

INTRODUCTION

This is the twenty-fifth edition of our Catalogue, and it appears in the fiftieth year since the issue of the Kangaroo stamps of 1913. To the general collector those stamps marked the emergence of the Commonwealth of Australia as a stamp-issuing country. It was only thirteen years later, in 1926, that the late Mr S. Orlo-Smith, one of Melbourne's leading stamp dealers, published the first edition of this Catalogue.

In that short period some of our best known varieties had already become firmly established in philatelic esteem. Nevertheless their prices make interesting reading. The 4d K.G. V violet, line through value, for example, is listed at £5 unused. The 6d Kangaroo blue, broken leg, is 40/ unused, as compared with the 6d first wmk., retouched E in PENCE, at 25/ (the 6d substituted cliché had not yet been discovered). The £2, first wmk., unused, is 90/. The first edition of the Catalogue contained 32 pages and sold for 2/6.

For this twenty-fifth edition we have continued the re-writing of the Kangaroo issues with the 2½d, 3d, 4d and 5d values. All the best known varieties in these values are now illustrated. The new Cocos (Keeling) Islands stamps will be found listed in the same section as the Antarctic Territory issues. They are valid for use within the Commonwealth and it would seem therefore that a place must be found for them in the Catalogue.

It will be noticed that the use of separate postage due stamps has been discontinued as from 31 January 1963, ordinary postage stamps now being used to denote payment of postage due charges. This ends a chapter in Commonwealth philately which began in July 1902. We have always recommended our postage dues as a rewarding field for the specialist collector. Their opening and closing years in particular are full of interest. Now that the field is clearly marked out and limited we anticipate that more collectors will be attracted to them.

A new chapter in Commonwealth philately began in September 1962 when the Note Printing Branch issued its first photogravure printed stamp. Some details of the new press were given in the Australian Post Office *Philatelic Bulletin*, Vol. 10, No. 2. Once the experimental stage has been passed, further information of assistance to the student and collector will be published.

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, the 1/ and 2/ Olympics and the 5d and 2/3 Empire Games, 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