TELSTRA $10, $20 PHONECARDS REVERSE ANALYSIS

Conducted (September 2017, with a follow-up in June 2020) as part of an ongoing historical analysis of Telstra's Anritsu Magnetic phonecards by Kevin Harris, Michael Prior and Bruce Sergent for eventual Internet publication at bsergent@iinet.net.au .The work is Copyright and permission must be sought from the above to reproduce, with appropriate acknowledgement. However, all interested parties are encouraged to offer additions, corrections and to make use of the material for related purposes.

DEFINITIONS

Anomalous Coding The value marker on the obverse of the card, and the value of the card calls on the rear of the card, and the presence or absence of 'a' after the card code number on the rear of the card are not all in agreement with each other. (E.g. value marker on the obverse of the card is $10.40, and value of the card calls on the rear of the card is $10.00, and the letter 'a' appears at the end of the card code number).
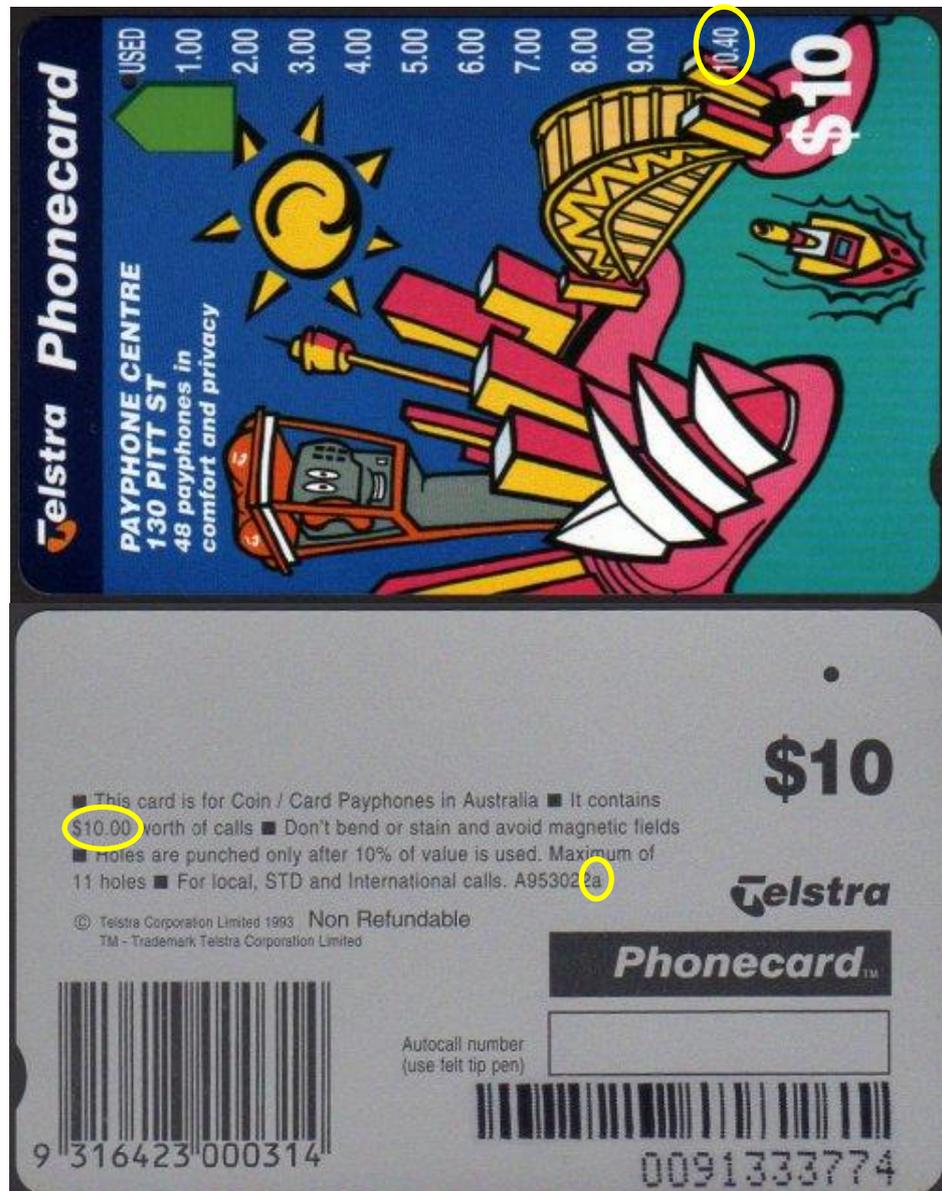
Congruent Coding The value marker on the obverse of the card, and the value of the card calls on the rear of the card, and the presence or absence of 'a' after the card code number on the rear of the card are all in agreement with each other. (E.g. value marker on the obverse of the card is $10.40, and value of the card calls on the rear of the card is $10.40, and the letter 'a' appears at the end of the card code number).

