

## 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 Mueller, 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.

#### PLEASE NOTE!

We are not a stamp dealing firm and do not supply stamps listed in this catalogue.