinea issued a set of Birds of Paradise stamps. The original printing mistakenly used the symbol **T** to denote the fractional currency *toea*, instead of the usual **t**. Noticed by postal authorities, this **T** set was not released. A new **t** printing was ordered, and issued when available. However, leaked **T** copies appeared in the market-place, so the **T** printing was also issued, to forestall speculation. Official investigations resulted.





In 1992 Papua New Guinea issued Birds of Paradise stamps in the denominations 21t, 45t, 60t and 90t. The 21t paid postage on basic inland letters, so was used up relatively fast. When approval of a requested postal rate increase was delayed, more base rate 21t stamps were needed, prompting several printings of provisional surcharges on 45t and 90t Birds of Paradise, both **t** and **T** types being used. More delay required surcharges on two further **T** type printings, showing 1993 or July 1993 as the printing dates. Because the surcharges were hastily printed, quality control was difficult, and both thick and thin surcharges are noted.

1992 Birds of Paradise: thick 21t on **T**



1992 Birds of Paradise: thin 21t on **T**



1992 Birds of Paradise: thick 21t on **t**



1993 Birds of Paradise: thin 21t on **T**

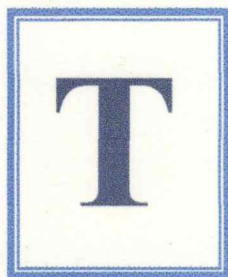


1992 Birds of Paradise: thin 21t on **T**



July 1993 Birds of Paradise: thin 21t on **T**





Since 1970, the People's Republic of China (PRC) has followed the practice of identifying its non-definitive stamp issues with several numbering systems, appearing as microprint in the lower margin of the stamps. This greatly facilitates collecting. During 1974–1991, commemorative sets were designated J (*ji nien*) and special sets T (*te bie*). A total of 168 T-sets were issued during this 18 year period.

Special set T.98, issued in 1984.
The set comprises 8 stamps, designated from 8–1 to 8–8 within the set.



T.98.(8-1)

T.98.(8-2)

T.98.(8-3)

T.98.(8-4)

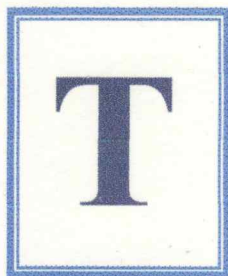


T.98.(8-5)

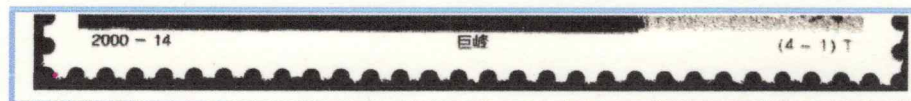
T.98.(8-6)

T.98.(8-7)

T.98.(8-8)



From 1992, the People's Republic of China (PRC) started a new numbering system for its non-definitive stamp issues, appearing as microprint in each stamp's lower margin. The lower left corner records Year – Set Number; the lower right corner records Set Size – Item Number, and set type: J (*ji nien*) for commemorative sets, T (*te bie*) for special sets. Numbering does not count J and T separately; it recommences each year.



Set 14 (of 25) issued in 2000, designated T as a special set. The set comprises 4 stamps, numbered from 4 – 1 to 4 – 4 within the set. The miniature sheet is not separately numbered. However, commercial catalogues do assign a separate number to all five items, e.g. SG 4510–4514.

2000 – 14
(4 – 1) T



2000 – 14
(4 – 2) T



2000 – 14
(4 – 3) T



2000 – 14
(4 – 4) T

