

SYNOPSIS

Commonwealth of Australia Printings of the KING GEORGE V - SIDE FACE SURFACE PRINTED ISSUES 1914 - 1937

These issues are undoubtedly the most significant definitive issues of the Commonwealth of Australia. Over the years many eminent philatelists have studied them and the make up of the many printing plates used is now much better understood, but there is still work to be done in some areas. This exhibit shows selected items from of the many printings that were made.

The four Commonwealth Stamp Printers who, in turn, managed the production of Australian stamps, were responsible for the quality of the finished product. Their skills and character are often reflected in the stamps they produced. A summary of their accomplishments is given overleaf.

Stocks of each stamp value were kept in a central stockroom and issued to Post Offices as required by public demand. The Commonwealth Stamp Printer was tasked with maintaining these stocks and he printed the various stamp values in batches for delivery to the stock room. Stamp usage therefore did not follow soon after a batch of stamps was printed but was often spread over a period of time.

The 1d. steel plates produced by Perkins, Bacon & Company in London were more durable than the electroplates made in Australia for the other values. The 1d. plates were used throughout the period but the copper electroplates were subject to wear, were easily damaged, and had to be frequently replaced.

For values other than the 1d., the use of a set of 1, 2 or 4 printing plates would generally continue until unacceptable defects occurred. New or reconditioned electroplates would then be substituted. For the commonly used stamps many printings were required and a series of electroplates were made.

A "Printing" as referenced in this exhibit could be a batch, or several batches, using the same printing plates or in the later printings a change in the watermarked paper or a change in perforation. The 1d. Red printings are referenced to established shade groups.

Identifying the various printings, like any detective work, requires many facts and clues to be assembled.

Plate Flaws are generally used to identify the electroplates used for printing the ½d., 1½d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 4½d., 5d., and 1/4d. values. Electroplates were subject to continuous maintenance to maintain the quality of the printed stamps hence, the many Re-touches, Re-entries and Repairs that were made can be assigned to particular printings. Cracked Clichés often occurred towards the end of plate life. Many of them have yet to be plated though some can be tentatively assigned to a particular printing. Some printings can only be identified from the cancellation date.

Inconsistent Ink Formulas resulted in a variety of colour shades in all values. Subtle variations in Colour Shade are important factors in identifying the 1d. Red printings and plate flaws may be used to confirm a shade. Assessing the daylight shades requires a keen eye and a constant daylight source. The stamp response to ultra-violet light (wave length 360Å) is also used to identify the Shade Group of the 1d. Reds. The cancellation date of used stamps also provides important information to confirm the printing.

First day of issue covers and cancellations are rare and few are known.

Many of the rare items from these issues are now in the Chapman Collection housed in the Australian Philatelic Archives and can no longer be acquired by collectors. The rarer items included in this exhibit are highlighted in the "Items of Special Note" section. Colour shades are identified throughout the exhibit. Unusual shades are highlighted.

Cliché Positions are identified as follows:-
Plate/Electro No. - Left/Right Pane - Cliché No.

References:

1. Australian Commonwealth Specialist Catalogue King George V Section (Brusden & White)
2. George V 1d. 3rd. Edition (Finlayson)
3. The Red Head (Beech)
4. Plating the KGV 1d. Die 2 (Wager & Monk)
5. George V Halfpenny (Dix & Rowntree)
6. George V 1½d. Die 1 Parts 1 & 2 (ACCNSW)
7. George V 1½d. Die 2 (Forbes)
8. George V 2d. Die 1 (Parsons & Sandy) 2nd. Edit.
9. The George V 2d. Die 2 (Wajer)
10. The George V 2d. Die 3 (Guidi)
11. The George V 3d. (Davidson & Dix)
12. The George V 4d. (Davidson & Dix)
13. The George V 4½d. (Wajer & Edwards)
14. The George V 5d. (Davidson, Dix & Rowntree)

Items of Special Note

	Page
• 1d. Perkins Bacon Die Proofs - States 1-2-3-4	2,3
• 1d. Plate Proofs - Shades	4
• 1d. Red - Used on cover	6
18 July 1914 (2nd. Day of Issue)	
• 1d. Red on Thursday Island cover	1
• 1d. Red Single Line Perf. - Die 2	8
• 1d. Red Die 2 - Used on Cover	17
• 1d. Red - CNE Inking Flaw	10
• 1d. Red - Shades: - Plum,	18
Salmon Eosin, Orange Red	15
• 1d. Red Bisected - Used on Cover	17
• 1d. Red - Harrison Printings - Substituted Monograms	20
• 1d. Green 1924 Issue - Offset	25
• 1d. Green 1926 Ptg. - Head Flaw	29
• 1d. Green Die 2 1928 printing Strips of 3 - Mint and on Cover	31
• 1d. Green 1931 Issue - Watermark Reversed	32
• ½d. Green - 1915 Booklet Pane	47
• ½d. Green - Single Line Perf.	48
• ½d. Green - Block of 18 with Cracked Cliché (5-L-46)	50
• ½d. Green - 3-L-58 on Postcard	48
• ½d. Orange - Only Recorded Copy of Hollow "S" on Cliché 9-R-47	60
• 1½d. Black Brown - Cancelled First Day of Issue	70
• 1½d. Green - Coarse Paper	80
• 1½d. Red Die 1 - Unsurfaced Paper	83
• 1½d. Red Die 1 - Printed on Gum side	84
• 1½d. Red Die 2 - Plate 1a Strip of 4 with Mullet Imprint, Block of 4 showing Plate Marking	90
• 1½d. Red Die 2 : Perf. 1¼ x 14 Printed on Gum Side Only Recorded Copy	93
• 1½d. Red Die 2 - Block of 12 with John Ash Imprint showing Re-entries to 4-L-47/53 and a printing office replacement of 4-L-54	97
• 1½d. Red Die 2 - Lord Howe Island Provisional	98
• 2d. Red Die 1 - Retouch - King's Head (14-L-12)	106
Intense Scarlet Aniline	106
Flaw in LVT (16-L-4)	106
• 2d. Red Die 2 - Plate Proof with part John Ash Imprint (One Recorded)	109
• 2d. Red Die 3 "Kiss Print" (3 Recorded)	112
• 2d. Red - Postal forgeries	112
• 2d. Red Die 3 Opt. OS on cover Earliest recorded date of usage	114
• 3d. Blue Die 1 - Offset	119
• 3d. Blue Die 2 Type B - Mullet Printing - Strip of 3	120
• 4d. Lime Yellow - Line through FOUR (2-R-12)	36
• 4½d. 1926 Issue - Aniline Mauve	125
• 4½d. 1927 Issue - Rough Paper	126
• 4½d. 1927 Issue - Mauve Aniline	126
• 5d. Die 1 - Printed on Gum side	61
• 5d. Die 1 - Rough Paper - on Cover	65
• 1/4d. 1927 Issue - Very Deep Greenish Blue	116
• 1/4d. 1932 Issue - Telegraph Usage	117

Items in Bold Print
are matted in PINK in the Exhibit

Abbreviations used in the Exhibit:

ERD - Earliest Recorded Date
CTO - Cancelled to Order Punc. - Punctured
LVS/RVS - Left/Right Value Shield
L - Lower or Left U - Upper R - Right