

INTRODUCTION

Our gradual re-writing of the Kangaroo issues has been continued in this edition with the TWO PENCE value of 1913-20. This is a stamp which has much to offer the specialist collector — papers, watermarks, and a plate history which is interesting without being too complicated. The varieties of the 2d have always been much sought after, particularly the substituted cliché and the flawed unit which preceded it. Some nine of these varieties are now illustrated.

New issues of the past twelve months are listed and illustrated, and the attention of collectors is drawn to a change in the system by which advertising matter is included in the stamp booklets. The usual selection of recently discovered varieties will be found added to the various sections.

Current stamps of the Commonwealth are being studied more widely and intensively than ever before, and even more reassuring for the future of Commonwealth philately is the increasing number of students who show a thorough knowledge of the methods by which our present stamps are produced. Twenty-five years ago an older generation, after years spent in the study of the special problems associated with the letterpress printed Kangaroo and George V issues, found it by no means easy to readjust themselves to the new rotary recess printed stamps. When the new photogravure press comes into operation some of us perhaps will find it necessary to go back to school again.

More than the usual number of price changes will be found in this edition, practically all of them in an upward direction. As a result of replacements in recent years some unexpected shortages are being revealed, as in the case of the mint 4d Koala, no wmk. The full effect of some of these has still to be felt.

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 was made 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. In 1959 it became 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