

INTRODUCTION

This, the 15th Edition of the Catalogue, is the first published by Australian Stamp Auctions and we trust that it is the forerunner to a catalogue worthy of the ever-popular Australian Commonwealth stamps.

The name of the Catalogue has been changed to the "Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue." This has been done to eliminate confusion—in recent years the Empire has often been referred to as the Commonwealth. It will be noticed that changes have occurred in the set-up of many sections and, of necessity, it is realised that the next edition must have the numbers changed. This anticipated step has caused the publishers no little concern, but we believe that collectors will agree that the new set-up, especially with the King George V issues, will ensure much clearer and speedier classification.

It is realised that the use of "letters and numbers in conjunction" is the best means of identification, and collectors and dealers are advised that use may be made of "those letters and numbers in conjunction" to set up collections or for advertising without infringement of our copyright.

The prices listed are for stamps guaranteed correctly identified as to shade, paper and printer. Throughout this catalogue the term "unused" refers to stamps which are reasonably well-centred, have full gum with no creases, intact perforations, and of fresh appearance generally. The term "used" refers to stamps which are well-centred, uncreased, and with light cancellation, otherwise "fine used" condition. For stamps which do not measure up to these specifications prices should be reduced according to standard of condition. The prices for varieties are for those in the cheapest shades unless specifically stated otherwise. It is most important to realise that we have not a retail department and cannot supply stamps listed in the Catalogue. The prices are therefore not based on dealers' stocks but on current market valuations.

NOTE PARTICULARLY

IMPRINTS. In almost every instance the pricing of imprint blocks is for "blocks of four." In recent years most collectors have insisted on blocks of four but it is the opinion of the publishers that pairs serve the purpose admirably. Most imprints of high value are seen mostly in pairs and as such many are rare.

RARE ITEMS. No attempt has been made to price many items and these can be considered very rare. As no details are to hand of recent sales of these items prices can only be determined solely by negotiation. Many items hitherto marked with an asterisk have now been priced, and such prices are based on actual sales in the trade in recent years.

THE KANGAROO SERIES. Efforts have been made to price these at current market prices. The general opinion is that the 'Roos will become the classics of Australian Commonwealth stamps and as the high values are keenly sought, it is anticipated that current prices will be further advanced. Controls of the 'Roos issued before 1919 are extremely difficult to obtain and no attempt has been made to price the higher values.

PENNY REDS. A separate section has been devoted to this most interesting stamp and we trust that collectors will find the summary and classifications much more easily understandable.

KING GEORGE V ISSUES. Whilst previous editions of the Catalogue listed these issues in chronological order we felt that classification would be simpler listed under respective values with imprints listed under each value.

KING GEORGE VI ISSUES. With the complete new arrangement we believe that collectors will be the better enabled to follow the various characteristics of each value at a glance. The early perf. 13½ x 14 are in one part and the later perf. 14¼ x 14 are separate and are listed in values irrespective of chronological order.

BOOKLETS. It is strange that the research and study of Booklets has been sadly neglected and it is only recently that philatelists have commenced taking an interest in this branch. We are indebted to Mr. Chas. Fawcett, of Melbourne, for his co-operation in the compilation of this section, for without inspection of his collection we feel sure that several would not be listed. We realise that this list is by no means complete and we would welcome details of booklets not listed, from collectors. By reason of the fact that the list given below is incomplete, no attempt has been made to give the booklets individual numbers. Some booklets are very rare and whilst an attempt has been made to give prices, it must be remembered that records of sales of booklets in this category are non-existent.

POSTAGE DUES. Numerous requests from many quarters have been made to the publishers to include a section for Postage Dues in the catalogue, but in an abridged form. The consensus of opinion is that too much specialisation is not necessary, so an attempt has been made to give a list of the main varieties and current market values. Postage Due imprints have not been included in this issue, but if sufficient interest is shown they will be included in later editions.

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INTRODUCTION

Following the advent of the Fifteenth Edition of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, it was indeed encouraging to the publishers to receive many letters of congratulation, and also many instructive criticisms and ideas from collectors and dealers. Some of these ideas have been introduced into this, the Sixteenth Edition, and we sincerely thank those philatelists who assisted with their suggestions.

The policy of the Postal Authority has changed considerably during the last two years, and one of major importance to the Australian Commonwealth collector was the abolition of the imprint block. The issuance of new Commemoratives with monotonous regularity differs with the old policy, and the interest displayed by collectors in the new issues augurs well for the continued popularity of Australian Commonwealth stamps.

For convenient classification imprints of the Kangaroo and King George V issues are now placed with the stamps in their respective values, and are depicted by the letters x, y and z. We regret any inconvenience this change has caused, but we feel certain that the manner now adopted will be a great improvement.

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RARE ITEMS: In this edition it will be found that most items have been priced, even though some are extremely rare, and in some cases unique. We would point out, however, that the prices listed for these items are a guide only, as generally prices paid for rarities are a matter of negotiation.