Type 1 Reverse   Reverse Face value on card is narrower font and positioned closer to the logo.
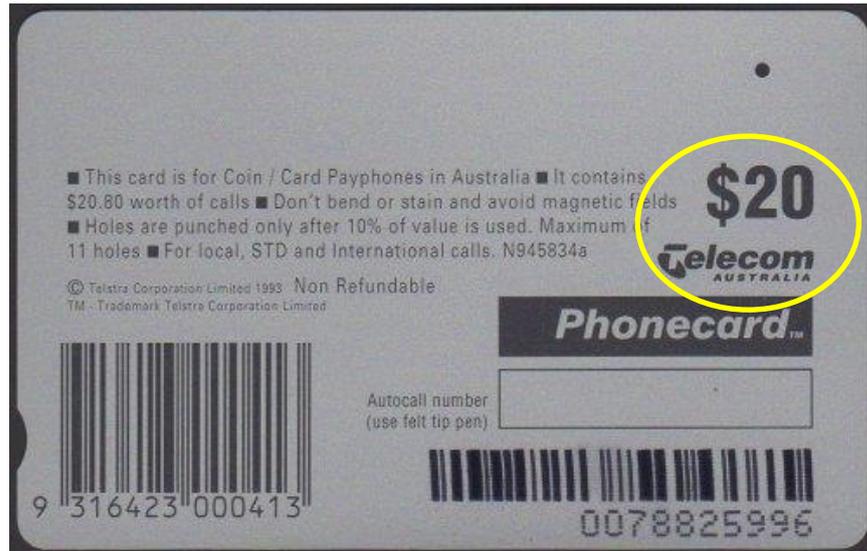

Earlier Type 1 cards produced had the Telecom Australia logos.
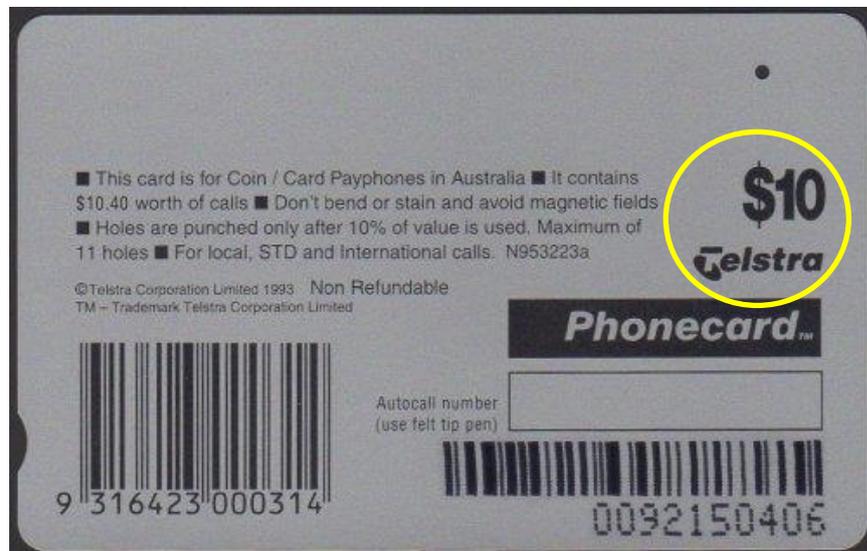
Later Type 1 cards produced had the Telstra logos.

