

INTRODUCTION

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The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue was first published in 1926 by S. Orlo-Smith & Co., a leading Melbourne stamp dealer. After 14 editions the catalogue was sold in 1953 to C.E. Norden, who published two editions under the imprint of Australian Stamp Auctions. The catalogue was then acquired by The Hawthorn Press, which published 24 annual editions up to 1980. Ownership then passed to Seven Seas Stamps Pty. Ltd. which published two editions in 1981 and 1983.

Following acquisition of the catalogue in 1987 Brusden-White converted the format to a loose-leaf one and the revised catalogue appeared in 1988.

The aims of *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* are:

To establish and maintain a catalogue for specialists and all collectors interested in Australian Commonwealth stamps.

To enable collectors to understand and expand their collections of these stamps, by supplying more detailed and illustrated information.

To provide an accurate and detailed reference for dealers when serving their clients.

The publishers are cognisant of the fact that the standard handbook on the stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia has not been published since 1968 and is out-of-print, and now contains much information that is out-of-date and inaccurate. No new edition of this work seems likely in the near future, and this catalogue now serves as the major work of reference on Australian Commonwealth stamps.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The present publisher and editors are indebted to their predecessors for the time and energy expended on the catalogue to make the listings as accurate and informative as possible.

The previous editors were:

S. Orlo-Smith 1926-1952

C.E. Norden 1953-1954

Rev. J.C.W. Brown 1956-1965

J.P. Meara 1968-1983

A.J. White 1988-1992

These editors in turn were dependent on information supplied by numerous collectors over the years. Individual acknowledgements will be given in each Section to the best of the present editors' knowledge.

PRICING

Prices in this catalogue are based on what is considered to be a reasonable retail value in the Australian market at the time of publication. For very rare items such as errors, and essays and proofs, which are rarely on the market, the value must be taken as a guide only. Although an endeavour is made for these prices to be as accurate as possible, it must be appreciated that stamp values are governed by supply and demand, and are subject to continual fluctuation.

Pre-decimal issues have four price columns, using the following symbols:

★★ UNMOUNTED MINT

★ MOUNTED MINT

⊙ USED

☒ USED ON COVER

For decimal issues no price is given for mounted mint.

Mint. Unmounted mint prices are given only for the basic stamp in each of its shades, and for OS punctures. Other varieties of the stamp may exist in this state, but for pre-1937 issues are relatively scarce, and it is not possible to identify which listings exist in this state. The previous practice of listing and pricing all varieties as unmounted mint has therefore been discontinued, for fear that this could encourage expert re-gumming of such stamps. The value of genuine unmounted mint items which are not priced may be computed from the ratio between unmounted mint and mounted mint for the basic stamp.

Centring. Prices for single stamp listings in this catalogue are for reasonable centring, with perforations clear of design. Perfectly centred stamps, particularly those of the reign of King George V, sell for a premium, whilst those much off-centre (i.e., with perforations touching design) sell for discounted prices. The variation in prices generally is in the range of 70% to 130% of those prices given.

For monogram /imprint strips or blocks, although centring of individual stamps within the unit may vary considerably, prices are as given.

Used. Prices are for reasonably centred stamps with a light or medium circular cancel. Off-centre stamps or those with heavier circular or other hand-applied cancels, and machine-cancelled generally sell for 50% of price given.

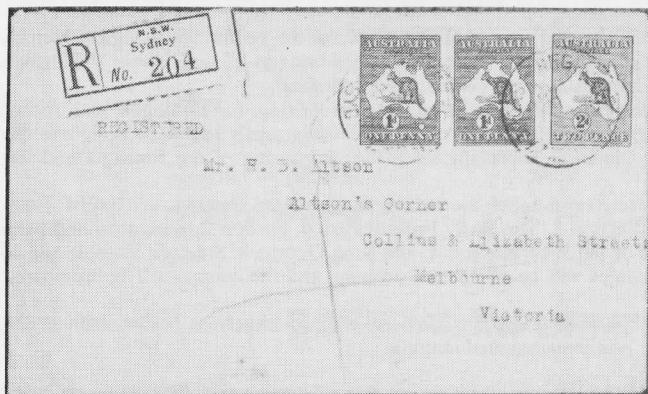
Varieties. Prices are for the cheapest shade.

