

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

INTRODUCTION

The change of editor last year shortly before our Seventeenth Edition was due to go to press left opportunity for only a limited measure of revision. Very much more has been done for the present edition. It is our policy to carry through this revision of the Catalogue step by step, and we feel sure that the great majority of those who use the Catalogue would prefer this to any hurried and necessarily superficial re-writing. It means however that much has had to be left for attention in subsequent editions.

Principal changes in the present edition are as follows:

SECTION 1. THE KANGAROO SERIES. The introduction to this section has been re-written and expanded. Among the additional notes is one on the perforated *State* Official stamps. We do not include these in our itemised lists, but the number of collectors interested in them justifies at least a note on the subject. It contains some facts not generally known.

Some typographical confusion had crept into the listing, for the Kangaroo issues, of the Cooke monograms and the Harrison and later imprints. This has now been rectified, and the listing of these items revised in other directions also.

The McCracken 2/ has been re-written, and now appears at the end of the Kangaroo section.

SECTION 2. THE ENGRAVED STAMPS OF 1913-1914. This section has been re-written. It will be noticed that where plates are not of the usual George V pattern (2 panes of 60) we indicate the plate position of a variety by reference to its horizontal row, e.g., R11/10 (row 11, stamp No. 10 in that row).

SECTION 3. THE SURFACE-PRINTED GEORGE V 1D REDS. Collectors of 1d Red shades are advised to read and digest the new note on this subject. It explains diagrammatically the colour scheme underlying the original naming and listing of the 1d Red shades. It is seventeen years since this scheme originally appeared in print, and many present-day collectors would appear to be unaware of it.

It is hoped that the aids to identification of the rare Salmon Eosin

and of the three shades of the Cooke Multiple printing will prove helpful.

The listing of the 1d, Die 3, has been re-written.

SECTION 5. OTHER GEORGE V ORDINARY ISSUES. This is a new section containing the 6d surface-printed Kookaburra of 1932, the large 1/ Lyrebird, and the 1/6 Hermes of 1934. Such a grouping is more logical than their previous listing in the *Air Issues and Miscellaneous* section. All three issues have been re-written.

SECTION 6. GEORGE VI ORDINARY ISSUES. An introduction is now provided to this section, including notes on imprints, papers, coils, and plate numbers.

The 5d Ram, McCracken imprint, and the 5½d on 5d, being perf. 13½ x 14, have been moved from O54 and O55 to O11 and O11A. The 1/6 Hermes Black appears as O65A instead of as previously in the *Air Issues and Miscellaneous* section.

A note has been provided on the dies of the 3d Blue, and O5 and O6 have been combined under a single catalogue number, the Die 1 "White leaves" being now listed as a variety, and not as a separate printing. The obvious error in the listing of O43, as being without watermark, has been corrected, and several colour descriptions have been altered, the issues chiefly affected being O3, O13, O28, O38, O39, O44, O62 and O68. O24 and O25 have been re-written, and we thank Mr C. O. Dunn for his assistance in this connection, and his valued suggestions elsewhere.

"Thin paper" varieties no longer appear in the itemised lists, and collectors interested in them are referred to the introduction to this section.

It will be necessary to consider a thoroughgoing re-arrangement of this section when more of the old designs have been replaced.

SECTION 8. SPECIAL ISSUES – COMMEMORATIVES, ETC. Imprints here are now listed under each denomination as elsewhere in the Catalogue. The "Produce Food" stamps appear as S116-117, having been moved from the *Air Issues and Miscellaneous* section. The Lord Howe Island "Provisionals" have been moved in the reverse direction.

Several issues have been re-written, and we thank Mr G. G. Cole for his re-listing of the King George V Jubilee issue. The very great philatelic interest of this issue fully justifies the space now allotted to it. Mr C. O. Dunn has again assisted with the 3½d Royal Visit.