Type 2 Reverse   Reverse Face value on card is wider font and positioned further from the logo.
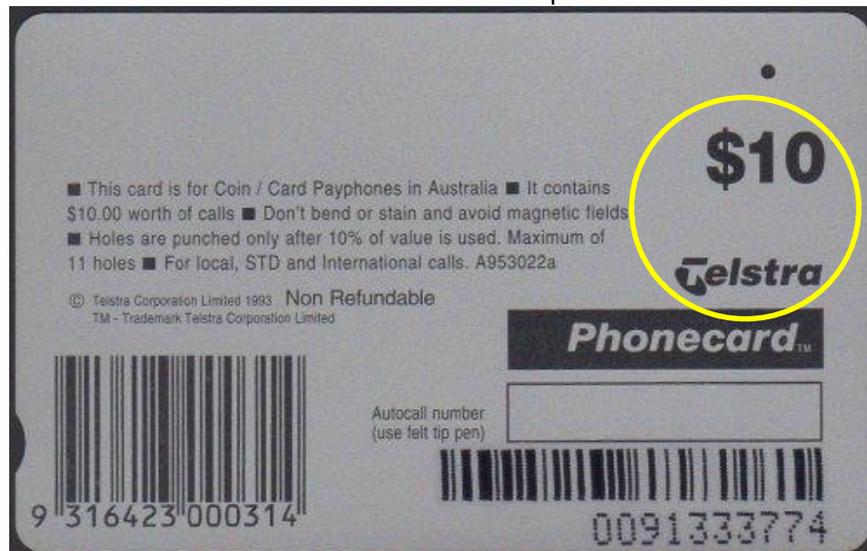
All Type 2 Cards produced only had the Telstra log.

THE BASE OF THE PROBLEM

This study began as a simple search of the Telstra Code for each Anritsu Card produced from and including Batch 287, in order to see if there were any errors or inconsistencies between the values printed on the obverse and reverse of cards. $10 and $20 cards mostly had bonus credit to compensate the purchaser for making an advance payment; and cards which were correctly printed should have shown the following three values:

1) The value markers on the obverse. For $10 cards these went up to $10.40 and for $20 cards they rose to $20.80 (originally higher before calls rose from 30c to 40c).
2) The value of the card calls; printed on the reverse, usually across the first two lines, in the form: 'It contains $10.40 worth of calls.' or 'It contains $20.80 worth of calls'.
3) A small 'a' after the code number to indicate that the card contained bonus credit.

All three should be consistent; and this tended to be almost invariably the case until Telstra produced Batch 913, the $10 Sydney Payphone card A953022a. This was the first of what is referred to as the Type 2 Reverse, most distinguishable by the reverse value marker being printed in a much larger font and considerably more distant in height from the 'Telstra' logo. [Some literature refers to this as 'Type 1', which is considered to be incorrect as the first type was introduced with, and remained constant since, the very early Indigenous Set].

It was commonly thought that, from this point (the issue of 913) on, there were simply two types of reverses. This analysis, however, has now shown that in fact four types of reverses actually followed; two of which are actually anomalous as there is not consistency between all three factors above.

Type 1 - Reverse Types

The Type 1 reverse had very few problems or anomalies; and in only four cases did a Type 1 reverse differ from the standard (i.e. congruent) format employed since its very beginning with the Indigenous set and Prefixes in the high 200s. These four were all $10 Victorian Prison cards; Batches 814, 948, 1096, and 1558 which displayed the anomalous combination of $10.40 on the obverse, 'contains $10 worth of calls' on the reverse, and which were coded C951713a.

BATCH	VALUE $	CODE	DESCRIPTION
814	10	C951713a	Victoria Prison
948	10	C951713a	Victoria Prison
1096	10	C951713a	Victoria Prison
1558	10	C951713a	Victoria Prison

TABLE 1: TYPE 1 $10 and $20 CARDS - ANOMALOUS CODING

Type 2 - Reverse Types

The Type 2 reverse is split between **congruously** coded cards and **anomalously** coded cards. Tables 2 and 3 below collect the Type 2 Reverse $10 and $20 card produced from Batch 913 onward, into their appropriate congruent or anomalous category. Conveniently, it appears that there was only one batch printed for each of the following cards, thus eliminating the need to check for any differences between batches of the same coded card. The Superleague cards are a slight exception as each footballer has a distinct code within Batches 1507 and 1508. One further point should be noted. To suggest there was a single Type 2 reverse, which has been the accepted view, is slightly misleading. Further research carried out in June 2020 has revealed that the font and pointing of the large '$10' varied considerably within the Type 2 cards. It can be seen at its widest on the 1155 Frontline Tank, 1356 Melbourne Park and 1359 Tennis Player; and at its narrowest on 1526 Europa Olgas and 1527 Europa 12 Apostles; while all the other Type 2 cards have a spacing which lies between those extremes. A useful exercise is to compare Prefixes 1155, 1396 and 1526, and the differences will become immediately obvious.   NOTE: All other denominations of Type 2 Cards (e.g. $2, $5 and $50) are **congruously** coded.

