

INTRODUCTION

This twenty-sixth edition of our catalogue introduces a change of editor. The Reverend J. C. W. Brown, by virtue of heavy commitments, has found it incumbent to be relieved of the task he commenced in 1956. The constructive effort which attended the gradual revision during the past eight years is a well-deserved tribute to the tenacity of purpose of the Rev. Brown.

The present editor will endeavour to continue the high standard set by his friend by presenting a catalogue which will remain concise, informative, and retain a sense of proportion in relation to listing and pricing.

As new editorship was arranged at very short notice, it will be appreciated there was little opportunity for much review. It is realised that prices for some items are hardening and increases are warranted, and this aspect will receive close attention during the next twelve months.

There are several price increases in the earlier issues, but in the main there has been partial revision of the more recent issues, including brief details of printing processes, developments concerning perforation pips, notes on sheet disposition, etc.

Whilst the inclusion of this matter might be regarded as non-essential and some disappointment may be felt with this edition, it must be conceded such details are an integral phase of research and will not only materially assist potential specialists, but will provide a stimulating incentive which will react to the mutual advantage of all concerned.

In September 1962, the Note Printing Branch issued its first photogravure printed stamp and details of the process and the Chambon press installed for the purpose appear at the beginning of Section 7.

We also desire to record our appreciation of the assistance readily given by Mr Chas O. Dunn, of Brisbane, and Mr Wal Hansen, of Sydney.

INTRODUCTION

A concerted effort has been made to revise considerably this twenty-seventh edition of our Catalogue. The editor invited and willingly received the assistance of well-known specialists in their various fields, also comments and recommendations from The Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales, The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain, and several members of the trade.

The 4d King George V issues have been rewritten and, not without difficulty, an endeavour has been made to "do something" with the Postage Dues series from 1938 onwards.

Many prices have remained practically unaltered for some years, and considering the absorption of material by collectors during that period, it is obvious that demand frequently exceeds supply.

Therefore, there has been much alteration in pricing which it is trusted will be very close or equal to the Australian market of today, which is at an all-time peak. It is not claimed that this pricing is absolutely perfect in every case, but an honest endeavour has been made to bridge the gap and so restore a greater measure of confidence in this Catalogue.

A number of items still are hardening and the position will be closely watched.

To mention all who contributed to the revision of this edition would be somewhat invidious, but those friends concerned have earned the editor's debt of sincere gratitude.

It is well to mention, too, the technical developments taking place in Australian stamp production, viz., the use of plastic (polymers) as a medium in plate preparation, details of which may be revealed, and helecon impregnated stamp paper to facilitate electronic facing and cancelling of letters. Such matters of import and deep interest to the student really are the preserve of philatelic literature and outside the scope of a catalogue unless trends necessitate future reference.

INTRODUCTION

In presenting this twenty-eighth edition of our Catalogue the editor regrets that a series of unforeseen circumstances precluded the finalising of much of the proposed further revision in certain sections and of necessity, this has been deferred.

The quickening interest aroused consequent upon recent technical developments and the use of heleon has been accentuated by the introduction of the decimal currency series, and has created an obvious unprecedented demand for £ s. d. issues. This has been reflected in a sharp, and in some instances, an astounding increase in the prices of the better items some of which are really scarce, and a general upward trend which appears to be world-wide.

The desire to determine an equitable and realistic catalogue pricing guide commensurate with the rapidly changing Australian market, whilst remaining cognisant of the interests of both the collector and the trade, posed a somewhat difficult task.

Nevertheless, a serious effort has been made to minimise anomalies, provide fresh information and in general hope to please the majority.

The editor extends his grateful thanks to all who contributed constructive assistance in the preparation of this edition.

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INTRODUCTION

The twenty-ninth edition of our Catalogue features a drastic overhaul of pricing which has been dictated by the law of supply and demand.

The marked upward trend of 1966-67 continues and although it is not deemed expedient to anticipate, it is hoped most prices herein will reflect a fair valuation of the Australian market.

The acute scarcity of better items in mint condition and several in fine used has placed the acquisition of such material beyond the pockets of average collectors and serves a warning that prices must harden further.

Whilst the editor is mindful of the interests of both the collector and the trade, the law of supply and demand is inexorable and the attraction of "good" postage stamps as an investment cannot be ignored.