A few colour descriptions have been altered, the issues principally affected being the Gloucester, Peace, Mitchell, Newcastle, Von Muel-ler, 1948 Scout, Commonwealth Jubilee, Gold and Responsible Government, and Cobb and Co.

SECTION 9. AIR ISSUES AND MISCELLANEOUS. Changes affecting this section have been noted above. It is true that the 1/6 Hermes was issued in 1934 primarily for use in the newly established Australia-England air service. It was however never restricted to such use, and it bears no inscription that would justify its listing as an Air Mail stamp. Retention of the 1/6 Black in the *Air Issues* section would be even less justified.

The BCOF issues have been re-written, and the two or three varieties of overprint best worth collecting are now listed. The earlier assumption that the 5/ ordinary paper was considerably scarcer than the 5/ chalk-surfaced has not been borne out by the facts.

SECTION 11. POSTAGE DUES. Nothing so effectually kills interest in an issue as a tangle of perforation varieties, and the early Postage Dues have suffered in this respect from their previous uninviting manner of presentation. Our new listing of the perforation varieties in parallel columns is an endeavour to remove this reproach from a very interesting series of stamps. The new lists should prove easier of reference, and are we believe better balanced, in a philatelic sense, than were the old. The numbering has been reduced from D1-62 to D1-38, although more items are actually listed.

The listing of the later Postage Dues (Victorian type) will be likewise recast when certain necessary checking has been completed.

Besides the changes noted above, users of the Catalogue will find various individual corrections and additions, some minor, and some of more importance. A number of price changes will be noticed, particularly an upgrading in the earlier commemoratives.

There is one general feature of the present edition to which we would draw attention. This is the attempt to arrive at a more accurate dating of our Commonwealth issues. Some of the Kangaroo issues have in the past been strangely neglected from this point of view.

Our present listing of dates is an improvement on anything that has gone before, but it must be emphasised that we have followed a conservative policy throughout, basing our dates on fact and not on supposition. We consequently take it for granted that in a number of cases it will ultimately be possible to improve on the dates we have given. It is our hope that the listing of a definite date for each issue will encourage collectors to re-examine the postmarks on their material.

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" implies "fine used" condition, in other words reasonable centring, light cancellation, and no stains, creases, thins, or other forms of damage.

For stamps that 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.

Except where otherwise stated the pricing of imprint blocks is for "blocks of four." To ascertain the catalogue value of an imprint *pair* 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.

It will be understood that in the case of extremely rare items the prices listed are intended as a guide only. Prices paid for rarities are usually a matter of negotiation.

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INTRODUCTION

Australian Commonwealth collectors have had an eventful past twelve months. Apart from the Olympic Games set and three other special issues, the use of unwatermarked paper has been extended to all values up to 2/6, and the situation further complicated by the increase in postal rates on 1 October 1956. The twelve months have added two booklets, two postage dues, and eighteen other items to the Catalogue.

Our work of revision meanwhile has been carried a stage further. For this edition the $\frac{1}{2}$ d George V (1915-38) and the 3d George V (1924-37) have been re-written. Both stamps offer a most interesting field for the specialist collector, and the new lists aim to provide him with more guidance and assistance than did the old. They incorporate a considerable amount of new information. In listing sheet position in these issues we have adopted the convenient method of notation devised by Dr Gordon Ward for his published study of the *King George V 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, Die 2*.

Revision of the Postage Due lists was begun in our last edition, and this has now been carried through to the present day. Complete re-numbering has been unavoidable. The imprints are listed, but we felt it advisable for the time being not to price them. Some of the later imprints are comparatively easy to acquire (with a little perseverance), but in the earlier period imprints were not generally available to the public and some are now of considerable rarity. The dates of issue given are, we realise, in some cases merely approximate. We hope to improve upon these in future editions. With a few notable exceptions, collectors and students have not given the postage dues the attention they deserve, but there are clear signs that this long period of neglect is coming to an end. Those intending to enter this interesting and rewarding field should do so without delay. It needs only a slight revival of collector interest for the real scarcity of some of the postage dues to become evident.

