

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.