

INTRODUCTION

THE CATALOGUE

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue has a simple charter:

- * To establish a Catalogue for Specialists and all collectors interested in Australian stamps.
- * To enable collectors to expand their collections of these stamps, by supplying more detailed and illustrated information.
- * To provide easy reference for dealers when serving their clients.

THE FORMAT

In 1952 Mr. Campbell Paterson published a catalogue of New Zealand stamps, which set a new standard by its loose leaf format. This provided a permanent, yet adjustable, guide for collectors of the stamps of that country.

The new owners of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue have used the New Zealand catalogue for many years, and our investigations have determined a demand for an Australian equivalent in format.

A primary consideration was the cost of an annual catalogue to the collector. It meant that much information was repeated at each reprint of a complete volume, the updating basically consisting of the addition of new issues.

The principle of loose leaf binding, making it possible to add new information, obviously reduces the yearly expenditure of collectors. The record of new issues is kept up to date at minimal cost, and any important information is also made available, without the costly reprinting of standard matter.

The development of computers, combined with new printing technology, has made this practical, though expensive to initiate. It is achieved by dividing the Catalogue into two classes of pages: Permanent and Temporary. "Permanent" pages record established knowledge, unlikely to require revision, though available for replacement to include major discoveries. "Temporary" pages are those which record information obviously subject to alteration (such as prices) as time goes on.

In due course Updates will provide new information, revising prices as necessary.

UPDATES

So far the KGV Head series and the Postage Dues have been revised. Work has begun on other sections, and this includes the 1d. Kangaroo and Map.

As the results of further research become available, they will be published with the annual list of new issues, thus regularly bringing the Catalogue up to date in all respects.

We invite collectors and specialists to submit information. Suggestions will also be welcome.

PRICING

It should be noted that the pricing of stamps in this Catalogue is based on last known realised prices. This particularly applies to those with limited availability. It is not possible to price certain varieties on anticipated realisations.

An example of this is the recent discovery of a pair of Postage Dues, imperforate between, (D71b), which was sold in February 1988 for \$2000. When next offered in the market this may well realise a larger amount. It is listed here at \$2000.

Although endeavour is made to relate prices to the Australian market as far as practicable, it must be appreciated that this is governed by supply and demand, and is subject to continual fluctuation. There often is much disparity in market prices for a given item.

Therefore, it will be understood that in the case of extremely rare items the prices listed are introduced as a guide only.

Further details relating to pricing on pages XIII and XIV.

Decimal issues: Stamps from 14.2.1966, when decimal stamps were issued, are priced only in ** and ○ condition.

SEQUENCE OF LISTINGS

The Kangaroo and K.G.V. Head series are arranged by face value, and then by watermark and issue date, and are numbered with "K" or "V" prefixes. (The King George V Head series sequence of listing is detailed on Permanent Page C20). All other issues are numbered in issue date order, then by watermark or perforation, following in order of face value.

Shades: Listed under the letters A, B, C, etc.

Paper varieties: Watermark inverted, sideways, or reversed. Paper thick or thin. Listed under letters a, aa, ab, etc.

Separation varieties: Double perf., imperf., coil joins, etc., are listed under letters b, ba, bb, etc. Diagonal, skipped perms. 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. are listed under 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. Where a plate variety is found in several states these are listed e.g., as d, da, db.

Imprints: Listed after all variations of paper, printing, etc., for each issue. 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.

The sequence of listing the King George V Head series differs from the above and is detailed on Permanent Page C20.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Australia Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue has a long and respected history. It was first published in 1926 by S. Orlo-Smith, a leading Melbourne Stamp Dealer, for fifteen editions to 1955.

John Gartner of Hawthorn Press then purchased the Catalogue and published twenty-four editions, until Mr. Gartner retired.

The Catalogue was again sold — this time to Seven Seas Stamps Pty. Ltd., who published two editions.

We are grateful to all those who maintained the trust of Australian collectors in the integrity of this specialised Catalogue. We acknowledge J.P. Meara, especially, the editor for many years, and John Gartner for his encouragement, help and inspiration.

It would be impossible to produce a Catalogue of this type without a considerable amount of assistance from collectors and dealers.

The only Catalogue which has been published in loose leaf format is Campbell Paterson Ltd.'s "New Zealand Stamps". It is with much respect and gratitude that we thank Mr. Campbell Paterson and Mr. Warwick Paterson for their encouragement and general permission to follow certain aspects of their Catalogue.

The new format and extensive revisions so far completed have involved countless hours, especially from Mr. Bert Wajer of Adelaide, who is largely responsible for the KGV section. Two of the values — 4½d and 1/4d have been recently researched and plated by Mr. Wajer. Both platings will be available through BRUSDEN-WHITE PUBLISHING in 1988. Mr. Wajer has also researched the 1d Die 3 and co-researched the 2d Die 1.