Booklets were listed for the first time in the 1953 Edition of the Catalogue. This pioneer listing, admittedly tentative, was based on the work of Mr C. A. Fawcett, and we are now grateful to Mr Fawcett for his further assistance in its revision and amplification. The new

list besides being enlarged has been arranged somewhat differently and has been renumbered.

Our list of George VI Plate Numbers has been enlarged from various sources, but chiefly by reference to items in the Kilfoyle collection. In response to several requests we have now throughout the Catalogue provided details of sheet arrangement where this differs from the well known two panes of sixty of the Kangaroo and George V surface-printed issues.

Users of the Catalogue have over the past few years been very patient, realising that radical revision cannot be carried through without disturbing changes. Most of the changes made have, we know, been actively welcomed. Certainly none are made without very careful consideration. We realise to the full the inconvenience that changed numbering causes to dealers, curators of society reference collections and others who identify their stamps by catalogue number. Recent changes have for the time being rendered this Catalogue most difficult for such purposes. We deeply regret this, but we believe the temporary inconvenience is a price worth paying for the logical, consistent and philatelically adequate listing it is our aim to introduce.

We mention all this because our revision of certain sections for the present edition has emphasised the necessity for a fundamental change of numbering that can no longer be deferred. The fact is that there have in the past been *two* systems of numbering used in the Catalogue. In the George VI section, shades have been listed under letters. Elsewhere in the Catalogue they have been given separate numbers. One or other of these two systems must be adopted for the whole Catalogue, and we have not hesitated to decide *against* the allotting of a separate number for each shade. The George V 1d Reds have long been established as a field on their own, and their section in the Catalogue must necessarily be numbered accordingly, but to give separate numbers, say, to each of the six shades of the George V 1d Green, small mult., perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, is in our opinion to invest them with a quite spurious importance, and creates moreover certain difficulties of a practical kind.

The system we have now adopted is to list shades under capital letters, and other varieties under small letters. F17 is now the general reference for the George V 1d Green, small mult., perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, instead of as previously the clumsy F53-F58. F17d refers to a particular plate variety in that issue. F17Cd refers to that variety in a particular shade. Sections 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 have been renumbered accordingly, and we have taken this opportunity to regularise also the old numbers G104 to G116 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Section 7, The Elizabeth II Ordinary Issues, will henceforth be continued (like the Commemoratives in Section 8) on a chronological

basis. We give advance notice that Section 1, The Kangaroo Series, and Section 6, The George VI Ordinary Issues, have yet to receive attention which may (or may not) involve considerable rearrangement.

In issues that have recently been rewritten it will be noticed that varieties are listed in a definite order.

Shades: Listed under the letters A, B, C, etc.

Paper varieties: Wmk. inverted, sideways or reversed. Paper thick or thin, etc. Listed under the letters a, aa, ab, etc.

Separation varieties: Double perf., imperf., coil joins, etc. Listed under the letters b, ba, bb, etc. Diagonal and other freak perforations are not listed.

Printing varieties: Offset, printed on the gum, slurred or kiss prints, double prints, dry ink, ink stripping, ink clogs (where such have become popular), etc. Listed under the letters c, ca, cb, etc. Varieties due to paper creases or folds, or to threads or other foreign matter adhering to paper or printing plates are not listed.

Plate varieties: Flaws, retouches, re-entries, etc. Listed under the letters d, e, f, etc. Where a plate variety is found in several states these are listed, e.g., as d, da, db.

Imprints: Listed under the letters z, za, etc.

Such a system makes it possible to insert newly-discovered varieties in their correct position on the list without disturbance to the existing lettering, and makes the list itself easier of reference. The system will ultimately be extended to all issues.

