

Revenue Review

Revenue Growth

If you have been following Australian States revenue prices they have steadily climbed over the past 10 years, no longer classed as 'rubbish' or 'back of the book' they are now at the front of albums with postage stamps getting pushed to the back. Revenues are well respected around the philatelic auction houses and with collectors alike. I have had some of you write to me saying "have I left my run to late?" Sure, you will need deep pockets in some areas for a lot of items, but common will always be common and there is plenty of it to go around. I am a believer in buying the rare material first [10%] as you can always fill in the gaps later of the more common [90%] material. Remember we can't have everything. Some bidding on ebay for revenues can bring 20 bids or more from different collectors. Some sellers break up good 'sets' and sell them individually which means you will have to chase them all which can get expensive, and then if you miss one value, you could have a gap for quite a while. One such event happened recently on ebay. Blocks of 4 of the Tasmanian St George & Dragon black proof on wmk faint TAS paper were listed. First the 3d was up on ebay, from Spain of all places, a week later the 2/6d was up for grabs, then the 10/- with all 3 being bought by the same buyer, but the last value in the 'set' the 5/- was bought by another collector, who was the under-bidder on all the other 3 values, so

we end up with one collector having 3 values and one collector having 1, not a good situation. In Millennium auctions last year there was a 3d vertical black proof pair of St George & Dragon. It was unsold with an estimate of \$4000. I predict revenues will continue to grow in both collecting, exhibiting & investing. The old 'knowledge is power' applies here, probably more so than collecting regular stamps, as there is plenty of helpful information to be found, which unfortunately is not the case with revenues. Some collectors can be very greedy and not share their information, thinking the less people know, the more one can buy at low cost. This could backfire though when you go to sell your collection, especially if there is no-one to sell it to. So continue to spread the word for others to join us as revenue collectors, and enjoy the history and beauty of their designs. Please also share your information and help revenue collecting grow.

GB Revs

For those of you who collect GB revenues The Revenue Society web site <http://www.revenuesociety.org.uk/> has some very good articles that have been loaded up onto the society's site. Follow your nose to the 'Feature Articles' button.

1d SA Invert sells for 10 times Estimate \$9000.

After some spirited bidding on 3 lots

of South Australia revenues in the SG Melbourne 3 Feb 07 sale No 86 [which included the inverted head being bid for on the phone direct from New York by a keen collector who won the lot] eventually selling for \$16,000 +gst against a pre sale estimate of \$2550. The invert alone sold for \$9000 + gst against a pre sale estimate \$750. This 1d selling for 10 times the estimate must be a record. As I reported in January, this came from a collection sold by SG in Melbourne some 9 years ago and has sat in an Asian dealer's safe untouched. The 3 lots in question originally sold as one lot for \$750.00. This now values the blk of 30 of known inverts at \$270,000.00 as single stamps & the known strip of 5 inverts \$45,000.00. Yours truly was under bidder on one of the lots can you guess which one?

Commonwealth Beer Duty - Overprints in the early 1930s

Known surcharges on Commonwealth Beer Duty stamps are hard to find. If you have any of these issues can you please contact me with the value and surcharge. The survival rate of these revenues is generally only half stamps [fig 1]. Several have survived on cart notes from the breweries, fig 1 shows a double surcharge 29/4d on 28/- as well as 32/- on 29/4d on 28/- but the odd complete stamp with surcharges as late as 1943 is still out there to be found [fig 2]. This 77/11d on 34/- is so far unique it is from a Queensland

Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Dave Elsmore

brewery and dated 3 March 1943. Half surcharged stamps of the Commonwealth beer revenues are scarce but complete stamps are very rare indeed.

Wrong link

For those of you who tried the FIP Revenue Commissions link I gave last month, apologies it is <http://www.revenuesociety.org.uk/fip-revenue.html> or it can be accessed from The Revenue Society's home page.

Other News

Many thanks to some of my readers who sent me a list of values they have on their SA Edwards printed on the serif wmk I reported in January. When I find out more info I will report it here. Some very nice art work [fig 3] for the New Zealand stamp duty series of 1866 was on offer from John Mowbray's auctions in NZ. John often has revenues in his regular sales www.mowbrays.co.nz. Tasmania & NSW has a very boring series of numeral revenues [as does most states] but there are some very collectable flaws worth looking out for [fig 4]. Both these flaws were on offer on ebay, the latter was purchased by our good friend Andrew Walker who is studying flaws from most states. If any reader has a large blk with these flaws in could you please report it to me so we can possibly work out the position on the plate? A nice sideline to these numerals is the Government and company pre-cancel,

done so for security reasons to stop pilfering. [fig 5] [taken from ebay] shows a nice double pre-cancel [one vertical] which is a first for any pre-cancel I have seen and I would like to record here. Our good friend Matt Hancock was the seller. M.M.B.W is from Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works.

Love Letters

Speaking of love letters, many regular postage stamps were used to prepay the payment of sending a telegram. Of course in colonial times, they were called electric telegraphs and purpose adhesive revenues were prepared and printed [fig 6]. Some electric telegraph forms have purpose embossed revenues preprinted on them, now all very collectable and sort after by the growing mass of revenue collectors, so if you have a £2 roo with a big hole in it, in your postage stamp collection you had better move it to your revenue collection asap. Queensland issued a 1/- postal note which doubled [on the reverse] as a telegram form [see January Stamp News] I am yet to see the note used as a telegram. Some postal stationary collectors have visions of being a revenue collector because they appear to collect these telegraph forms and postal notes, and call them postal stationery, but by definition postal stationery is stationery that is available for posting through the mail. Postal notes and prepaid telegrams are clearly revenues, as they have a fee for a service printed on them. This is not a fee for postal delivery.

So we now have closet revenue collectors out there masquerading as postal stationery collectors.

Best Flaw

One of the better flaws on the beer duties from Tasmania is on the 1902 2/6d with the missing / in the lower left value tablet [fig 7]. This also has the TWO of Two Shillings badly slanting due to bad fitting of the duty plate into the key plate by the printer. It can be plated from row 1 stamp 2 from a full sheet of 8 2x4. If you have any flaws on beer duties of revenues I would like to hear from you.

Mark my Words

A note from Mark Hancock SA with another unrecorded item [fig 8]. From NSW a 1d embossed used on a 1903 cheque. I reported a 1/2d embossed on a betting tax cut out last month. How these have escaped the keen eyes of collectors is a mystery. Of course these new finds play a big part in the fun of revenue collecting. Keep your eyes peeled if there's one out there for surely there must be others, thanks Mark.

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. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8