

Revenue Review

Smother the Designer

Good friend Ken Scudder of Victoria recently sent me an extract from March 21 1892 edition of "Vindin's Philatelic Monthly" and I quote: "A correspondent has forwarded us some labels which some collectors who collect anything and everything, might possible include amongst adhesives. These stamps are slightly larger than the 5s English and are inscribed Queensland Government Railways, in a rectangular frame, enclosing in an elongated oval, a railway engine and surrounding which again is a small label which the words Newspapers and Parcels are inscribed, with the value in words in bottom label of rectangular frame, the whole wretchedly drawn and printed on common wove paper and perforated. Four obliterated values have been forwarded and at the same time our correspondent states it is difficult to get clean specimens, as they are so completely smothered with the obliteration. A pity they didn't smother the designer." This 1892 report predates the recorded issue of this series by 2 years.

Blanks

David Coath has sent me a single New South Wales 6d numeral revenue, which he picked out of an accumulation that he has. It has a void patch at top left [fig 1]. This probably happened by a piece of scrap paper getting caught between the paper roll and the print head, then falling off and leaving the void. I have seen this on postage stamps and as this is a clear copy it becomes quite collectable. Thank you David for sharing.

Lost and now Found

Some time throughout this year Michael O'Halloran of Victoria sent me a 5/- revenue roulette 7, from Victoria [fig 2] asking if it had been recorded. This unfortunately got lost on my desk for a few months until it finally surfaced a week ago, so Mike I can now get to your answer and apologies for the delay. This stamp is listed in the 'Handbook of Victorian Revenue Stamps' by Bill Craig 1997 catalogue number 3.62. Issued 18/7/1932. Rated 'R1' mint and 'S' [scarce] used.

What a Crack

Edmac4me handle on eBay had a very nice 15/- mauve [fig 3] of 1879 with a superb cracked cliché running vertically the whole length of the printed stamp on offer in late October. Which begs the question did this crack run into other clichés? I have not seen this recorded in the philatelic press and wish to do so here in Revenue Review. Ed always has nice material up for sale and well worth a look.

South Australia Pretty in Pink

I have seen this essay before [fig 4] but not in this pretty Pink & Green colour. Does any reader have a copy of this, maybe you have other colours? If so please let me know so I can record it. Note it has security 'SIXPENCE RAILWAYS' repeated horizontally many times, filling in the void around the engine. This design was not adopted. I showed a similar South Australia Railway essay in black and without the security back in April 2006 of 'Revenue Review'.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Death through Boredom

I found this in an on line dictionary and thought I should share it with you all. "The word 'Philately' in an online dictionary reads: The hobby, pastime, compulsion or addiction of collecting and categorizing the most disposable artifact of the Industrial Age: the postage stamp. The word itself is artificially cobbled together from Greek roots which are supposed to mean "free from further tax" or "tax paid." More commonly known as "stamp collectors" (primarily because the correct pronunciation is a closely guarded secret among initiates), philatelists are generally a harmless group except when they feel they have a captive audience. In such cases, death through boredom after only 1-2 hours exposure has been recorded."

Little Miss Perfed

In the October 2007 'Revenue Review' I showed a couple of nice perf errors asking if any of you had others to show. Norm Hart from Victoria has come to the rescue

with a very nice strip of misperfed 1d revenues from Tasmania [fig 5] issued 1 Jan 1956.

Xmas Beer

Well it's that time of the year again when we have to put up the fairy lights get out the mistletoe, and if we do what we are told it will include putting our stamp books to one side; well, for a day maybe, then back to it. I am of course talking about Christmas. If you are spending Christmas day by yourself this year, it will be a good time to get that closing bargain on eBay while others are getting stuck into the Xmas pud! This edition brings up my second year of writing for Kevin and his team, and like my first year I have enjoyed every bit of it. Several new friendships have been formed throughout the year, and again lots of swapping has taken place.

As many of you know I have a Private Treaty page on my website just for swapping, and if you have nothing to swap I will reluctantly take your hard earned cash! Which in turn, goes into my Revenue and

Railway buying tin. I can't finish without showing some more Victorian beer revenue specimen overprints as promised earlier in the year. This specimen overprint [fig 6] is highly sought after by collectors of both revenues and specimen overprint collectors of the Australian States. While I am chatting beer revenues, with this edition of Stamp News you should now have your second two values in the set of 26, given away to subscribers over a 13 month period. This set of reprints is a must have, as the originals have gone up over 4000% in value in the last 10 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of my readers a safe and happy Christmas and good stamping in the New Year. I do hope that Santa will bring you, "a you know what" for your "you know where" or at least a stock book to stick them in! Nuf said for this year.

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Fig. 5



Fig. 6