Stamps on Cover. This is a new innovation to satisfy the increasing demand for modern postal history. Under each stamp, the introductory notes include information on the primary uses of that stamp. Prices are for stamps used during the appropriate period of issue on reasonably clean and intact commercially used covers (i.e., not First Day, Souvenir or other philatelically motivated covers, such as those bearing deliberately overpaid frankings). This may or may not involve the stamp used in conjunction with other values. For some stamps, in particular values over 6d prior to 1930, the primary uses of such stamps was not on covers but on parcels, or for strictly non-postal uses such as telegrams. Eligible are Post Office labels, parcel tags, and fragments of parcel wrappings/coverings which incorporate vital information such as addressee details and registration label if applicable. It is doubtful if some stamps (e.g., £2 Kangaroo, First Watermark) survive on entire; in such cases no price is given in the cover column.

Where more than one stamp is present on a cover/parcel label, the value is arrived at by taking the basic price on cover for a given stamp and then adding the used price of the additional stamp/s. Some examples of pricing multiple frankings are given here.

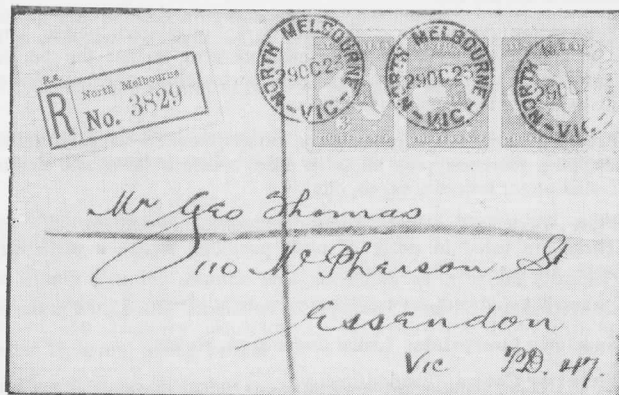


No. 10 (x3). Base price on cover \$100 + \$35 x 2 = \$170.



Nos. 4 (x2) + 5

Base price of No. 5 on cover
 $\$60 + \$1 \times 2 = \$62$



No. 13 (x 3)

Base price on cover
 $\$40 + \$6 \times 2 = \$52$



Nos. 19 + 27 (x 2) + 8

Base price of No. 19 on cover
 $\$150 + \$10 \times 2 + \$15 = \185

SEQUENCE OF LISTINGS

Each section has been arranged according to what is considered to be the most logical system, and that providing the user with the easiest access. Thus, the Kangaroo and King George V Sideface listings are value by value, whereas the later listings are basically chronological.

The publishers believe that the increasing number of sections comprising this catalogue, with recent developments expanding this number even more, that the concept of using prefix letters to designate the stamps in each section was becoming unwieldy, especially since the numbering of the Sections and the prefix letters did not correspond.

It has been decided to progressively re-number the catalogue as revised Sections are issued. Each Section will be numbered sequentially (Section 1, The Early Federal Period; Section 2, Kangaroo and Map Stamps; Section 3, The Engraved Stamps of 1913-14; Section 4, The King George V Sideface Stamps; and so on). The prefix designations for the stamps will be eliminated entirely, and the stamps will be numbered from No. 1 (1/2d Kangaroo) onwards.

The listing of the variations within each stamp has been maintained largely as before, with minor modifications to enable the inclusion of newly-catalogued material.

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

Paper Varieties: Watermark positions (inverted, reversed), thick and thin papers, etc. Listed under letters a, aa, ab, etc.

Perforation Varieties: Double perf., misplaced perms., imperforate errors, coils, OS punctures. The criterion for listing perf. misplacement is that the perforations encroach into the design by at least 2mm. Major examples of freak perforations and imperforates caused by paper folds are also given. Listed under letters b, ba, bb, etc.

Printing Varieties: Gutter pairs, offsets, printed on gum, double and kiss prints, dry ink and other ink stripping varieties, plus all other non-constant flaws and errors occurring during the printing process. Listed under letters c, ca, cb, etc.

Plate Varieties: Plate flaws, retouches, re-entries, etc. Listed under letters d, e, f, up to v. These are listed in order of plate position. Where a plate variety exists in two states, the subsequent states are listed as da, db, etc.

