
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION (2014)

This edition of Postage Dues includes the issues of New South Wales and Victoria for the first time. These stamps are closely related to the Commonwealth issues, their designs being used in turn as the basis of the Commonwealth designs. Although there has been a monograph published on the Victorian issues, albeit some 47 years ago, which dealt with most facets of those issues, there has been almost no research at all into the New South Wales, except as far as it relates to the 1902 converted plates. While a certain amount of new information on the postage due issues of both States is presented here for the first time, it is hoped that the new listings will bring forth new information.

In the 1999 edition, a number of perforations of the Commonwealth monocolour issues were deleted pending confirmation of their existence. Several of these have since been reported, mostly involving a differentiation of the 11.5 and 11.8 single line perforations. A thorough review of the material, and the contemporary literature has identified problems in distinguishing these two machines, whose gauges overlap at some points along their length. This inevitably leads to misidentifications, especially in single stamps, from which even Expert Committees are not immune. It has been decided, therefore, that collectors' best interests are served by combining these two gauges as "11.5, 11.8", which is sufficient for all except the most determined specialist in these issues. A fuller account of the reasoning behind this decision will be found in the introduction to the monocolour issues.

Throughout the Commonwealth issues, a number of new illustrations have been included, and the illustrations of the plate flaws have been improved wherever possible. The listing of plate flaws has been considerably extended, especially in the bicoloured issues, including a number of flaws on the two letterpress frame plates. Also noteworthy is the improved listing of flaws on the 4d Die I, where more accurate information regarding the existence and use of two value plates has become available. More work is still needed on the value plate flaws, particularly with regard to the occurrence of value plate flaws on the various printings, where it is expected further corrections will need to be made in the future. Some additional flaws are listed for the monocolour stamps, but a number of others exist, especially in the 1902 Blank Base series; these have not been listed since few of these can be positioned at present; it is hoped further research will rectify this.

Further archival records, not available in 1999, have enabled the 1909-1930 printings to be identified with much greater accuracy, resulting in revisions to the number of printings made of many denominations, and their quantities. The opportunity to view the rich material in the Royal Collection has enabled a number of additions and corrections to the listings.

A number of other new listings appear for the first time in this edition. The line perf. 12.4 stamps of the 1909 thick paper series, which could not be confirmed in 1999, have now been sighted for several stamps. Several inverted watermarks, so popular in the Kangaroo and George V issues, have been discovered since the last edition and are now listed.

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