For this edition some of the illustration blocks have been replaced; the different watermarks have been redrawn; and new illustrations have been introduced of varieties in the George V $\frac{1}{2}$ d and elsewhere. Together with other new matter the Catalogue has been considerably enlarged.

We should like to record our appreciation of the help received from collector and dealer friends in our work of revision, in particular Messrs C. O. Dunn, Jack Gartner, Ray Jewell, H. F. McNess, P. W. Simonson and F. A. Thornhill. Mr Fawcett's assistance with the booklets has already been mentioned. Helpful suggestions have been received from correspondents otherwise unknown to us. Such suggestions (or criticisms) from users of the Catalogue are always welcome. Some that we have received are still under consideration.

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" implies "fine used" condition, in other words reasonable centring, light cancellation, and no stains, creases, thins, or other forms of damage. For stamps that 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.

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It will be understood that in the case of extremely rare items the prices listed are intended as a guide only. Prices paid for rarities are usually a matter of negotiation.

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INTRODUCTION

Apart from the appearance of the postage dues on unwatermarked paper, the past twelve months have seen only three additions to the general series and two new special issues. For the specialist collector, however, these new issues have provided some very attractive plate varieties, and further discoveries have been made in other of our more recent stamps. The CENTRE OF WORK variety in the 10d. Queen Elizabeth is unique in Australian philately. All such varieties as appear to us to reach a certain level of prominence and philatelic interest will be found listed in this edition.

Revision of the old lists has been continued with the re-writing of the steel plate printings of the George V 1½d. and 2d., and of the George VI ordinary issues. The George V 1½d., die 2, has always been a favourite with Commonwealth specialists and requires no recommendation. What has sometimes been overlooked is that the red printings show a very attractive range of shades. Some of these are by no means easy to acquire.

Past neglect of the George V 2d., die 2, is difficult to understand. It is a most interesting stamp, and was well written up in the *Australian Philatelic Record* of the day. Inadequate treatment in earlier editions of the Catalogue may have contributed to this neglect, and the new lists aim to remedy the injustice.

Some fresh information and two or three new varieties have been added to the lists of the George V 2d., die 3.

It was generally recognised that the old arrangement of the George VI ordinary issues was not altogether satisfactory. The benefits of any radical re-arrangement in this section, however, would scarcely be commensurate with the inconvenience caused. The chief purpose of the new setting out has been to make the section easier of reference. We have introduced sub-section headings, eliminated the A numbers, added some further notes and varieties, and brought the listing of varieties into line with the order introduced elsewhere in the Catalogue. It seemed better also to gather the 1941 Surcharges into a section of their own.

Prior to 1939 all stamps made up into coils, whether for use in stamp vending machines or for sale to private individuals, were taken from ordinary sheets, with normal perforation. Where joined ("paste-up") pairs from coils of this period are known we note the fact, but

unfortunately the ease with which such varieties can be faked makes it impossible for us to include them in our priced lists. They have consequently been relegated in each case to a note at the foot of the list.

We should like to record our appreciation of the help we have received in the preparation of this edition, in particular from Messrs C. O. Dunn, J. P. Meara, and H. F. McNess. Helpful suggestions have been received from correspondents otherwise unknown to us. Such suggestions (or criticisms) from users of the Catalogue are always welcome.

Changes in the numbering of issues for this edition are as follows:

Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
F41	F42	O41	O21	O59	O58
F42	F41	O42	O41	O60	O59
O 6	O 5	O43	O42	O61	O60
O 7	O 6	O44	O43	O62	O61
O 8	O 7	O45	O44	O62A	O62
O 9	O 8	O46	O45	O63A	O64
O10	O 9	O47	O46	O64	O65
O11	O10	O48	O47	O65	O66
O11A	O23	O49	O22	O65A	O67
O12	O11	O50	O48	O65B	O68
O13	O12	O51	O49	O66	O69
O14	O13	O52	O50	O66A	O70
O15	O14	O52A	O51	O67	O71
O16	O15	O53	O52	O67A	O72
O18	O16	O54	O53	O68	O73
O19	O17	O56	O54	O69	O74
O21	O18	O57	O55	O70	O75
O22	O19	O57A	O56	O71	O76
O23	O20	O58	O57		

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Varieties due to paper creases or folds, or to threads or other foreign matter adhering to paper or printing plates are not listed.

