

Revenue Review

The New Year is upon us and we are all back into finding, recording & updating etc. I do hope you all had a nice break and are safely back doing what you love to do. In my house that's sorting revenues before, during and after the break! Hopefully this year we will be able to increase the 'new finds' of 2008. To read what is first ahead this year, we have to go back!

Yellow Express Carriers Ltd 1923-1972 1974-2008

Back in November 08 Revenue Review I showed a Yellow Express Carrier stamp wondering if this was from Australia or the USA. Things have advanced somewhat. I have had Ian, a reader in Victoria show me another copy [fig 1] but with an S on the right side and imperf at base. This also has selvedge on the left side begging the question was this stamp layout in a roll or in the form of a booklet pane, with the left selvedge allowing for staples. Ian also pointed out the steering wheel is on the right side and the truck is driving on the left, we all noticed this I am sure! So it can't be from the USA. I have played with Photoshop and placed the two in a vertical row [fig2] the X copy and the very bottom copy are the genuine ones with the others cloned to give you an idea of a possible layout, spelling the word EXPRESS. It could also be possible that this stamp could have been printed in a roll to spell out YELLOW EXPRESS CARRIERS. Or the letter could have other meanings like S for interstate and X for local. Until more turn up we may never know. I think we can date this stamp between 1923 & 1930. There must be more out there. Further correspondence with the present owners of Yellow Express in Sydney has yielded some background information into Yellow Express Carriers Ltd. Yellow Express Carriers Ltd., was a transport company formed in 1923 incorporated in 1926 whose principal activities were road carriers, customs and shipping, heavy haulage,

storage and truck rentals. In the early 1970's The transport industry based on asset size and market capitalization was dominated by Brambles Industries Limited, Mayne Nickless Limited and Thomas Nationwide Transport Limited [TNT] and Yellow Express Carriers Ltd was one of a number of smaller companies in the industry which included Blakiston Transport Limited, Chalmers Limited, Fleetway [Holdings] Limited, Transport Development Limited and Wright [Walter] Limited. In 1971 the company's profit fell due to the increased wages granted to workers in the National Wage case. The company was unable to recover these increased costs, and the company omitted its final dividend. With the resultant depressed share price, Yellow Express Carriers became prey to takeover and the transport carrier Fleetways [Holdings] Limited launched a takeover bid in November 1971, by March, 1972 Fleetways [Holdings] Limited had successfully acquired the company and Yellow Express Carriers Ltd was de-listed from the Stock Exchange. A couple of years later the company name of Yellow Express Carriers Ltd. was purchased and the company was again up and away continuing to this very day. Of interest Yellow Express held many records for the largest and heaviest haulages, I quote from a clipping from a transport magazine: "*The Monster*" It was 26mts long weighted 206 tonnes and rewrote the pages of Australian Transport history. Before Mayne Nickless was even a gleam in Professor Fels



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

eye, its forerunner *Yellow Express* was one of the most dynamic of the emerging transport companies. With depots scattered throughout the country, *Yellow Express* trucks were hauling parcel freight, interstate general and specialist heavy loads – such as this 206 tonne boiler – throughout Australia.

Exhibition Time

Ok, we have to go back again to Tarapex08 this time held in November 08 with just three revenue exhibits. Unfortunately the results came in after the December deadline, so apologies for this late recording. Dennis Miles 'The Revenue and Special Purpose Stamps of the U.S.A.' received a Bronze, good work Dennis. Jim Shaw 'New Zealand Employment Stamps' [5 frames] received a large vermeil, well done John. I showed my 'Queensland Impressed Numeral Revenues' [5 frames] which received a gold, 'well done Dave' I hear you say, well maybe a few of you. Very disappointing to continually see International exhibits brought back into National exhibitions, 'trophy cabinet cleaners' I call them. Totally unfair on the National exhibitors. You will never find one of my international exhibits competitively back in at a national show. I believe you are not allowed to enter 3xLG international exhibits back in national shows in the USA. While I am having my whinge, if I remember one of the worst cases, immediately after the International Singapore World Stamp Championships 2004, many of the exhibits came directly back to Swan River National Stamp Show 2004 and just about completely cleared the trophy cabinet!

Financial Tax WA

A reader from WA has sent me a very nice new find on a £1 Financial Emergency Tax [fig 3]. There is a sash like flaw running

from the frame line just below the A of Australia through the £1 ending up slicing the L of Financial, and through the Y of Emergency. It looks like a slug has crawled across the drying ink. Thank you for sharing Jo.

Commonwealth Patent & Trade Mark Revenues

I have loaded up a very nice 1 frame exhibit on the Commonwealth Patent & Trade Mark Fee Revenues onto the Revenue Society web site [a link from my home page] 'Invited Displays' tab. It is well worth a look. Some of the documents are complicated to work out the fee structure, but I have been informed by Dingle Smith that a listing will soon be available. The designs of the three issues are quite superb. Figure 4 is from the second series, and figure 5 is from the third series. Further reading on Patent stamps can be read on my web site along with a price guide in the Commonwealth Revenue section of my free on line catalogue.

NSW Rail Colour Error

Quite a nice 10/- New South Wales railway stamp from the 1948 issue can be found printed in the colour of the 3/- green [fig 6]. The 10/- was issued in grey. Two of these green 10/- values have been on eBay in the last couple of months. As far as I know all recorded copies are from Wickham station. Figure 6 was snapped up by a Newcastle collector on eBay.

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Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6