The ½d value has been researched by Mr. M. Hill, of Melbourne, in conjunction with Mr. Wajer. The 1d section is by the Editor, with special items from Mr. Carter of Melbourne.

The KGV publications and articles from the British Society of Australian Philately, The Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales, The Philatelic Society of South Australia, and The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria have provided valuable references. Specialists are encouraged to join such societies to enrich their collections, their hobby (and hopefully their lives) through philatelic friendship.

The detailed work provided by Mr. Lance Skinner of Sydney was such that almost every page contains revisions attributable to him.

The Decimal Section has been revised by Mr. D. McCleary, with additional drawings. We recommend Mr. McCleary's published list of "Australian Decimal Varieties" for further information about these stamps. (P.O. Box 19, Werrington 2760).

The Postage Dues have been re-written and clarified by Mr. Bob Peters, of Melbourne, with additional contributions by Mr. D. Kott.

The Frama Section is primarily the work of Mr. Ken Sparkes of Melbourne, in conjunction with the Frama Study Group members Lance Skinner and Glen Stephens. Further specialist information is contained in "FRAMA Australasia", by Ken Sparkes, P.O. Box 363, Box Hill, Victoria 3128.

The SPECIMEN Revision relating to the measurements has been the work of Mr. Ray Chapman M.B.E., together with the Editor, following many queries from collectors. Other comments relating to Specimen overprints on the Paintings and other promotional types are the opinion of the Editor.

Stamp Dealers have always been supportive of this Catalogue. Many dealers and auctioneers have contributed to the accuracy of prices quoted, and have also advised us of many new discoveries. The Dealers who have directly helped us produce this Catalogue are Richard Juzwin of Melbourne, who has been a solid supporter; we offer our special thanks and appreciation. Mr. Simon Dunkerley of Melbourne, for many hours giving his specialised knowledge. Mr. Tony Shields of Melbourne, Mr. Alf Campe of Sydney.

The Auctioneers we particularly wish to thank are P.J. Downie, and, individually, Mr. Mark Knothe of Melbourne, Mr. Barry Cooper (Status Stamp Auctions, Sydney), Mr. Colin Crymble and Mr. Eban Ingram (West Brisbane Stamp Sales), Mr. Ray Kelly (Macray Stamp Auctions Melbourne), Mr. Robin Linke, (Auctioneer of Perth), Trevor Ross (Tasmania Stamp Auctions, Hobart), Mr. Gary Watson of Melbourne, and Mr. Charles Leski of Melbourne. We recommend collectors and specialists to these and all other members of the Australian Stamp Dealers Association.

Appreciation to Australia Post and the staff involved in permitting photographs from the archive collection, including the illustration on the front cover, and the new issues.

The many enthusiasts who have over a hundred years collected, researched, and encouraged others by documenting their hobby.

Miss Karen Beardwood whose ability to interpret manuscript copy of all kinds, is equalled only by her skill in keyboarding it onto computer ready for printing reproduction.

Finally, Mr. David Plummer, whose expertise in printing, philately, and attention to detail, was of assistance in proof reading, which, for a reference book of this kind, implies endless cross-checking and verification.

To all the unknown and to all those who have contributed in any way, thank you.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

More than 320 Australian stamps have appeared since October 1981, the date of the last Specialist Catalogue dealing with such issues. In the same period philatelic research has made many discoveries in earlier issues. The Catalogue records not only the recent issues but also new knowledge about the earlier material.

All sections have been revised, and corrected where necessary. Attention is drawn especially to:

THE KGV SECTION.

This contains much new information. The list of varieties has been expanded considerably, and all varieties are clearly illustrated.

The system of identifying individual varieties in the sheet has been standardised for all values excepting the 1d, which remains in the accepted form for that value. The new system and that used for the 1d. are fully explained in the Introduction to the KGV issues (see page C20).

The "G" numbering system for the 1d. red has been re-instated with additions, and provides the main reference for this stamp. The "V" numbers now indicate only the cheapest or base catalogue number. Examples are:

V16 1d Carmine Red, single watermark, single line perf.

V22 1d Carmine Red, single watermark, comb perforation.

V31 1d Carmine, single watermark, rough paper.

Two additional varieties are now listed:

VII 7 (the stamp below the "secret mark").

VIII 8 (the stamp to the left of "thin" One Penny, which we have called "Distorted" One Penny).

The Die 2 clichés are illustrated to show the variations of the "spur" flaw. An interesting series of illustrations shows the development of the KGV design.

THE KANGAROO AND MAP SECTION.

This and all other sections retains the sequence of numbers established in earlier editions of this Catalogue. Work has already begun on the One Penny value of the Kangaroos, to be expanded in a future Supplement.

