

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FOURTH EDITION (2014)

This year represents the centenary of the issue of the King George V Sideface definitive stamps, and research into these ever-popular issues has continued since the appearance of the Third Edition in 2007. Much of this work is highly specialised in nature, and for that reason is not always suitable for inclusion, even in a catalogue as specialised as this one. Nevertheless, a number of additions have been incorporated into this new edition.

John Bozic, Ian Fuary and Gordon Towell have met and pooled their resources to undertake a thorough review of the shades of all values other than the 1d red. The aim was to align their material to the existing listings so as to confirm the shade designations. As a result, a great deal of standardization has been undertaken by eliminating the pale and deep variants of the same colour where the price was the same, and renaming a number of colours with better descriptive names. A small number of new shades have been added. This work has been carefully undertaken and the result should be welcomed by all collectors.

The question of which plate varieties to include has always been a difficult one, made even more so by the considerable research which continues to be undertaken, particularly with the 1½d Die I and 2d Die I electros. Inevitably, the list of plate varieties included, while extensive, is to some extent an arbitrary one.

John Bozic has made a detailed and thorough review of this question across all the denominations, and as a result a large number of new varieties have been added; a small number have been deleted. In particular, an attempt has been made to add plate varieties to those issues in which relatively few were previously listed. John and Gordon Towell have also been able to provide illustrations for a number of varieties where previously only a drawing was available. There were a number of errors in the previous listings of plate varieties, especially as regards plate positions, and hopefully these have now been corrected. In the 1½d Die I a number of unlisted varieties have now been positioned and transferred to their appropriate listing.

For the complex 4d value a number of additions and corrections have been made, largely based on the ongoing research of Geoff Wotherspoon.

For the 1½d Die I and 2d Die I issues, the imprints have now been listed for each electro used. These are distinguished by the distance between the stamps and the top line of the imprint, and by plate flaws on the stamps contained in the imprint block. It has proved impractical to illustrate the imprints for each electro, but it is hoped that the notes provided will enable collectors to allocate their material accurately.

David Terrington has undertaken a detailed census of the 1d George V die proofs and made the results of his work available, and this section has now been revised. The numbers recorded of each proof have been adjusted and a few corrections have been made to the listings. In particular, it has become apparent that a few more of the fascinating De La Rue die proofs exist than was previously thought. Some new illustrations have been included, and it has now been shown that the State 4 die proofs on thin paper were pulled by Seymour Bennett, and represent a distinct class. These have now been assigned their own catalogue number.

Cancelled-to-order stamps have become very popular in recent few years, and more accurate information is now becoming available on a number of aspects of these stamps. The introductory notes on the types of c.t.o. datestamps used have been considerably extended, with additional illustrations. In consultation with Mark Houston, a review of the previous listings of c.t.o. stamps has been undertaken, and a number of additions have been listed. The c.t.o. stamps cancelled in Brisbane have been included, but there is still insufficient information to list the various types of datestamps used for each issue.

Stamps for distribution to the Universal Postal Union were usually cancelled-to-order, often with the same datestamps as used for collectors' sets. Where known, the dates found on the U.P.U. specimens have been recorded in footnotes. Many of the stamps exist with the additional handstamps or receiving marks of overseas postal administrations, and all known examples have now been listed and priced. It is likely that there are some items of this nature which will need to be added in the future.

There have been a few interesting discoveries since the last edition. Perhaps the most important, and certainly the best publicised, was the finding of a used example of the 1d red with watermark sideways - a remarkable discovery after so many years for this most studied of issues.