

INTRODUCTION

Postage due stamps were introduced in Victoria on 1 November 1890, and in New South Wales on 1 January 1891. Only Trinidad amongst British Colonies preceded the two Australian Colonies. In each case, the postage due stamps had a common design in which the denomination featured prominently, and all values in each series were printed in the same colours. The Victorian stamps are unusual in being bicoloured, which involved extra expense for what was a utilitarian series not intended for use by the public.

Following Federation, the Postmaster-General's Department decided to extend the use of postage due stamps to the other States. The New South Wales design was chosen, suitably adapted, and these stamps were printed at the New South Wales Government Printing Office in Sydney. First issued in July 1902, these postage due stamps were intended for use in all States other than Victoria, which continued to use its own design. Following the establishment of the Commonwealth Stamp Printing Office in Melbourne under J.B. Cooke in 1908, the opportunity was taken to create a Commonwealth postage due series, based on the bicoloured Victorian design, for use in all States. This was first issued in July 1909. The postage due design remained essentially unchanged until postage due stamps were discontinued on 31 January 1963.

USAGE

Postage due stamps were never intended for use by the public, and were never sold across post office counters except for philatelic purposes. The major use of postage due stamps was to indicate the amount of postage to be collected on mail which was underpaid. Postage due regulations and practice are beyond the scope of this catalogue, but the general rule was that an amount equal to double the deficient postage was collected from the addressee, although there are a number of exceptions to this, and postage due on international mails is a complex subject. The sending office identified underpaid items and indicated the amount to be collected in manuscript or by handstamp on the face of an article. At the delivery office, postage due stamps of the appropriate amount were affixed, and following collection of this money, the stamps were cancelled. Much of this money was collected by letter carriers, who often cancelled the stamps in manuscript. Such stamps are worth less than postmarked examples.

Higher value postage due stamps were often used to indicate the total amount of money to be collected on a batch of letters to the one addressee, rather than franking each letter individually. High values were also used by the Post Office for purposes other than postage due involving internal accountancy. This includes the payment of bulk postage, and the balancing of accounts between offices. The majority of such stamps were destroyed internally and have not come into collectors hands. The stamps were also used for the payment of customs duty on dutiable items arriving by post in Australia. In particular, the ½d value was important for this function.

AVAILABILITY

Initially, regulations precluded the sale of Victorian and New South Wales postage due stamps to the public, but pressure from stamp collectors led to both Colonies making cancelled-to-order sets available from about 1894. There is no evidence that mint stamps were ever sold to collectors, although sufficient quantities exist today to indicate that, with the help of postal officials, collectors found their way around this prohibition.

With the introduction of the Commonwealth series from 1902, the same regulations remained in force - no mint stamps would be sold, and only cancelled-to-order sets could be obtained. Repeated requests from dealers and collectors eventually had the desired effect, and from May 1904 it was announced that uncanceled or cancelled stamps could be obtained, of any denomination or quantity, at face value. Officially, application had to be made to the deputy Postmaster-General at the G.P.O. in each State, although it is believed that across counter sale was arranged, at least in some States. This situation remained until 1953 with the establishment of Philatelic Bureaux in each State, at which time philatelic sales of postage due stamps became their responsibility.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Help with the compilation of Postage Dues is gratefully acknowledged to the following collectors and dealers:

Larry Birke	Arthur Gray	Bob Peters
Simon Dunkerley	Stuart Hardy	Ron Simcox
Paul Fletcher	Richard Juzwin	Stuart Wattison
Ian Fuary	Charles Leski	

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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The co-operation of the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, Michael Sefi RDP, FRPSL and his assistant, Ian Greig FRPSL in enabling several extended visits to study the postage due material in the Royal Philatelic collection is gratefully acknowledged.

Help with the compilation of this edition of Postage Dues is acknowledged to the following collectors and dealers.

Larry Birke	Richard Juzwin
Alan Cross	Mark Knothe
the late Simon Dunkerley	the late Bob Peters
Allan Gory	Stuart Wattison