

INTRODUCTION

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

In issues that have been re-written in recent years 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