

## Introduction to Second Edition

It is just two years since the first edition of the "Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue" was published, an experiment which has proved so successful that we feel this second edition needs no better introduction than our assurance that it is a worthy successor; and we are confident that, on its own merits, it will gain the wholehearted approval of Commonwealth collectors.

Since the first edition was published there have been many new issues of Commonwealth stamps and, in addition, there has been much research work undertaken which has resulted in a number of extra varieties of the earlier issues coming to light.

As there have been such quantities of varieties found in almost all printings it has become necessary to apply the pruning knife to the first edition and to cut out certain of the less important varieties, such as "line over value" and thick and thin papers in the Kangaroo series; and certain minor varieties in the King's Heads, notably in the 4d. values. We admit that there are some stamps left in which should be dropped, but as they are popular varieties, it was thought better to include them once again.

It is necessary that a distinction be drawn between major varieties—which should be listed separately—and minor varieties—which can be grouped together. Major varieties, in our opinion, include shades, retouches, re-entries and the more noticeable plate flaws, etc. Minor varieties consist mainly of electro flaws and faults—and their name is legion! We consider it undesirable to inflate this catalogue by including these, especially as their philatelic interest is small.

In several cases we have altered the names of colours so as to give a better definition of the shade.

In order to avoid renumbering the whole catalogue—and thereby causing collectors a certain amount of confusion—we have had to adopt the clumsy method of using the "½" system. The numbers of the earlier issues cannot be made permanent until the Kangaroos are a thing of the past as a single new issue of a Kangaroo would alter all numbers from 123 on, unless the "half" system is adopted. As far as possible we have retained the same numbers as in the first edition, but owing to the amount of revision, this has not been possible everywhere. For instance, the penny rough papers have been put in their order of issue necessitating three divisions instead of two. Other additions include the different dies of the Kangaroos, the dies of the 3d. King George, and that interesting discovery, the 5d. rough paper.

Once again we are indebted to Mr. A. A. Rosenblum and Mr. J. R. W. Purves for much extra information, the result of their recent research work, and also tender our thanks to other correspondents who have kindly supplied us with various items of information.

In conclusion, we would assure our readers that all alterations have been carefully considered, and made with the idea of assisting collectors of Commonwealth stamps to arrive at a fair market valuation; and we take this opportunity of thanking them for their practical support which has made this second edition possible.

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