

INTRODUCTION

It is a matter for deep regret that our former editor, the late Mr C. E. Norden, did not have the satisfaction of playing a greater part in the revision of this Catalogue. He had long regarded such revision as essential to the status and well-being of Commonwealth philately, but his death intervened before he could carry it through as editor. It is the intention of the present editor to carry forward the work step by step, and in doing so he feels he will be discharging a debt of friendship to one for whom he had the highest regard, as man and as philatelist.

In this edition of the Catalogue large scale revision will be found chiefly in the King George V issues. Headings and dates of these issues have been revised and amplified, and the section on the King George V 1d Green printings re-written. The 1d Greens have not in the past been the most popular field in Commonwealth but they are undoubtedly the richest in philatelic interest. It is hoped that their new presentation will help to commend them more to the attention of collectors.

Users of the Catalogue will find numerous other corrections and additions, but the real work of revision can only be carried through section by section. Nor can it be done hurriedly, if collectors of Australian Commonwealth are to have the type of catalogue it is our aim to give them.

Two well-known items, the "pulls" of G62 and the "Special Adhesives," have disappeared from our lists. The bogus character of the former is now generally recognised, and until Postal Stationery is included in the Catalogue the "Special Adhesives" will not be listed.

We are grateful for the criticisms and suggestions we have received, and we trust that users of the Catalogue will continue to tell us how they think it might be improved.

It is realised that the use of letters and numbers in conjunction is a convenient means of identification, and collectors and dealers are advised that use may be made of those in this Catalogue 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 the Catalogue the term "unused" refers to stamps which are reasonably well-centred, have full gum with no creases, intact perforations, and are of fresh appearance generally. The term "used" refers to stamps which are well-centred, uncreased, and with light cancellation. In other words it implies "fine used" condition. For stamps which do not measure up to these specifications prices should be reduced according to condition. The prices for varieties are for those in the cheapest shades unless specifically stated otherwise.

It is most important to realise that we are not a stamp dealing firm and do not supply stamps listed in the Catalogue. The listed prices are based on current market valuations, not on dealers' stocks.

NOTE PARTICULARLY!

IMPRINTS: Except where otherwise stated 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. To ascertain the catalogue value of an imprint pair simply deduct the value of two unused singles from that of the imprint block

of four. Imprints of high values are usually seen only with pairs, and even as such many are rare.

RARE ITEMS: It will be found that most of these have been priced, even though some are extremely rare, in some cases unique. We would point out that the prices listed for these items are intended as a guide only, since prices paid for rarities are usually a matter of negotiation.

All Commonwealth stamps have been printed by government agency, and the only plates to be manufactured by private contract have been the four steel plates of the surface-printed 1d King George V. A Stamp Printing Branch of the Commonwealth Treasury Department was established in 1909. With the retirement of the Commonwealth Stamp Printer, J. B. Cooke, in 1918, the Stamp Printing Branch was abolished, and from that date all Commonwealth stamps have been printed by the Note Printing Branch. This was originally a branch of the Treasury Department, but in 1926 it was transferred to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. All stamps have been printed in Melbourne.

J. C. W. Brown