Once again the editor sincerely appreciates the assistance readily given by the several persons concerned.

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INTRODUCTION

The thirtieth edition of our Catalogue presents, inter alia, several changes of interest and import.

The traditional red cover has been abandoned in favour of one of more attractive design and appeal—a point of interest.

As a result of the kind endeavours of Dr L. Abramovitch of Sydney, and aided by perusal of the material of the late Chas O. Dunn, the high-value bi-coloured Kangaroo issues have been revised completely. Whilst the editor regrets the necessity to alter catalogue numbering, etc., it is felt the amendments herein, generally, will be favourably received—a point of import.

In our last two editions the editor remarked upon the hardening market, the increasing scarcity of better items, and the law of supply and demand. An upward trend still continues, but whereas post 1937 issues broadly speaking, have stabilised to some extent, the Kangaroo and George V issues, particularly in mint condition, are commanding higher prices as the advances in this edition indicate—a point of interest and import.

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INTRODUCTION

This thirty-first edition of our Catalogue covers revision in "odd spots", as it would appear the market, although still buoyant, has stabilised to a certain degree.

It is appreciated the Kangaroo and higher value King George V issues continue to maintain the good prices commanded over the past several years, and catalogue prices have been adjusted where deemed necessary.

Mention is made for the first time (page 28) of the "Telegraph Cancellations" of the high value Kangaroos, and illustrations are provided of the Fox-, Rat-, and Ewe-faced 'Roo variety.

In the George V issues, the 1d Reds have been given a long overdue increase, but the editor is not completely satisfied with the 4d value, particularly the Harrison blue which was not listed separately prior to the revision of 1966. No alteration is made on this occasion.

A number of items in the 1964-66 definitive issues also are hardening.

It is worthy of mention too that although the photogravure process may not hold as much appeal as intaglio (recess), the transition period from recess to photogravure, the currency change, and the introduction of heleon offer a large challenge to the student. Results of research on these issues are still emerging, but a sense of proportion is necessary in assessing the merits of varieties so far as listing is concerned.

The editor is very appreciative of the assistance generally so readily given by Dr L. Abramovitch of Sydney, also to Mr G. Durham of Portsmouth, U.K., in respect to the 5d Queen Elizabeth II, Green/Red Q34/35.

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INTRODUCTION

The thirty-second edition of our catalogue contains further revision of pricing in the Kangaroo and George V series, thus reflecting the firm upward trend particularly in mint condition, and the scarcer major varieties.

A strong demand has become manifest for Specimen overprints, also the coil emissions of the George VI and Queen Elizabeth II reigns, and substantial price increases were warranted, as many of these items are in somewhat scarce supply.

Certain better class stamps of the past thirty years including some very recent issues have been given attention too, most to keep up with a hardening market, odd ones down a shade.

Some review of the Queen Elizabeth II issues and recent commemoratives has also taken place, particularly the 5d. Green-Red issues of 1963-65 on which excellent research is still being done especially by Mr G. Durham in England.

As intimated in the introductions to previous editions, the editor must bear in mind the trade, the specialist and the potential specialist, and makes an honest endeavour to reflect the Australian market trend, which is governed purely by demand and supply. A perusal of advertisements in any philatelic publication, and auction realisations, will indicate to any rationally thinking person that pricing to please the majority is not always easy. It is trusted therefore, that pricing in this edition will be found equitable.

A note on the listing of varieties appears under that heading.

The editor desires to express his grateful thanks and sincere appreciation to Mr Gordon Thomas of Brisbane for his valued assistance on this occasion, also is very pleased to place on record that in keeping the Catalogue up to date, considerable information has been culled from the Philatelic Bulletins of the Australian Post Office. This sincere tribute is both well-merited and long overdue, and the editor in apologising for being remiss in the past, now conveys a big "Thank You" to the Department and the personnel directly concerned.

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INTRODUCTION

The thirty-third edition of our catalogue, apart from the inclusion of new issues and the results of some research, again accords as far as possible with market prices, and/or relative scarcity of given items due to demand and availability of supply, by increasing prices on certain issues particularly in the Kangaroo early and high values, some King George V, and other specific instances.