Plate varieties: Flaws, retouches, re-entries, etc. Listed under the letters d, e, f, etc. Where a plate variety is found in several states these are listed, e.g., as d, da, db.

Imprints: Listed under the letters z, za, etc.

Reference is made in the lists to various settings of the Harrison and Ash imprints on surface-printed issues. For the Harrison imprint the two settings are N of HARRISON over MP and over M of STAMP. For the Ash imprint (roman type) the two usual settings are N of JOHN over N and over A of AND. There is a third setting found in F34, D74 and D77 in which the N of JOHN is over the space between NOTE and AND.

All stamps listed in this Catalogue, apart from the early Postage Dues and the 1/- and 2/- Olympics (q.v.), were printed in Melbourne, by government agency. 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 May 1918, the Stamp Printing Branch was abolished. From that date the printing of Commonwealth postage stamps has been the responsibility of the Note Printing Branch. This was originally a branch of the Treasury Department. In May 1926 it was transferred to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

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" implies "fine used" condition, in other words reasonable centring, light cancellation, and no stains, creases, thins, or other forms of damage. For stamps that 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.

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J. C. W. Brown

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Revision of the Catalogue has been continued in this edition with the re-writing of the King George V 4½d, 5d and 1/4 values. Interesting studies can be made in particular of the 4½d and 5d, but it will be realised that a catalogue listing can include only a selection of the known varieties.

Criticism is sometimes levelled at the detailed listing of shades in this and other catalogues. Our listings are intended for collectors who are prepared to spend some time in the study of an issue. Such collectors know that the shades are there. The problem is to attach suitable labels to them. To this problem we do not believe there is any final solution, but we do believe that catalogue listings could be more helpful to the collector than they sometimes have been. For F65 B, for example, "reddish-violet" has replaced the old "violet-mauve." The new name may be less picturesque but it does show more obviously the relationship of the shade to the "violet" of F65 A.

Changes in shade names of the 5d are more extensive. The old lists had been built up piecemeal over the years, and our aim has been to work out a more consistent classification to cover all the 5d issues. A note has been added in explanation of the shade names employed.

It is too much to expect that all users of the Catalogue will be pleased at our treatment of the controversial 1/4 "deep turquoise" (F68 F). We are quite certain, however, that the majority of collectors and dealers alike will approve what has been done. There has been much discussion of this shade in the past twelve months.

Those interested in more recent issues of Australian Commonwealth will find in the Catalogue some reflection of the research being currently carried out upon them. We owe much to Messrs C. O. Dunn and J. P. Meara in this respect. Much of their work is too highly specialised for its results to be summarised in our lists, but on the subject of booklets and of plate lay-out they have opened up new fields of study in Australian Commonwealth. The philatelic interest of our stamps may change in emphasis but it does not lessen.

We should like to record our appreciation also of help received from Mr H. P. H. Solomon. Mr W. M. Holbeach remains our sternest critic and one of our most helpful friends.

The only change of numbering in this edition is as follows:

Old	New
F63	F64
F64	F63

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The past year has seen extensive changes in Australian stamps, including the disappearance of two designs familiar for more than twenty years, the 9d Platypus and the 1/ Lyre Bird. The two new series depicting Australian animals and flowers are taking shape, and the situation has been complicated by the changes in postal rates on 1 October 1959. Some seventeen new numbers have been added to the Catalogue.

