

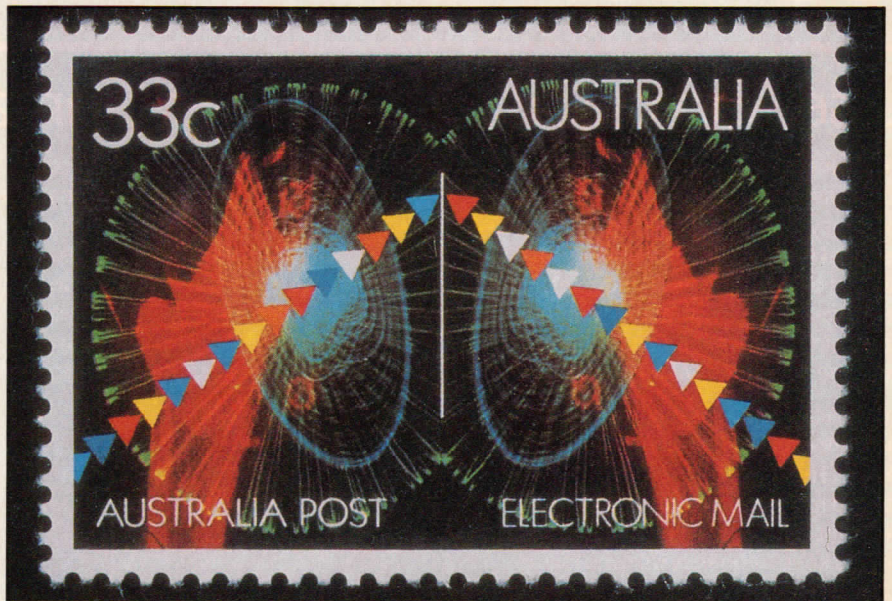
# International News

## Artist Produces First Laser Stamp Design

The Australia Post has issued a stamp designed with lasers to commemorate its new electronic mail service. The 33 cent stamp, issued September 18, features a design created with lasers, a first in the history of stamp publishing according to artist J.S. Ostoja-Kotkowski. Ostoja used an antenna dish motif for the stamp as symbolic of the transmission and reception of information.

Working at the Quentron Art Laboratory, Adelaide, South Australia, Ostoja used a krypton laser to produce the red shapes and a split argon-ion beam at 488 and 514.5 nanometers for the blue disk and greenish circular shapes, respectively. The laser images were produced using mechanical and electronic x-y axis scanners, similar to an oscilloscope, and special optics. The moving images, about 200 square feet in size, were projected onto a screen and photographed. Then a split image was produced by montage and collage triangles were applied to the photograph for the final design.

Ostoja has been using lasers since

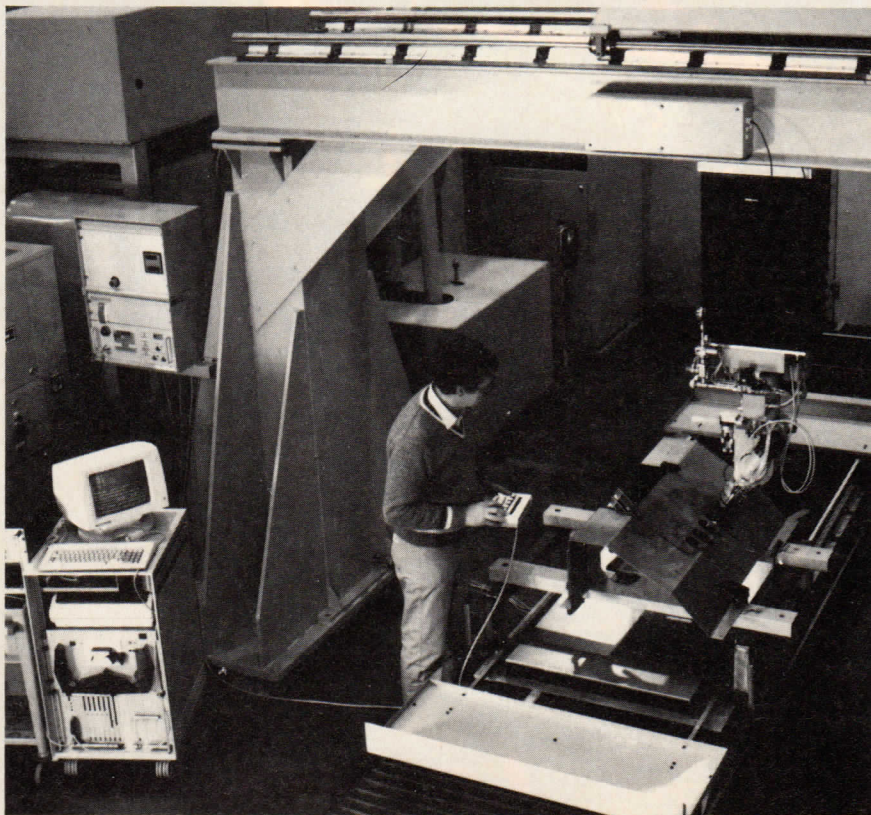


Laser artist J.S. Ostoja-Kotkowski used krypton and argon-ion lasers to produce this stamp design for the Australia Post commemorating its new electronic mail service.

1967. His first public performance, using moving laserbeams synchronized with music and voice, was given in 1968. Since then Ostoja has

designed and executed several concerts and exhibitions using his "laser kinetics" technology.

—Holly Bigelow



"Teach-in" programming of Messer Greisheim's Lascontur 5-axis contour cutting system.

### West Germany

#### Automotive Industry Takes to Lasers

After a slow start, West Germany's auto industry, long known for quality products and advanced manufacturing methods, is going for laser materials processing in a big way. This interest is partly due to the availability of turnkey systems which specifically meet the needs of automotive manufacturing.

One such need is the cutting of complex patterns from contoured or molded sheet materials, including cutting premolded floor carpets to size and trimming stamped body panels. The introduction of CNC-controlled five-axis motion systems for laser workstations is the event which has paved the way for the acceptance of laser methods.

One company having some success in penetrating the automotive industry is West Germany's Messer Griesheim GmbH, an old-line manufacturer of welding systems. Messer Griesheim began expanding into laser technologies about fifteen years