There has been a strong interest shown in 'Specimen' overprints, and whilst it is considered advisable to retain their listing with the stamps concerned, a new Section—Section 12—has been introduced to show at a glance the complete listing and some associated details. It is hoped to secure additional information and establish a more accurate pricing for the several Kangaroo types of overprint.

The King George V 1½d Research Group in England and Australia are publishing their findings, and it is proposed to recast these issues in entirety in a future edition.

Missing colours in photogravure printings, and offsets in recess printings, also imperforate 'errors' have become more frequent in recent times, and must of necessity command appropriately high prices. There also has been some rather strong recutting, sometimes of exceptional extent, in several issues and the study and research potential offers a great challenge.

The editor has prepared a number of illustrations of the better known, the less easily distinguished, and scarcer varieties which should greatly assist identification and promote interest and research.

By and large, it is trusted the majority of the interested parties will find this edition an acceptable improvement in many respects.

The editor is appreciative of the assistance rendered by Messrs G. Thomas D. Trail and I. Mastins of Brisbane, D. Graham of Sydney and Mr G. Durham of England.

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INTRODUCTION

The thirty-fourth edition of our catalogue has been up-dated and undergone a close review in several respects.

The frequency of new issues — short and long term definitives and commemoratives — continues to expand the catalogue. It cannot be too strongly stressed that the use of plastic intermediaries in the production of the recess printed issues has tended to produce a far greater number of major varieties than hitherto; in fact, all the recess printed low and high values of the past ten years have presented students with rather more research than with which they can adequately cope, but the results are reflected in the continually extending lists of varieties. The photogravure emissions offer less scope, apart from the frequency of missing colours.

Study of stamps while still current and a thorough understanding of the production and printing processes is essential to ensure a proper evaluation of the merits of any item, and to minimise misleading and incorrect deductions.

Apropos these remarks, it is pertinent to mention the problems experienced by three members of each The Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales and The British Society of Australian Philately who combined to undertake the recently published research into the 1½d Die I, King George V of 1918-26 — issues of fifty years ago. This study was extremely difficult and it is hoped the concise revision appearing in this edition and based on this research does some justice to these members' efforts which are fully appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the editor.

The examination of over one million copies of Q34/35 by Mr G. Durham of England again necessitated the re-writing of these issues, and the editor is specially indebted to him for passing on the results of his study and his staunch assistance.

Also included in this edition is reference to the 'Specimen' overprints on the early Postage Dues, and several additional illustrations.

The main review relates to pricing. The demand for Kangaroo and George V issues and associated varieties in good mint condition far exceeds availability and such material may be regarded as being in the 'jet set' class. In general, prices are up-lifted, odd ones stabilised or reduced. In this respect, the editor extends his thanks to a particular Stamp Dealers' Committee for a thoughtfully compiled and rather equitably based guide to the pricing herein.

The valued assistance again rendered by Messrs G. Thomas and I. Mastins of Brisbane is also acknowledged; indeed, all who contributed information for the improvement of the content of this catalogue earn the editor's gratitude.

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Although the thirty-fifth edition of our catalogue includes recent new emissions and some results of specialists' research, the revision has been concentrated on pricing.

This is a 'major headache', as the rises may be considered by some as astonishing, perhaps ridiculous, but trade advertisements and auction realisations surely belie this.

There is a frantic demand in Australia and overseas for better class material of all issues in mint and fine used condition, and even poorer copies are commanding good prices.

The supply is just not available and the strongly escalating trend as reflected by the general inflation spiral is causing prices to reach new peaks *week by week*. Presently, there appears to be no reason to doubt the continuation of these circumstances and undoubtedly some of our pricing will be obsolete by the time this edition is on sale.

Printing cannot be deferred indefinitely awaiting some semblance of market stability, consequently the above factors must be taken cognizance of when quoting reference in this catalogue.

Regretfully, the editor lacked the requisite time to prepare illustrations of major varieties as was his intention.

Certain notes appear in the text regarding variations in paper, luminescence and shades, and whilst conceding the individual's right to specialise to his desired extremes, it is pointed out this is a catalogue not a handbook, and the detailed information appearing in philatelic publications of necessity must be condensed herein to a pertinent generality.

The editor once again appreciates the valued assistance of Messrs G. Thomas and I. Mastins of Brisbane and extends due acknowledgement to the Australian Post Office for the general and technical information contained in Philatelic Bulletins.