A particularly interesting development is the acquirement by the Note Printing Branch of photogravure equipment. The present recess printing process is fortunately not being abandoned, but in future the Post Office will select whichever of the two processes seems the better suited to a particular design. Bi-coloured and multi-coloured stamps can be expected, and we are told that amongst the first such stamps intended is a series depicting Australian birds.

The study of our past and present issues continues, and the recently published *George V Halfpenny* by Messrs Dix and Rowntree provides, among other things, a very welcome addition to our knowledge of the difficult Plate 3.

For this edition of the Catalogue we have re-arranged and re-numbered the Kangaroo issues to bring them into line with issues in the George V design. They are now listed by values instead of chronologically as hitherto. The George V issues have been listed in this way since our 1953 edition, and the obvious advantage in ease of reference was immediately appreciated. For the student also, as he follows the history of a particular stamp, such an arrangement has its advantages.

We recognise that the listing of certain of the Kangaroo issues is in need of revision and we hope to give attention to this in future editions. Apart from the ½d value there has been no such revision in the present edition. In the listing of this value it will be noticed that we have omitted the very scarce "AUSTBALIA" variety. Philatelic opinion has always been divided on its status, and until the variety is proved to be a *plate* flaw we do not feel that its listing can be justified.

The stamps of the Australian Commonwealth provide a rich and fascinating field for both collector and student. We trust they will find this edition of the Catalogue as useful as its predecessors.

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Paper varieties: Wmk. inverted, sideways or reversed. Paper thick or thin, etc.

Listed under the letters a, aa, ab, etc.

Separation varieties: Double perf., imperf., coil joins, etc. Listed under the letters b, ba, bb, etc. Diagonal and other freak perforations are not listed.

Printing varieties: Offset, printed on the gum, slurred or kiss prints, double prints, dry ink, ink stripping, ink clogs (where such have become popular), etc. Listed under the letters c, ca, cb, etc. Varieties due to paper creases or folds, or to threads or other foreign matter adhering to paper or printing plates are not listed.

Plate varieties: Flaws, retouches, re-entries, etc. Listed under the letters d, e, f, etc. Where a plate variety is found in several states these are listed, e.g., as d, da, db.

Imprints: Listed under the letters z, za, etc.

Reference is made in the lists to various settings of the Harrison and Ash imprints on surface-printed issues. For the Harrison imprint the two settings are N of HARRISON over MP and over M of STAMP. For the Ash imprint (roman type) the two usual settings are N of JOHN over N and over A of AND. There is a third setting found in F34, D74 and D77 in which the N of JOHN is over the space between NOTE and AND.

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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" implies "fine used" condition, in other words reasonable centring, light cancellation, and no stains, creases, thins, or other forms of damage. For stamps that 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.

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INTRODUCTION

The widespread interest in the study of new and recent Commonwealth issues continues unabated. We are grateful to Mr A. G. Salisbury for bringing to our notice several of the varieties added to this edition of the Catalogue. Mr Salisbury is another of the keen group of Queensland philatelists to whom students of present day Commonwealth stamps owe so much. The "Green Mist" retouch of the 1s Lyrebird (064g) was brought to our notice by Mr J. P. Meara but unfortunately too late for inclusion in our last edition. It is one of the most striking varieties in Commonwealth, and it will not be an easy item to acquire.

Specialist collectors of the Postage Dues have had much to occupy them in the past twelve months. The new information will be found summarised in a note at the end of the Postage Due listings. We shall incorporate it in the itemised listing of D99 to D109 in later editions if interest seems to justify this.

It is difficult for collectors accustomed only to our present recess-printed stamps, with their multiplicity of design, to appreciate the interest aroused nearly fifty years ago when the surface-printed Kangaroos, the first stamps of specifically Commonwealth design, were issued. We have chosen the most popular of these, the 1d value, for re-writing in this edition. The selection of varieties for listing was far from easy, and specialists in this issue are asked to remember that this is a catalogue and not a handbook. The varieties chosen for illustration are those which in our experience have caused most confusion to the non-specialist collector.

