Introduction

The publication of the Ninth Edition of The Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue presented the compilers with a multitude of difficulties, brought into strong relief by the prodigious demand for Commonwealth Stamps of all kinds.

The merging of the War Period into the Period of Reconstruction has enabled us to face the many problems that had been postponed because of manpower difficulties in the printing trade and other conditions beyond our control.

Alterations in prices and values, caused by depletion of stocks, have been made necessary in many items, and the specialist collector will be well advised to study the pages in order to properly estimate the value of his collection. In the regular course of events many collectors have been added to the Specialists' Circle, and it is the considered opinion of keen observers in the philatelic world that the impending years will mean further heavy additions by reason of the influx of British immigrants, who will naturally be keen to acquire representative collections of their adopted country, and for those reasons we predict heavy advances in the values and prices of all Australian stamps.

This catalogue is published to assist collectors making a study of Commonwealth stamps, and an endeavour has been made to put a fair market valuation on every stamp. The publishers do not claim to have all listed stamps in stock; many scarce items can be sold within half an hour of their acquisition. Where a price is a matter of negotiation * has been inserted.

We have divided the issues into various sections, prefixing a special letter to each section.

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In ordering, always give the prefix letter and number.

The system of listing is to give first the primary colour, and then all shades of that colour; then varieties, lettered a, b, c, etc. The prices for the varieties are for the cheapest shades.

The extreme right column gives a description of the variety and also a list of the varieties known. Major varieties include shades, retouches, re-entries and the more noticeable plate flaws, etc. Minor varieties consist mainly of electro flaws and faults. As their philatelic interest is small, we do not list them.

All prices are subject to alteration without notice.

ORLO-SMITH & CO., Melbourne.