

INTRODUCTION

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 *noteworthy* 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 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.