

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		

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.

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.

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.

J. C. W. Brown