

Introduction to First Edition

It has been evident for some years past that there has been a need for a specialised catalogue of the stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia, that there should be some sort of standard price-list which would act as a guide to the values of many varieties which are not listed in ordinary catalogues and yet which possess great interest for specialists in these stamps.

This catalogue is being published in the hope that it will prove of assistance to those collectors who are making a study of Commonwealth stamps; and an endeavour has been made to put a fair market valuation on every stamp. At the same time, it should be noted that the publishers do not claim to have all priced stamps in stock; in fact, many scarce items can be sold within half-an-hour of their purchase. Where a price is really a matter of negotiation an * has been inserted.

This Specialised Catalogue is not merely a dealer's price-list, but is an attempt to place a valuation on every Commonwealth stamp. A popular stamp is often worth more than a rarer stamp, owing to the demand for it.

The system of listing adopted is to give all marked shades of colours of a stamp; then to follow on with varieties, the latter being lettered a, b, c, etc. The prices for the varieties are for the cheapest shades. For instance, 13a commands a higher price than 5a.

The extreme right column gives a description of the variety and also gives a list of what varieties are known in a certain shade.

A dash (—) signifies that such a stamp does not exist as far as our present knowledge goes; but we shall be grateful if any reader will inform us if he has a copy of any so marked.

All prices are subject to alteration without notice.

Increasing interest is being shown in official stamps; owing to lack of space we have been compelled to omit stamps punctured OS, NSW, or T, but selections will be willingly sent on approval.

The thanks of the publishers are due to Mr. A. A. Rosenblum for his valuable assistance in compiling the lists and for information taken from his book, "Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia"; also to Mr. J. R. W. Purves for much appreciated and helpful suggestions.

ORLO-SMITH & CO.,
Melbourne.

September, 1926.