

# INTRODUCTION

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'.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We are not a stamp dealing firm and do not supply stamps listed in this catalogue.