

# Revenue Review

## Another Year Gone

It's that time of the year again to hang out your mistletoe and keep your lips puckered. This issue brings up my third year of writing 'Revenue Review' with many new friends made, and lots of encouragement to keep on going; this column appears to be going from strength to strength. This month's issue looks as if South Australia has stolen the show with a major auction of South Australian revenues, a new booklet; part one of 'The Parcel Stamps of South Australia' and a new South Australian parcel carrier to record, so let's get into it.

## Mark's Revs

First up; Prestige Auctions sold off Mark Hancock's revenues with some spirited bidding. Most of the lots sold above estimate. Several were listed in bulk, which meant for the avid revenue collector complete lots had to be purchased to pull out that one rare item e.g. in the Tasmania section of Mark's material there was an 8c lemon sitting in a couple of hagner pages a rare stamp in it's own right. The now famous Jimbo's 50/- South Australian numeral [fig 1] which Mark brought from Jimbo's direct sale pages for \$100 a couple of years ago sold for \$900 plus buyers and in my opinion still a cheap buy. The new owner should be very pleased with this rare item. If you're not on Jimbo's list give him a call.

## Astor Motors

A super 1/- Webster Rometch Ltd pre-cancelled 'Astor Motors Pty Ltd' after a takeover was up for grabs on eBay [fig 2], eventually selling for just over \$150. The under bidder was offered another copy but in green [fig 3] so we now have two new colours and a 1/- value to add to the locals listing with this precancel. I have already added these two to my on line catalogue.

## SA Parcel Fee Stamps

I have received part one of the parcel stamps of South Australia co authored by Presgrave and Walker from SA. It is an A5 publication with some 50 pages, and according to the notes it includes 15 years of research, but you will need a magnifying glass to read them as the print is so small.

It is beyond me to think that after 15 years of research some collectors were not approached for a final update of their holdings [me included] which makes me wonder why my name has been used in the acknowledgments of this new publication 'The Parcel Stamps of South Australia' part one.

I can see no new information in it that has not been published previously; in fact I can add to it. This publication to me has again been all 'secret squirrel' business which, as we know in this field, South Australia is renowned for. Strangely I did note a request on Glen Stevens chat board for information but only after the book had been published. Prior to writing this review, I requested some information from one of the authors but at the time of writing this, I have had no reply.

The booklet is fine if you're looking for something to throw in your port for a general checklist, but I do really feel after 15 years of research a station name listing should have been included along with the 1927 issued numeral cancellers. This would help the student and exhibitor alike to know if he has a cheap stamp from a small station with a scarce cancel. Only Adelaide is mentioned as being numeral 60. There is a tiny listing of the first series railway station date stamps and a few post office cancellers are mentioned in the notes but unfortunately we do not know which is rare, which is scarce or which is common. Unfortunately if the exhibitor follows some of this work he will no doubt get into trouble with the judges. One such very important item is listed as a "composite proof" in paragraph one page seven, when in fact it



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

# Dave Elsmore

is an 'essay paste up' and clearly shown by me as this in Revenue Review January this year.

Many shades are listed contemporary to the postage stamps of the time but unfortunately the security background shades have been left out. I am unsure why this is been overlooked as there are several striking colour differences.

One thing that does puzzle me on page seven the very last paragraph reads "The first series was withdrawn from general use from 1 September 1887, after which date the stamps were only used on parcels of newspapers and parcels sent by government departments - particularly the Education Department". To me this reads that after 1 September 1887 all railway stamps were available to the general public for use on newspapers only, and the Parcel Service was then only available for official use.

Included in this booklet are the tramways and bus parcel tickets, but unfortunately Richard Peck's excellent publication "Tickets Please" 2006 has not been consulted here. Figure 4 is just one such tramway ticket from Richards publication missing in this booklet so after 15 years of research and after just a couple of weeks of issue we have the very first update. I did also notice in the 'No.1 Bus Depot' listings they have completely missed the very first perforated series. By their own admission the bus companies are a 'throw together' section and I can't for the life of me understand after 15 years, why this has been put together this way.

Without going on, I feel this publication may have been released in a rush to have it made available for the South Australian stamp show a couple of months ago. If you are only looking for a general listing of the railway stamps you can print out a copy from my web site on line priced catalogue for free. I believe the booklet has a price tag of A\$25.00 plus postage. I have reviewed this work as a serious collector of South Australia Railways. You

should be able to read a dealers review elsewhere in this month's Stamp News.

## Cocking

It looks like an earlier parcel carrier than J. R. Cocking for South Australia has turned up. A 'Bradley & Co' 6d over stamped in red 'J. R. Cocking'. You can see a picture of this on my web site in the free Local Carriers on line catalogue. I have asked Tony Presgrave to see if he can find out any info on this for me and will publish his reply in this column. I purchased the Bradley 6d from our very good friend Brett of eBay ozphila fame. Brett is of the belief the Bradley is from Victoria and over stamped Cocking upon arrival of a possible gold shipment. Brett may well be right, as I can find nothing on the internet re the Bradley name, maybe this rings a bell with one of you out there? If so please make contact with me. Remember you read it here in 'Revenue Review' first. Figure 5 is the latest J. R. Cocking 6d to be unearthed, another first for Revenue Review! This totals four newly recorded items in this edition.

All that is left is to wish you all a very merry you know what. I hope Santa fills your stocking with the things dreams are made of. The problem is if Santa fills my stocking with what I have been dreaming of I will be in for a good tongue lashing from 'er indoors! Look forward to chatting to you all next year.

I can be contacted by mail: P O Box 66  
Springwood 4127 Queensland or an Email  
link from my web site <http://users.bigpond.net.au/dave1/index>



Fig. 4



Fig. 5