Cancelled-to-Order: Stamps from collectors' sets. Listed under w.

Specimen Overprints: Listed under x, xa, xb, etc.

First Day Covers: Listed under y.

Monograms and Imprints: Listed in order of their appearance under letters z, za, zb, etc.

Essay and proof material of any stamp is placed before the listing of that stamp, and has been indicated by the use of the following letter designations:

Essays: Listed under ES.

Die proofs: Listed under DP.

Plate Proofs: Including colour trials. Listed under PP.

Each different class of proof is indicated by a bracketed number, e.g., 3PP(1), 3PP(2), etc., and variations within each class, for example different colours, are indicated by letters A, B, C, etc., giving 3PP(1)A, 3PP(1)B, 3PP(1)C, etc.

"OS" overprints have now been given a separate listing following that of the basic stamps. These bear the number of the basic stamp followed by (OS). For example, 22(OS) is the 6d Kangaroo, Small Multiple Watermark, overprinted OS.

Prefix letters have been retained for those classes of material outside the general listing of stamps: B for stamp booklets; D for Postage Due stamps; E for the essays of the Early Federal Period, 1901-1913 (Section 1).

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THIS CATALOGUE

★★	Mint unmounted, original gum	f.d.c.	First day cover
★	Mint previously mounted	imperf.	Imperforate
⊙	Used	opt.	Overprint
✉	Used on cover	perf.	Perforation
c.d.s.	Circular datestamp	wmk.	Watermark
c.t.o.	Cancelled-to-order		

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE PRINTING BRANCH AND THE PRINTERS

Up to 1977, all stamps listed in this catalogue were printed in Melbourne by the Commonwealth Stamp Printer (or his subsequent titles), with the following exceptions:

- the monocolour Postage Dues up to 1909, by the New South Wales Government Printing Office in Sydney.
- the 1956 Olympic Games 1/-, and 1962 Commonwealth Games 5d and 2/3d, by Harrison & Sons Ltd. London.
- the 1956 Olympic Games 2/-, by Courvoisier S.A., Switzerland.

The following is a brief chronology of the Commonwealth Stamp Printers and the Stamp Printing Branch in Melbourne:

1909. A Stamp Printing Branch of the Commonwealth Treasury Department was established, with J.B. Cooke as the Commonwealth Stamp Printer.

May 1918. J.B. Cooke retired, and the Stamp Printing Branch was abolished as a separate entity. The printing of Commonwealth postage stamps was made the responsibility of the Note Printing Branch, which originally was a branch of the Treasury Department. T.S. Harrison, Note Printer and Engraver, succeeded Cooke as Australian Note and Stamp Printer.

1924. Note and Stamp Printing Branch transferred to the control of the Commonwealth Bank.

February 1926. A.J. Mullett, retired Victorian Government Printer, acted as Australian Note and Stamp Printer until a successor to Harrison arrived from Great Britain in June 1927.

June 1927. John Ash, born in Perth, Scotland, was Printing Manager of De La Rue & Co. before coming to Australia. He was the first Stamp Printer to take a real interest in the quality of stamps produced, and the changeover from letterpress to recess-printing was effected in the early 1930s. Ash retired on 19 April 1940 and died on 28 November 1947, aged 75 years.

April 1940. W.C.G. McCracken, OBE. In his tenure of 23 years, the successor of Ash saw the installation of more equipment and the introduction of photogravure techniques and facilities. Contrary to suggestions that political factors were responsible, McCracken when he retired on 22 March 1963 disclosed that he had suggested ending the Australian tradition of printers' personal monograms and imprints, and the introduction on 1942 of the impersonal "By Authority" imprint. He received the O.B.E. in the 1963 Birthday Honours.

1959. The establishment became known as the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

April 1963. W.H. Wilcock, CBE, succeeded as General Manager in a period of technical developments, including the use of plastic in plate production, the introduction of heleen, additional equipment and the conversion to decimal issues in 1966. At the time of his retirement on 14 November 1969, Wilcock was an Advisor to the Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia, and General Manager of

the Note Issue Department of the Reserve Bank. In 1969, the department was re-organised and the stamp production and printing activities are now carried out by the Printing Division of the Note Issue Department.