BATCH	VALUE $	CODE	DESCRIPTION
913	10	A953022a	Sydney Payphone Centre
1152	10	P962023a	Frontline F18
1153	20	P962034a	Frontline Helicopter
1155	10	P962053a	Frontline Tank
1222	10	A963923a	96 Olympian Welcome Home
1223	20	A963934a	96 Olympian Welcome Home
1287	10	C964613a	Independence Day
1310	10	P965613a	Retravision Panasonic
1356	10	P967333a	Tennis: Melbourne Park
1357	20	P967354a	Tennis: Melbourne Park
1359	10	P967343a	Tennis player
1363 LE	10	L966733a	WW11 Fighter: Messerschmitt
1364 LE	20	L966744a	WW11 Fighter: Zero
1396	10	P970823a	Frontline Airforce F111
1397	10	P970833a	Frontline Army soldier
1401	10	A971133a	Timezone red car
1402	10	A971143a	Timezone rally car
1419	10	C970733a	Portfolio pyramids
1420	10	C970723a	Portfolio Easter Island
1421	10	C970713a	Portfolio Great Wall of China
1422	10	C970743a	Portfolio Mt Rushmore
1423	10	C970753a	Portfolio Stonehenge
1427	20	A971154a	Timezone mural
1484	10	A973433a	Banknote
1485	20	A973444a	Banknote
1501 LE	10	L973733a	Vintage car: Delarge
1502 LE	20	L973744	Vintage car: Bentley
1507	10	P974333a	Superleague: Laurie Daley
1507	10	P974323a	Superleague: Bradley Clyde
1508	10	P974623a	Superleague: Steve Kearney
1508	10	P974633a	Superleague: Matthew Ridge
1508	10	P974723a	Superleague: Noel Goldthorpe

1508	10	P974733a	Superleague: Tony Iro
1526	10	I9754443a	Europa Olgas **NOTE**: wrong obverse value markers
1527	10	I975453a	Europa 12 Apostles

TABLE 2: TYPE 2 $10 and $20 CARDS - ANOMALOUS CODING

BATCH	VALUE $	CODE	DESCRIPTION
954	10	G954134a	Christmas 1995 Blue Heeler
955	20	G954134a	Christmas 1995 Cake
964	10	N954423a	Christmas 1995 Beach
967	20	N954434a	Christmas 1995 Hatrack
970 LE	10	L954423a	Christmas 1995 Beach LE
971 LE	20	L954434a	Christmas 1995 Hatrack LE
1327	10	A966313a	International Day Disabled Persons
1442 LE	10	L971233a	Rock Fishing LE
1443 LE	20	L971244a	Family Fishing LE

TABLE 3: TYPE 2 $10 and $20 CARDS - CONGRUENT CODING

FINAL NOTES

As with all investigations, as each question is answered more questions arise. Three that seem pertinent here are:

1) What is the full story behind the introduction of a second reverse at 913 in the Sydney Payphones set 911, 913, overflow 912 card? Apart from the Bookmunchers, this is possibly the most interesting set among the Anritsus. It is the only set which has different Telstra logos on the two obverses and on the two reverses.

2) How did the Timezone muddle come about? In its first printing it contained 5 face cards (Batches 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402 and 1427) each of which had two different reverses. The only other card to exhibit this is the Batch 284 (copyright / no copyright) $20 Barrier Reef.

3) Anomalous printings have now been revealed, wherein some printed information indicates the card was worth $10 (or $20) worth of calls, while other printed information on the same card indicates the card was worth $10.40 (or $20.80) worth of calls. BUT HOW MUCH WAS THE ACTUAL CARD REALLY CODED WITH? (Did the two Timezones actually give you different call amounts when put in a pay phone?).