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INTRODUCTION

The thirty-sixth edition of our catalogue appears during a time of continuing philatelic boom with supply and demand the dominating factor.

Obviously then, price revision is again emphasised with the probability that some pricing will be obsolete by the time the catalogue is available. There is no apparent reason to believe that the upward trend will not be maintained, and it should be borne in mind that the prices are for fine A1 specimens as stated in the notes hereafter.

The frequency of new issues in recent years expands the pages of the catalogue, and the use of two photogravure presses with production differences, paper variations, perforations, also issues in each intaglio and typograph all contribute to philatelic and collector alertness. But efforts of the collectors and the trade to keep 'with it' at times 'gang agly', as evidenced by the prices now demanded for the very recent 40c and 50c Navigators in mint condition, to instance two items, and more so the humble 5c blue Queen (Q74).

Due to inability to acquire the much-sought Kangaroo issues, many are evincing interest in the Perf. O.S. stamps and George V and Postage Dues, as the revised pricing indicates.

A number of new varieties have been included, even though in the main they are somewhat minor, as are many of the traditional types listed under the Kangaroo and George V issues.

The editor trusts the appreciative majority will be happy with this edition and extends grateful thanks for the assistance rendered from a number of sources, especially Messrs I. Mastins, G. Thomas and C. Buckman of Brisbane.

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Apart from the inclusion of new issues and price fluctuations, the frequency of which poses much difficulty in determination without anticipating market levels, users of this thirty-seventh edition of our catalogue will find comprehensive revision including altered references, regrettable but necessary, particularly in the decimal issues.

A number of philatelic publications have been researched in an endeavour to collate *reported* (but not vague) details relating to papers, luminescence, perforations, adhesives, new cylinders and printings to a small degree, the more *note-worthy* varieties, with combinations of these factors in many cases, and overall to assess relative merits and *scarcity* of some items, and price equitably.

It is well to be cognizant of three points: (a) Revision is up to early June 1976, and once the manuscript is reset only minor corrections are undertaken for expediency in view of publication deadline; (b) the smoke had not cleared from the perforation-paper-gum explosion of 1975, consequently a completely stable market pattern had not developed and certain pricing may be somewhat arbitrary; (c) the unfortunate trend towards 'fly-speck' philately cannot be expected to come within the ambit of this catalogue.

Briefly, revision generally has been concentrated on:

- (i) Decimal issues, especially 1c-7c Q.E.II, Coils, Pioneers, Commemoratives, etc.
- (ii) Partial overhaul and more realistic pricing of Postage Dues, which hitherto has not been satisfactory, and which it is hoped to complete in a future edition.
- (iii) The incorporation into new Section 6A of up-dated, concise, technical and other associated information, layouts, etc, to assist in promotion of better understanding of Australian stamp production, cause and effect, and philatelic thought.

Obviously, all 'new' information herein cannot be forthcoming from any one purely local source, and the Editor feels it incumbent to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the many who contribute to and edit the Bulletins of *Australia Post*, The Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales, British Society of Australian Philately, *Philately from Australia*, *Australian Stamp Monthly*, and the assistance so readily given by others, especially by Dr Alan Nicholson of Ballarat (Postage Dues), Geoff Durham of England, Dr Joan Frew, G. Thomas and I. Mastins of Brisbane.

INTRODUCTION

The thirty-eighth edition of our catalogue is revised and published in a year in which inflation continued at a rate of some 14 per cent, and the philatelic market continues to be buoyant with a trend to some slight stability in the Kangaroo and some other issues generally, subject to exceptions.

Whilst it is not intended to transform this catalogue into a handbook, it is felt that some details of certain aspects of Australian Philately be included to foster greater understanding of occurrences and to promote further study.

There has been some disfavour with the 'scrambled' presentation of King George VI issues and at this late stage it is not deemed expedient to radically re-list these in the logical chronological order of issue. As a compromise, the series of issues, colour changes, etc, has been concisely tabulated at the beginning of the Section, and applied also to the Kangaroo and George V sections (details excerpted from Australia Post booklets).

Anomalous pricing of the 3d Kangaroo Die I and Die II pairs first and third watermarks has been adjusted, and for the first time such pairs, inverted watermark are included.