It will be noted that the shade description "cherry red" has now been dropped from this issue. Strictly speaking there are only two shades in this stamp, the normal "red" and the rather scarce "rose-red." The "red" varies from pale to deep, and, as in any such series, the deepest red is far from common. In our opinion however there is no deep shade sufficiently different in quality to merit a name of its own and separate listing.

The types of "Specimen" overprint on the high value Kangaroos are now illustrated. Many collectors who find the normal stamps beyond their pocket are turning to these "Specimen" overprints. They are a subject for specialised collecting in themselves.

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J. C. W. Brown

INTRODUCTION

Our gradual re-writing of the Kangaroo issues has been continued in this edition with the TWO PENCE value of 1913-20. This is a stamp which has much to offer the specialist collector — papers, watermarks, and a plate history which is interesting without being too complicated. The varieties of the 2d have always been much sought after, particularly the substituted cliché and the flawed unit which preceded it. Some nine of these varieties are now illustrated.

New issues of the past twelve months are listed and illustrated, and the attention of collectors is drawn to a change in the system by which advertising matter is included in the stamp booklets. The usual selection of recently discovered varieties will be found added to the various sections.

Current stamps of the Commonwealth are being studied more widely and intensively than ever before, and even more reassuring for the future of Commonwealth philately is the increasing number of students who show a thorough knowledge of the methods by which our present stamps are produced. Twenty-five years ago an older generation, after years spent in the study of the special problems associated with the letterpress printed Kangaroo and George V issues, found it by no means easy to readjust themselves to the new rotary recess printed stamps. When the new photogravure press comes into operation some of us perhaps will find it necessary to go back to school again.

More than the usual number of price changes will be found in this edition, practically all of them in an upward direction. As a result of replacements in recent years some unexpected shortages are being revealed, as in the case of the mint 4d Koala, no wmk. The full effect of some of these has still to be felt.

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INTRODUCTION

This is the twenty-fifth edition of our Catalogue, and it appears in the fiftieth year since the issue of the Kangaroo stamps of 1913. To the general collector those stamps marked the emergence of the Commonwealth of Australia as a stamp-issuing country. It was only thirteen years later, in 1926, that the late Mr S. Orlo-Smith, one of Melbourne's leading stamp dealers, published the first edition of this Catalogue.

In that short period some of our best known varieties had already become firmly established in philatelic esteem. Nevertheless their prices make interesting reading. The 4d K.G. V violet, line through value, for example, is listed at £5 unused. The 6d Kangaroo blue, broken leg, is 40/ unused, as compared with the 6d first wmk., retouched E in PENCE, at 25/ (the 6d substituted cliché had not yet been discovered). The £2, first wmk., unused, is 90/. The first edition of the Catalogue contained 32 pages and sold for 2/6.

For this twenty-fifth edition we have continued the re-writing of the Kangaroo issues with the 2½d, 3d, 4d and 5d values. All the best known varieties in these values are now illustrated. The new Cocos (Keeling) Islands stamps will be found listed in the same section as the Antarctic Territory issues. They are valid for use within the Commonwealth and it would seem therefore that a place must be found for them in the Catalogue.

It will be noticed that the use of separate postage due stamps has been discontinued as from 31 January 1963, ordinary postage stamps now being used to denote payment of postage due charges. This ends a chapter in Commonwealth philately which began in July 1902. We have always recommended our postage dues as a rewarding field for the specialist collector. Their opening and closing years in particular are full of interest. Now that the field is clearly marked out and limited we anticipate that more collectors will be attracted to them.

A new chapter in Commonwealth philately began in September 1962 when the Note Printing Branch issued its first photogravure printed stamp. Some details of the new press were given in the Australian Post Office *Philatelic Bulletin*, Vol. 10, No. 2. Once the experimental stage has been passed, further information of assistance to the student and collector will be published.

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