

Varnished cedar writing desk, bought expressly for the GPO Sydney when it opened in 1874

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Physical description

Varnished cedar writing desk with a large drawer above two cupboard doors. Within the large drawer are six smaller ones as well as five compartments. The front of the drawer unlatches via two small brass buttons, to become a flat writing surface inlaid with a leather-look fabric with a floral border motif. Inside the lower cupboard are two shelves. Engraved on the left side of the cabinet around a royal crown is "VR Sep 1874", and on the right is "B5". Both sides have a white sticker with "HF 19 (49)" written in black. Engraved on the front right side is "P154". Carved scrolls are positioned on either side of the cupboard doors. The top of the cabinet is wooden with two glass fronted doors. Carved wooden scrolls are attached on either side of the doors and "VR Sep 1874" is engraved around a royal crown on the lower left side. A white sticker with "HF 19 (49)" written in black is positioned on the lower right side, above a smaller label "Y416 49". The two handles from the large drawer and one handle from one of the smaller drawers have broken off and are contained in the small lower right drawer along with a silver coloured stationery clip.

Statement of significance

This collection consists of 87 items from the New South Wales historical section of Australia Post. The items range from furnishings that were used for the opening of the Sydney GPO in 1874 to telephones, signs, posters, and postal boxes. The material covers a period of over one hundred years of postal service in Australia.

Object information

What

Type	Writing desks
Collection	Australia Post Historical collection
Dimensions	W 1390mm x H 1500mm x D 545mm
Material	Wood , Glass , Metal - non specific , Textile - non specific

When

Date made	Period of use
1873-1874	1874-1999

Who

Maker	User
Alex W Norton, Cabinet Maker, Upholsterer and Commission Agent	Postmaster General's Department

Where

Place made
[Sydney, New South Wales, Australia](#)

Place of use □
[Sydney, New South Wales, Australia](#)
Bought expressly for the opening of the GPO
Sydney in 1874

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