The 'void corner' and Mullett imprints of the 1½d King George V Die II have been completely revised consequent upon research by Mr A. Pailthorpe of Sydney, who proffers the most reasonable explanation to date in respect to flaw and corrections. The John Ash treatment of this unit will follow in next edition.

Progressive revision of the Postage Dues, again with the valued assistance of Dr A. Nicholson of Ballarat, covers more rational pricing and further details of these generally neglected issues, particularly pre-1938.

The Editor is pleased also to acknowledge the ready assistance of Messrs W. C. Hansen (Sydney), J. Sinfeld (Melbourne), C. Buckman, I. Mastins and G. Thomas (Brisbane).

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The thirty-ninth edition of our catalogue includes the recent new issues, information on the Ash corrections to the 'Void Corner' of 1½d King George V, Die 2, resultant from theory promoted by Mr A. Pailthorpe of Sydney, and further limited research on the Postage Dues by Dr A. Nicholson of Ballarat, and the editor.

The great upsurge in pricing has had to accord with certain radical trends which must give all sections of the Australian philatelic fraternity, particularly specialists, food for serious thought on near-feature developments.

There has been created a strong demand for,

- (a) Kangaroo and George V, perf. O.S., mint and used, prices for which are equal to or in some cases in excess of the 'normal' stamp;
- (b) Mint unhinged for which premium prices are paid for pristine copies — mostly by investors.

The paradoxical repercussions are that the margin between normals or perf. O.S. and such with varieties is quickly narrowing, also that fine mint imprint blocks are fetching prices barely approximating or less than those for four 'mint unhinged'.

Without doubt, we are contending with an investor's market which probably will sustain despite economic conditions. It is also the individual's prerogative to purchase to his satisfaction and pay what he will to secure.

It is factual that fine imprint blocks are being broken down to obtain the better price for the MUH demand, and the editor has been asked, 'Is the back of a stamp now more important than the printed design on the front?' Food for thought indeed!

Whilst the basic principles in 'Explanation of Terms and Pricing' are maintained in some respects, recent auction realisations have been taken into consideration, also the trade 'buying and selling' lists which evidence some inconsistency on given items.

To determine any advance price stability under the existing cauldron conditions obviously is impossible — as is an auctioneer's estimate — but the following premiums are introduced as a guide only:

Mint unhinged and very fine used:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kangaroo and George V Issues | — add 50 per cent |
| Pre-1940 Issues | — add 33-1/3rd per cent |
| Pre-Decimal Issues | — add 25 per cent |

The editor is deeply appreciative of assistance given by C. Buckman and I. Mastins of Brisbane and several trade personnel, and is pleased to incorporate details from Australia Post Philatelic Bulletins, results of research by contributors to Specialists Society Bulletins and points from interesting 'Letters to the Editor'.

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INTRODUCTION

The fortieth edition of our catalogue is the editor's 'fifteenth anniversary' and since the 1965 edition, priced at 10s 6d (\$1.05), there has been much change such as conversion to decimal currency, new printing techniques, a considerable number of new issues due in part to postal rate increases and policy, and in recent years the advent of stamp investing and the mint unhinged obsession. Stamp investing now is big business, fuelled by all world governments, and in Australia we have the deplorable practice of classic imprint pieces being broken down to singles for monetary gain and their study value destroyed forever.

With investor demand dominating a market of depleted material, today's aspirant specialists can only wonder in what areas and to what extent they can afford to specialise, yet much study still remains to be done on earlier issues. No doubt the collections of purist specialists also represent an investment, and sooner or later manipulation will create an imprint demand to the benefit of holders, as has transpired with other items and gimmicks over the years, eg, O.S. issues, gutter pairs, title tabs, etc.

In conformity with these trends there is a somewhat complex situation. Some issues are more or less static, others, eg, 5/- Bridge, have tended to stabilise. Kangaroo and George V continue to rise, most O.S. values more so than normals. The immediate pre-decimals are appreciating, but the earlier decimals are 'flying high'. In fact, future pricing must lean towards a virtual 'MUH' and superb fine used level.

Several new illustrations have been included in this edition, one to supplement the further limited research on the 1909-38 Postage Dues (showing signs of resurgence), thanks to the valued assistance of Dr A. Nicholson of Ballarat, also Mr P. W. R. Bolton of England.

