

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 1½d, 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.

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