

## INTRODUCTION TO THE FIFTH EDITION (2018)

The Fifth Edition appears in full colour for the first time. Reaction to the colour edition of the 2017 Kangaroos catalogue has been positive and hopefully the change to the King George V catalogue will also be popular. The frequent colour changes of many values of the George V stamps mean that many of the plates of constant varieties are made up of different coloured stamps, or of stamps in widely varying shades. The hue of some stamps also means it has been necessary to artificially alter the colours of some illustrations to provide the necessary contrast for colour printing, so not all illustrations should be taken as accurate representations of colour.

Further plate varieties have been added throughout the catalogue, particularly in the ½d, 3d and 4d denominations, and mistakes that occurred in the previous version have been corrected. For the 1½d and 2d Die I, for which the imprints of each electro were listed in the last edition, it has been decided to list the identifying flaws in the imprint blocks as separate varieties when these are of sufficient size, rather than mentioning these only in the footnotes.

The question of which plate varieties to include can be a matter for considerable discussion (and disagreement), but it is felt that the catalogue is now approaching near to the limit in this regard. The catalogue should not be considered a substitute for the wide range of specialised monographs on the various George V Sideface stamps, and interested collectors are referred to those for more extensive lists of varieties.

Some small changes, and a few additions, have been made to the shades which were extensively revised in the previous edition.

It had not been possible to accurately list the perforated colour trials for the 4d violet, but the opportunity to study the large holding of these in the collection of the late Arthur Gray enabled a comparison of these with the available archival correspondence, and provided information for an accurate and complete listing.

Cancelled-to-order stamps were fully revised in the last edition, and remain a popular collecting field in which research continues. As a result, the relative scarcity of a number of these has become better appreciated which has resulted in significant price increases in some cases.

The publicity surrounding the discovery of the 1d red with watermark sideways, listed for the first time in the fourth edition, led to the discovery of a second example.

The market in these ever-popular stamps remains quite strong. Several major holdings have appeared at auction since the last edition, notably the collections of Lord Vestey, the late Julian Sterling and the late Arthur Gray which have established market values for many of the rarest pieces which infrequently come onto the market. Fine quality is in demand and this is leading to a greater discrepancy than ever between prices for the exceptional compared to the average. Demand for proofs has softened, but there is still a strong demand for those rare plate varieties which seldom appear for sale.