1969. H.R. Longmuir, Advisor to the Governor, Reserve Bank of Australia, held the post of General Manager during a period of consolidation.

1971. R.A.S. Bywater, GC, CM, born in England in 1913, and came to Australia in 1954, joining the Reserve Bank in 1957 as a research chemist. He later moved to Manager, Research and Development, assistant to Mr Wilcock, and finally General Manager of the Note Issue Department.

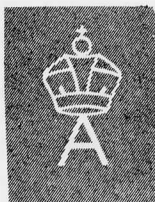
1976. G.M.E. Seats became General Manager of the Note Issue Department, and directed the move to new Note Printing Works at Craigieburn, 25km north of Melbourne.

1981. D.R. Parr became General Manager.

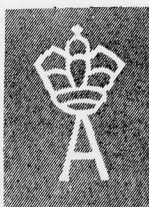
Since 1977 a number of private security printing companies have been contracted to print Australian Commonwealth stamps, and exclusively so since 1981. Further details of these companies are given in the relevant Sections.

WATERMARKS

Six types of watermarked paper were used for Commonwealth stamps between 1913 and 1965.



TYPE 1
(First Watermark)
Mesh of paper horizontal



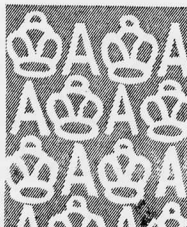
TYPE 2
(Second Watermark)
Mesh of paper vertical



TYPE 3
(Third Watermark)
Mesh of paper vertical



TYPE 4
(Large Multiple Watermark)



TYPE 5
(Small Multiple Watermark)



TYPE 6
(C of A Watermark)

Beginning in 1948, the use of watermarked paper was phased out for those denominations below the current basic letter rate (2½d). This policy was later extended, and after 1956 only those denominations of 5/- and above were printed on watermarked paper. All decimal issues have been

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printed on unwatermarked paper.

The early Postage Due issues up to 1922 were printed on other watermarked papers. These are treated in the appropriate Section.

OFFICIAL PUNCTURES

This Catalogue lists only such Official stamps as were used by Federal (i.e., Commonwealth) Government Departments. Such Departments used stamps punctured OS from 1902.

The first Kangaroo stamps for Federal Official use were punctured Large OS. The letters were 14mm high and the puncture so weakened the stamp that from the end of 1913 this puncture was gradually replaced by the Small OS puncture. A medium-sized OS was used for three issues in 1927-29. The OS overprint was introduced in 1931. In February 1933 it was decided that no further stamps would be overprinted or punctured for Federal Official use.

The Small OS puncture is 7.5mm high, 15.5mm wide, 12 holes to "O" and 11 holes to "S". On commemoratives, it was used for the 1928 3d Kookaburra and 1930 Sturt set.

The Medium OS puncture is 10mm high, 14mm wide, with 12 holes each to the "O" and "S". This type was used only for the 1927 1½d Canberra, 1929 1½d W.A. Centenary, and 1929 3d Air Mail.

No stamps on C of A watermarked paper have been punctured OS for Federal Departments. Any such stamps so perforated were used by State Departments.

Collectors are warned that scarce OS punctures and varieties (double punctures and similar) have been skilfully forged and such items are difficult to expertise. Forged overprints are also known, of which some are very dangerous.

Stamps punctured by State Government Departments for official use do not rank as Commonwealth issues, and we do not include these in this catalogue. State punctures were as follows:

New South Wales: OS over NSW, 1902 to 1933; OS ("S" with 12 holes), 1933; G over NSW, from 1933. GR (Government Railways) was in use from 1895; and GSB over NSW, very soon replaced by GSB alone (Government Savings Bank), was in use from 1907.

Queensland: Normal stamps at first, but then OS up to 1933. Thereafter no official punctures.

South Australia: SA, 1903 to 1912 at least, then OS up to 1933. Thereafter no official punctures.

Tasmania: Has always used T.

Victoria: OS, 1902 to 1933; thereafter VG.

Western Australia: WA, 1903 to 1915 at least, then OS to 1933; thereafter W over A. PWD (Public Works Department) was also in use for a short period prior to 1904.