Once again the editor is grateful to Messrs C. Buckman, I. Mastins and several trade personnel, various contributors by mail, and to Society Bulletins, and finally for details published in Australia Post *Stamp Bulletin*.

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE NEW PUBLISHER

Seven Seas Stamps Pty. Ltd. has acquired publishing rights to the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue after 25 years' publication by The Hawthorn Press. Under the guidance of Mr. John Gartner, The Hawthorn Press published an extensive range of philatelic titles mainly directed to the specialist. The significant contribution these publications made to furthering collector-interest in the stamps of Australia, Australian States and the Pacific area is considerable.

We have re-structured the Specialists' Catalogue and it is quite certain that not all of the changes made will win unanimous approval. The following comments will help readers to understand this 41st Edition more easily.

1. THE LAYOUT OF THE CATALOGUE.

The 40th edition contained 12 sections and 274 pages. With the annual growth of contents it became increasingly more difficult for users of the catalogue to readily find specific items because of the scattering of listings. We have retained the Kangaroo and George V individual sections; all other postage stamps are listed in chronological order.

For obvious reasons we have also retained the Postage Due and Booklet sections intact.

For convenience we have retained the Specimen section but all individual Specimen overprints are listed with the appropriate normal stamps.

Australian Antarctic Territory and B.C.O.F. stamps are the only non-Commonwealth issues now listed in the catalogue. The former were on sale at every Australian post office and had a status almost indistinguishable from Commonwealth issues of the time. A.A.T. decimal issues are all valid for use within Australia.

The B.C.O.F. issues are of course overprints on Commonwealth adhesives.

All other Australian Territory and related issues will be found in the Australasian Stamp Catalogue.

2. KANGAROO AND KING GEORGE V SECTIONS.

It was extremely difficult to decide whether to dismantle these sections and list the stamps in conventional date and watermark sequence to conform with the rest of the catalogue, or to retain the present format. Logic and consistency demanded the former, consideration for the many collections mounted according to present catalogue format commended the latter.

3. K.G.V. 1d RED.

This has traditionally been the "most researched" Australian Commonwealth stamp and in previous editions of this catalogue had a special section devoted to it. The increasing difficulty of obtaining research material, particularly mint but even unsorted used copies of the 1d red has caused a marked decline of interest in this stamp, when measured by numbers of collectors.

We have contracted the range of shades listed to what is regarded as an appropriate listing for this catalogue. Many Specialists will no doubt continue to research and collect this fascinating issue beyond the scope of our listing; we have attempted to provide a balanced representation for the average user of this catalogue.

4. THE OTHER SECTIONS.

It has not been possible to retain previous catalogue numbers for those sections of the 40th edition which have now been merged; we apologise to collectors who may be inconvenienced by this once-only change of numbers.

Some comments from the new Publisher (cont'd)

5. COLOURS AND SHADES.

There was little reason for some of the shade listings previously given; some lists could be doubled, others contained shades of shades. The greatly increased market value of the individual stamps and the fact that the passage of time and the effect of daylight and artificial light tends to fade many surface printed issues have combined to cause us to delete a number of shades. Distinct colour groupings and all major shades have been retained.

Users of the catalogue who wish to collect a wide range of shades will undoubtedly continue to do so and do not need this catalogue to specify the precise numbers of shades which should be in their collection.

6. VARIETY ILLUSTRATIONS

It is our intention to eventually illustrate almost every variety listed in the catalogue. This project will take several years; an excellent start has been made with the decimal issues.

7. UNMOUNTED MINT

One of the most contentious features of this edition will be the inclusion of a separate pricing column for unmounted mint stamps. This is not an attempt to start a new "fad" but is a response to an existing situation: a majority of collectors are demanding, and collecting, only unmounted mint. Personally, the publisher is totally opposed to the unmounted mint concept but recognises that this is becoming more and more a minority view.

8. PRICING

We have incorporated the European system of symbols to identify the condition of stamps listed, and these are as follows—they appear at the head of all pricing columns throughout the catalogue.

- ★★ Unmounted mint, with full original gum in fresh condition as sold by the post office.
- ★ Mounted mint, previously lightly hinged, hinge remains may or may not adhere to the stamps.
- Fine used, a clean attractive copy.

