

Revenue Review

WA Swans and Railways

Its always nice to start this column with something that is not recorded. Figures one and two are two such items that need recording and I would like to do so here in Revenue Review. Both the 1/- and 3/- show the scarce compound roulette x perf. Both these values were missing from the Western Australia Railway Revenue Exhibit put together by Derek Pocock of WA. If you are looking to obtain these beauties, fear not, they will be up for auction early in the New Year by Cygnet Philatelics of WA. They also come with a 3d, 2/- & 5/- these three having the same compound perf. If you are not on the mailing list for this auction you will be missing out on some beauties.

How rare is the 15c NSW Rail

Last month I had a phone call from a well-known and much loved Newcastle collector, Don Catterall asking about the 15c olive New South Wales railway stamp. I was surprised to hear Don's statement that this 15c value was missing from most collections.

This value must have been short lived and was only available to the collector for a very short two year period. Included in the first decimal series issued in 1966, but absent from the 1968 series of new colours. Figure three shows my only copy, this being from Woodford station. Maybe you have a few tucked away, if you have, and they are from stations other than Woodford I would like to record them here.

Victoria 35/-

eBay, now there's a name we all know. You either love it or hate it. It can turn up super new finds for the bargain hunter, and cheap finds by unknowledgeable sellers. To find all this you must keep your search titles in your favourites to hopefully clean up. Figure 5 shows the always available, highly priced but sort after 35/- from Victoria. I found this in a small group of revenues from a UK seller who had fully described the 35/- but the 'buy it now' price from this unknowledgeable seller was a whopping £5.99. Needless to say I bought it!



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

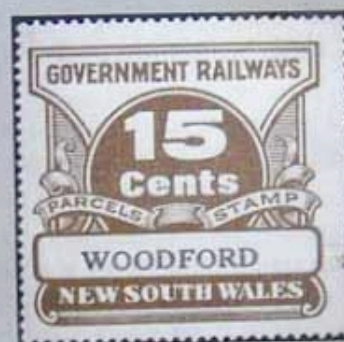


Fig. 3

Dave Elsmore

Victoria Error of Colour

A very nice 1902 Cypher issue 1d [fig 4] railway revenue from Victoria has turned up. Printed in the 2d colour [blue] on 3d paper [blue]. I would like to record this here in Revenue Review.

Butt me no Butts

I have often pondered as to why the sizes of beer barrels were so odd, and who originally made these up. My guess was once the first lot of beer was produced and consumed by the makers. It was only then that they sat round the table to make up such strange barrel sizes with names to match! All these weird sizes have been well documented over the years like 'Firkin', 'Bastard Firkin', 'Bastard Pin', 'Kilderkin', 'Hogshead' etc but you rarely hear of or read the terms 'Puncheon' or 'Butt'. 'Puncheon' being 2 Barrels and 'Butt' being 3. This then begs the question; if a hotelier ordered a single Puncheon would the brewer deliver the two barrels showing payment of beer duty by either sticking on two single 'Barrel' beer duty stamps [one on

each barrel] or would he place a pair on either one of the two barrels or maybe use a cart note? Very few pairs of beer duty stamps have survived, and I am yet to see a pair of 'Barrel' stamps. That said, beer duty stamp pairs must be placed into the rare to very rare category. Further more no Puncheon or Butt stamps have been recorded, which further begs another question, why?

Postal Notes

Some of you may know I have written a book on Queensland Postal Notes [1996]. Some of you may also know I have a one frame exhibit of the same subject, but Postal Notes from any state are welcome into my collection, well at the right price. Figure 6 is a very nice Postal Note from South Australia and was on offer on eBay, eventually selling for over \$800. Now call me stupid [what's that I hear in the distance?] but \$800 for a folded and stained note appears to be rather a lot. I do not think it would have gone to a bank note collector because of the condition; they like there notes in



Fig. 4

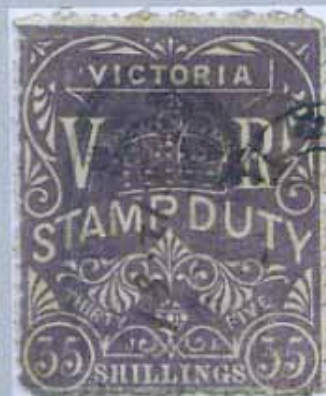


Fig. 5

Revenue Review

pristine condition. I have recorded no less than ten different notes from this issue that were generic to all Australian States, so to collect any of these Commonwealth notes at \$800 a pop you will really need to shell out [You guessed it] \$8,000! Either way I would like to record this note here in Revenue Review.

Prestige sale

The Prestige auction sale, with three broken down collections of States revenues is done and dusted. Prices were up and down. The most surprising was the unique Western Australia 1904 Waterlow die proof frames selling for a pittance of their 'true' value. Four went to the USA, a couple into a WA revenue collection in WA, with investors snapping up the remainder.

Perfin Corner

Last month I showed you a nice piece of revenue stamped paper perfinned B. This month I can add a T, this T [fig 7] from Western Australia now further confuses the possibility of an easy and obvious answer to solve this puzzle. I have had several ex banker's contact me, and all are just as puzzled as to why and what this perfin is all about. Maybe you have a neighbour who was an ex banker, or you know a franchise owner who put his super payout into a coffee shop, but was once a bank employee? If so, please spread the word and ask the question. Hopefully soon this puzzle will be solved but I do need help!

I can be contacted by mail: P O Box 66 Springwood 4127 Queensland or an Email link from my web site ozrevenues.com



Fig. 6



Fig. 7