THE POSTAGE DUE SECTION

These issues have been re-written to incorporate new information published in "Commonwealth of Australia: Postage Due Stamps 1902-1963" by R.P. Hyeronimus. The addition of previously unpublished research by Bob Peters of Melbourne has, we believe, clarified a most difficult series. We envisage further additions to this section in the form of illustrations in due course.

Alan J. White

AUSTRALIAN COLONIES

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of Australia consists of 6 States and 2 Territories. The six States were each Crown Colonies who conducted independent postal services.

The issues of stamps by these Colonies are a fascinating study and worthy of comparison with the classic issues of any other country. New South Wales and Victoria issued stamps in 1850 just after Great Britain and well before many other countries, all other States followed very quickly.

The design and production of the Colonies' stamps is often a history of invention, perseverance and the ability to improvise, very few issues were produced overseas.

Stamps of the Australian Colonies are increasingly popular and so they should be. To cater for this new popularity, this list is provided in a type (design) form.

Each Colony is treated as a separate entity e.g. the watermarks are illustrated in full for each Colony — some common types of watermark differ in reference from Colony to Colony. This system is designed to allow the collection of any one Colony as one would any other country without necessity to cross-reference for information.

A type (design) listing enables a collector to form a basic simplified collection, this would usually be a copy of each type in the most common form. A **Simplified** List is available free of charge — this list gives the S.G. cross reference and is also a price list, from which orders may be placed.

This form of collection can then be easily expanded to the next stage, which is "as listed" in the catalogue. The catalogue reference number is the same for both the Simplified and Catalogue listing — the catalogue expands the simplified list by using capital letters to denote the different watermark and perforation changes.

The types are listed in order of issue — many types were used for long periods covering the introduction of many watermarked papers and the use of various perforating machines e.g. N.S.W. 5d Diadem.

No watermark papers which are wove or laid are listed.

The first no watermark papers contained the makers name etc. values for these stamps which show a portion of these watermarks are from times 2 the listed price. **ERRORS OF WATERMARK** are all listed where known.

SHADES:— The colours listed for each type are generally a basis and many shade variations exist.

PERFORATED ISSUES:— The use of single line perforating machines of various gauges, used often in conjunction with each other, created a complexity of perforation varieties, all of which are listed. Stamps perforated by S.Line machines are rarely well centred, therefore, above average copies are off centre in one direction. The listing in this catalogue is designed to allow future addition of varieties in context and to avoid duplicate listings for each perforation variety and or each watermark change.

It is the intention to expand the work in this current catalogue of the Colonies' issues into a more specialised listing over future years. Information and assistance in this regard is eagerly sought. For example Plated Varieties and details of Retouching of any values or issues.

Values given, especially for scarcer stamps of the old and middle issues are approximately those the collector can expect to pay for above average rather than superb or fine copies. Fine to superb copies are up to double the list price — less than average copies are half the list price. The actual prices charged may also vary, influenced by stocks on hand, condition of the stamps as above and many factors in the market place from time to time. Refer illustrated condition page.

COVERS:— Stamps on Cover are always at least double the used price (taking into account the quality) of the stamp or stamps on the cover. Add to this the rarity and clarity of postal markings, the route and destination of the letter and especially the cleanliness (no fungal marks, creases, tears etc.) Therefore, cover prices in lists or Auctions are always for that particular cover.

METHOD OF LISTING:— A number denotes the basic (simplified) listing for a type, which is also the most common or cheapest variety as listed in the FREE simplified price list. All other listings of a type are denoted by a capital letter (I.O.Q. and V are never used in this context) used in conjunction with the basic number e.g. to order a N.S.W. 3d Green Diadem wmk. C (double lined 3) perforation 12 x 12 = N.S.W. 24B.

HISTORY

Queen Victoria, on the recommendation of a Committee representing the six Colonies, proclaimed the Federation of these colonies as the Commonwealth of Australia, by Royal decree on December 30th 1901.

The Queen had selected John Adrian Hope, 7th Earl of Hopetoun (Lord Hopetoun) on July 14th 1900, to represent her as Governor General of Australia.

A Royal tour was arranged and the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York (later King George V and Queen Mary) arrived in Melbourne to open Australia's first Parliament on May 9th 1901.

Postal services, were from 1850 to 1901, under the control of the six Colonies and remained so to a certain extent until 1913, when the first full Commonwealth stamps were issued.

However, to explain this more fully, one must start at March 1st 1901, when the Commonwealth of Australia Act declared all Postal Telegraph and Telephone services were to be controlled by the Commonwealth. The system of administration and the rates levied by the Colonies at the time of Federation to continue, only partial uniformity being achieved.