For stamps not meeting these specifications prices should be reduced according to condition.

For unmounted mint we price only the basic stamp. It would be impracticable to price every single mint variety in unmounted condition. The price differential between ★★ and ★ for the normal stamp will provide the basis for establishing the price of any other item or variation of the stamp concerned.

Prices for varieties are for those in the cheapest shades unless stated otherwise.

Prices for major rarities and items not often bought or sold are based on international and local auction realisations during the last 12 months where available.

9. OTHER ITEMS

This publication is intended to be a Specialist Catalogue for collectors of Australian Commonwealth adhesives—it does not list first day covers, postal stationery, States issues, cinderella, or Territories issues.

THE AUSTRALASIAN STAMP CATALOGUE is an excellent catalogue for collectors interested in subjects not covered by this 41st Edition.

INTRODUCTION

Under a new publisher, the fortyfirst edition of 'The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue' has a 'new look' with colour facsimiles of stamps, added variety and illustration content and altered listing references in some sections on which the publisher will comment.

In recent editions, but particularly in 1980, the Editor has referred to the rapidity of change affecting matters philatelic. Inter alia, 'The President's Address for 1979' to 'The Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales' (March 1980 Bulletin) also contains some very penetrating comment on the splurge of new issues, gimmickry, pursuit of the philatelic dollar, the inflationary price deterrent to aspirant specialists, and the relative lack of study potential on recent issues.

It is appreciated that the primary purpose of a postage stamp is to prepay the service of conveyance and delivery of postal articles, but nowadays the secondary purpose of many is investment.

Photo-lithography techniques are efficient, economical and flaw-free, but minutiae have no place in such a catalogue as this.

By contrast, productions by the electro-types of surface and recess (intaglio and photogravure) processes, the transition from imprints and watermark to abolition of both, the experimental perf. pips. of 1957-59, the pre-decimal technical changes, and the more recent perforation-paper-gum complex, although now 'history', all combined to sustain the purist and specialist alike and provide the staff and spice of philatelic life.

This catalogue incorporates comprehensive results of student research, and as a necessary adjunct, equally considerable content of production and other technical details and notes. nevertheless, there still is enormous scope for study on many issues, even on the first issue—the 1d. Kangaroo of 2.1.1913. Some study is currently exercising the minds of a number of dedicated purists who are diligently seeking requisite material. In this respect it is unfortunate that many an item in an auction catalogue is not as informatively described as it might be.

Photo-litho. issues do not provide much scope for in-depth study and today's materialistic dollar-dominated outlook cannot but have a deleterious effect on aspirant specialists—put bluntly, they are being priced out! Varieties always have carried a premium large or small, and research is a consideration at major Philatelic Exhibitions. One is constrained to ask, Is the goose that laid the golden eggs dying or already killed? Will there be a backlash? Are there counter-measures?

Certainly, pricing in this Edition must of necessity reflect the still rising market, particularly the early Decimals. But to maintain and stimulate study incentive, endeavour has been made to judiciously expand content.

The Kangaroo Section has been 'tidied up' to some extent by standardising variety references, introducing each value with brief details of plate, monograms and imprint changes, and including several extra composite illustrations. Further improvement is both necessary and desirable. Additional snippets are found in George V, George VI and Queen Elizabeth pre-decimals. Decimal issues include many additional varieties and illustrations.

That integral part of Australian philately, the sadly neglected Postage Due 1902-1963, appears to be gaining well-merited, if belated, recognition, as since the expansion of this Section—continuing slowly—prices have risen much higher.

The Editor again warmly appreciates the willing assistance from Ivars Mastins (Brisbane), Chris Buckman (Nambour), Dr. A. L. Nicholson (Ballarat), Geoff Durham and Peter Bolton (U.K.), and gladly acknowledges contributions by mail, through Society Bulletins, and the informative details published by Australia Post in 'Australian Stamp Bulletin'.

A much earlier deadline was desired for the complete re-setting and revision of this edition, and a great debt of gratitude is due to the publishers and staff for untiring effort and contribution which culminated in this undoubtedly enhanced production which it is felt will commend itself to all thoughtful philatelists.

J.P.M.

