

FOREWORD

The first edition of this Handbook was published in November, 1922, and achieved an instantaneous success. Since that time it has come to be recognised as the standard work upon the stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia. So great has been the success of this work that, almost from the date of its first appearance, the publishers have been compelled to deal with a constant stream of enquiries concerning future editions. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that they submit this second edition.

During the period 1922-1926, not only have a number of interesting new varieties of Commonwealth postage stamps made their appearance, but there has also been a very considerable amount of useful research conducted by students of these stamps. To name a few items, the discovery of the three dies of the 1d. Georgian, of retouches in the 1½d. (red) and 4d. stamps, of the Harrison dies of the Kangaroo series, and the complete investigation of the subject of marginal inscriptions, all point to the very considerable advances that have been made in the knowledge of these issues. In consequence of these very important advances, it has been found necessary to re-write several sections in their entirety, while considerable additions and alterations have been necessary throughout. Considerably more attention has also been given to the now popular subjects of marginal imprints, stationery, essays and proofs, etc. It is hoped that in some respects, a certain degree of finality will now have been reached; although, with the constantly advancing knowledge of these issues, absolute finality is practically impossible.

The stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia are now rapidly gaining in favour among serious collectors, and it is hoped that the publication of this new edition, with full and detailed information of the present state of philatelic knowledge of the subject, will meet all requirements of collectors of these issues for some time to come.

In conclusion, I must express my personal indebtedness for all the information and assistance received from correspondents throughout the world, and particularly to Mr. W. Brettschneider, for assistance in compiling the new list of postal stationery (Chapter XV.), and to my wife for assistance in writing the opening chapter.

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