

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.

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: 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.