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLISHER

The 41st Edition of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue broke new ground with a complete re-structuring of the catalogue layout and a reproduction of stamps in colour. The changes did meet with the approval of the majority, although some of the more dedicated specialist collectors did feel disadvantaged by the rationalisation of the colours and shades. The 42nd Edition of the Catalogue does rectify some of the major changes that caused concern to the specialist collectors of Geo V. issues.

1. KANGAROO AND KG. V SECTIONS

The format of listing the stamps in conventional date and watermark sequence has been retained.

2. KGV 1d RED

Collectors of the most researched Australian Commonwealth stamp will be pleased to see the previous numbering system re-introduced side by side with the new. It is hoped this compromise will find favour with new and established collector alike.

3. COLOURS AND SHADES

The policy of restricting colours and shades to distinct colour groups and major shades has been retained. However, where warranted some shade listings have been increased.

4. PRICING

The catalogue incorporates the European system of symbols to identify the condition of stamps listed, and these are as follows—they appear at the head of all pricing columns throughout the catalogue.

- ★★ Unmounted mint, with full original gum in fresh condition as sold by the post office.
- ★ Mounted mint, previously lightly hinged, hinge remains may or may not adhere to the stamps.
- ◎ Fine used, a clean attractive copy.

For stamps not meeting these specifications prices should be reduced according to condition.

For unmounted mint we price only the basic stamp. It would be impracticable to price every single mint variety in unmounted condition. The price differential between ★★ and ★ for the normal stamp will provide the basis for establishing the price of any other item or variation of the stamp concerned.

Prices for varieties are for those in the cheapest shades unless stated otherwise.

Prices for major rarities and items not often bought or sold are based on international and local auction realisations during the last 12 months were available.

5. OTHER ITEMS

This publication is intended to be a specialist catalogue for collectors of Australian Commonwealth adhesives—it does not list First Day Covers, Postal Stationery, State issues, Cinderella or Territories issues.

For obvious reasons we retain the Postage Dues and Booklet Sections intact.

Some comments from the Publisher (cont'd)

For convenience we have retained the Specimen Section but all individual Specimen Overprints are listed with the appropriate normal stamps.

Australian Antarctic Territory and B.C.O.F. stamps are the only non-Commonwealth issued now listed in the catalogue. The B.C.O.F. issues are, of course, overprints on Commonwealth adhesives.

THE AUSTRALASIAN STAMP CATALOGUE is an excellent catalogue for collectors interested in subjects not covered by this 42nd Edition.

INTRODUCTION

In introducing the forty-second edition of this catalogue I have, in somewhat limited time, endeavoured to reverse to some extent the radical generalised treatment of certain content in the 1981 edition which drew some adverse comment.

In some Kangaroo and George V issues the term 'shades' after the basic colour is too loose, and tends to denigrate the traditional concept on which specialist collections (some medal-winners) have been built up. Not all varieties are known in all shades, nor are all shades punctured O.S., and some shades are scarce in mint condition.

New issues are updated (to September, 1981), several new illustrations appear, and there are odd additions to the Postage Dues.

The 1d. Red George V has been restored in entirety with a dual numbering reference, and generally the colours of the Kangaroo and George V series have reverted to the previous listing, qualified by the shade variations.

Particular attention has been given to the K.G.V. 1½d. Die 2 plate 2 void corner and corrections, and the Plate 4 re-entries, and some Plate 1a varieties. With access to the Ward, McNess, Bare and other material Alex Pailthorpe of Sydney, in collaboration with the King George V study group of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales, has provided me in a very profitable morning meeting, with the latest results of the in-depth research. This is included together with a sequence of flaw and repair illustrations. It is stressed the philatelic history of the several units was established by the study of imprint pieces. I reiterate previous remarks that the breakdown of imprints is a tragedy and a travesty which destroys forever the specialist import especially in respect to the Mullett and Ash settings. It is patently obvious the study of imprints may be exploited to advantage on all issues.

The early deadline of September, 1981, has precluded more extensive revision, which is regretted, nor have I been unable to undertake pricing, but it is trusted this edition will be well received by the majority.

I extend special thanks to Alex Pailthorpe for sight of his excellent material, also appreciate the assistance of dependable Ivars Mastins of Brisbane and Dr. Alan Nicholson of Ballarat.

J.P.M.