

Australia Post Clarifies "A99" Quantities Sold



28 July 1999

Ms Jenni Gormley
Editor, Australasian Stamps Magazine

Dear Ms Gormley,

There has been speculation in some quarters (*Stamp News*, July 1999) regarding the quantity of Imperforate Navigator Miniature Sheets, and the special "Australia 99" perfin sold by Australia Post.

Suggestions that up to 100,000 sets of the Australia 99 perfin were sold are simply incorrect.

The facts are quite different. Australia Post accounting records show that 30,033 sets of Imperforate Navigator Miniature Sheets have been sold as at 23 July 1999. That includes sales at Australia 99 and through mail order. As for the special Australia 99 perfin, as stated in the *Australian Stamp Bulletin*, Australia Post's policy was that only 15,000 sets of the imperforate sheets would receive the perfin.

Visitors to Australia 99 were to receive the first priority and, if the number of sets perforated at the Expo did not reach 15,000, the balance would be supplied by mail order.

Australia Post records showed that 11,000 sets received the Australia 99 perfin at Australia 99. The balance were sold by mail order.

It is true that, for a few hours during Australia 99, detailed records of the number of sets perfed were not properly maintained. The figure of 11,000 therefore includes a small component of estimate. At **most**, that estimate would change the figure by 200, either higher or lower.

Statements that up to 100,000 sets obtained the Australia 99 perfin are plainly at odds with the facts.

Another way to view the situation is to establish the physical capacity of the perforating machines at Australia 99. It is the physical production capacity of the machine, not the number of people attending the Expo, which is critical to an assessment of how many sheets could have potentially been perforated.

Australia 99 was open for 45 hours, ie 2700 minutes. The physical capacity of the perforating machine, taking into account its propensity to malfunction during the first few days, would be approximately five sets per minute. That produces a total potential output at Australia 99 of 13,500 sets; a figure entirely consistent with our recorded sales of 11,000 sets perforated given that the machine was idle for long periods toward the end of the Expo.

I trust that provision of these facts clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Maiden".

David K Maiden
Manager, Philatelic Group

