

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.

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. Since the reconstitution of the Commonwealth Bank in 1959, Australian stamps have been printed by the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve 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