

Revenue Review

Victoria Forgeries on Line

Due to recent online sales of a forged 1/- stamp duty overprint from Victoria [S.G. 306] and several emails between Les Molnar [a specialist Victorian collector] and myself has provided some information and a sample of scans from Les's collection. Here is what Les has to say: "Here is a sample of scans for the Stamp Duty overprints. I'm thinking that I should also write up a refresher course for identifying these and submit it for publication in one of the main journals - it is surprising how many times these come up and how buyers and sellers alike get fooled into thinking they have a good one - it is imperative to make sure that they are properly identified to protect buyers interests and also to preserve the integrity of the bona fide examples that do exist. Here are the scans: Fig 1 - a fiscally used blue overprint, with RPSV certificate indicating it is genuine - the key here is just how faint the blue overprint appears - it insures that any modest scan will not reveal the overprint at all! Fig 2 - a second fiscally used example again showing the faint blue overprint. Fig 3 - a fiscally used black overprint. These are scarce but certainly not rare - I have about 50-60 of them, divided about 80% fiscally used and about 20% postally used. Fig 4 - a bogus overprint in blue - the words STAMP and DUTY are too close together - the genuine has the words spaced about 14.5 to 15.5 mm apart - this one is only 9mm apart. Fig 5 - this overprint is the one that seems to confuse even some experts - the overprint is a "dirty black" and has some bluish admixture in the ink - it must not be confused with the pale blue that is found in the genuine examples. I've had collectors and eBay sellers get quite

insulting to me when I try to explain that this shade is not blue - the essential point is if the overprint is easily visible against the blue background of the stamp it is not the genuine article.... Fig 6 - the unauthorized reprint on V2 paper, printed about 1895. Fig 7 - genuine postally used blue overprint - note that all recorded examples have BN138 [Hexham] cancellation, suggesting a single sheet or two originated from this post office [about 8 examples recorded]." Many thanks Les for sharing your expert knowledge and part of your collection with us. Les has an excellent web site and well worth a look <http://www.stamps of victoria.com/index.php>.

Upside Down Up North

Our good friend up in the Northern Territory, Richard Baker, writes: "I have an extremely curious stamp that I cannot find a listing for [Reference - "The Fiscal of Western Australia: V.E. John Dzelme"]. It is a 1d Internal Revenue Inverted Wmk No5 Perf14, see attached photo. Is it extremely rare, or are there other known copies?" Well Richard I too was surprised this stamp is not listed. Being a one penny stamp you would have thought one would have been recorded by now. On checking my own collection which is reasonably extensive I find I am missing the stamp. I instantly added it to my online catalogue of Western Australia revenues. Well done Richard a very nice find and many thanks for sharing.

The Long and the Short

While having a play with my Queensland GV impressed duty revenues I was lining up several values on Hagnar pages,



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

when I found what I thought was a shorter design. After digging out my ruler I found there was indeed two sizes from various values. Figure eight clearly shows the design on the left copy is one full millimetre shorter than the right copy, or 36.5mm x 19.5mm and 37.5mm x 19.5mm respectively. Can I ask readers to check their holdings from this issue in both watermarks and let me know what values you have measuring 36.5mm. I will report any findings in a later issue of Revenue Review.

Bizarre

I don't know what we have to do or how many times we have to write it down but trying to get some of these auction houses to list revenues correctly is nothing short of bizarre. The catalogues are out there so it can't be that difficult. It is just a matter of copying from the most up to date source available. Of course I would like to think that it is my very own free online catalogue of Australia and New Zealand revenues and railway fee stamps. Another problem I have noticed recently is that an auction house had correctly listed a couple of Commonwealth revenues that had not been recorded in my catalogue. This I corrected and listed them but the revenues went unsold and were re-listed six or so months later with the same description i.e. unlisted! This is just a staff member not keeping abreast of this fast moving revenue addiction there appears to be at present. So let's keep it up to date, after all,

my catalogue is voluntary. Remember guys, you are being paid to do your homework.

Finally - British Commonwealth Revenues by J. Barefoot

British Commonwealth Revenues by J. Barefoot. The standard illustrated priced catalogue of the revenues of the Commonwealth, long awaited, is now available. Australia, Hong Kong, Malaya and New Zealand have been radically revised, but there are many additions and price changes throughout. This has resulted in an extra 75 pages since the previous edition. Includes Ireland [GB is in a separate book]. There is the normal black/white edition and there is also a trial limited edition of just 50 copies with colour illustrations. These books are sent surface post overseas. Barefoot direct purchase price: £30.00. I will review this more in depth next month.

Broken Circle

Finishing off this month is a nice variety from Victoria. This 3d value [fig 9] has turned up on my desk. You can clearly see the two inner oval breaks at 9 O'clock. I am wondering if any reader has a sheet of this value and could check for the position of this flaw. These later issues prior to decimalisation have not been very well studied; there is a stack of ununder studies research here just waiting to be published so come on get to it.

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. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9