



# Revenue Review

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## New South Wales 1881 9d OS

A 9d Typo exists overprinted OS [fig 1]. If genuine it would be the first OS overprint recorded on any Australian State Revenue. Railway stamps are known to be overprinted OS. Could readers check their stock books for any further OS overprints so we can record them?

## Tasmanian 1d Platypus Update

Bill Lloyd Smith of Victoria writes regarding the 1929 issue date of the 1d Tasmanian Platypus I wrote about in the February column. The 1929 colour is somewhat different from the earlier versions (1900-1903). There is also a reprint in dark blue on very thick card-like paper without the REPRINT overprint, perf 11.8 or thereabouts.

## Rare Zealand Beer Duty Stamp sells for \$15,000

While in NZ in January I called in to see Alan Craig in Hamilton on the North Island. Alan's shop is known for good stock of Revenues & Cinderella's. Alan also put his mark on New Zealand Beer Duty Stamps, when back in 1997 A Craig & G Turner produced a postal bid sale of NZ beer duty stamps, but instead of the catalogue being full of the lots for sale they decided to make it into the most concise record of NZ beer duty stamps ever written about. This included archival research, sheet make up and a complete list of known die proofs etc. An excellent publication, which should be in the library of every NZ revenue collector. While in Alan's shop he told me a story about the very rare single issue 1908 Edward VII one hundred & six gallon 26/6d [fig 2]. One of Alan's customers was a well known underworld figure who collected beer duty stamps; he was missing the 26/6d until it came up in Alan's sale in 1997. He was unaware several other serious collectors of beer duties were also missing this stamp, and after heated bidding, the stamp (which as you can see in the picture has been fairly knocked around with a big piece missing lower right) was finally won by the underworld figure for \$15,000. Alan wonders if it will ever be seen again.

## First Issue NSW Revenues Imperf or Perf?

Much has been written about the NSW first issue [fig 3&4] which

was always to be a temporary issue. It ran from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1865 - 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1866. It was issued perf 12½ - 13, also imperf. Most of the traditional collectors would put the imperf copies, as being issued first, this is not the case for the first issue NSW revenue. This series was first issued perforated with a few imperf sheets issued of all values within the same first month of issue. What is not known is if they were issued in rushed conditions or just issued in error, maybe a reader can help complete this story. What is known is that very few imperf copies have survived, and all are very collectable. Some values from this series had a low print run of less than 15,000 copies with a very low survival rate. Unfortunately I have only seen one catalogue [*Stamp Duty Stamps of Australia*] list the imperf issue and giving it a catalogue number which it rightly deserves, in fact *British Commonwealth Revenues* by J Barefoot dismiss the imperf issue completely! A sad situation if they can't get the first series of the first state correct, there is little hope for the new collector of revenues to follow the confusion of this first series listing. Imperf multiples [fig 4] are particularly scarce to rare.

## Queensland 1892 series 2/6d Grey

In late 1899 a grey 2/6d [fig 5] was added to this series replacing the Purple-Brown, it is yet to be listed in any catalogue but has been known by collectors for many years. It is evidenced by a colour proof and several manuscript copies all dated late 1899, fig 5 is dated 30/12/99. I would be interested to hear from fellow collectors who have other dated copies of this apparently scarce to rare issued colour.

## Revenue Stamped Paper

I have been asked if the printed duty stamp found on old cheques have any collectable value. I am a keen collector of any cheques with this duty impression [fig 6]. They can change hands for up to \$10 each, more if the cheque has an attractive company logo printed on them. Many are found in coin & banknote auctions in the ephemera section.

## Ex Ferrari Collection

A seller on eBay has been selling off quality first issue QV long





Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 4

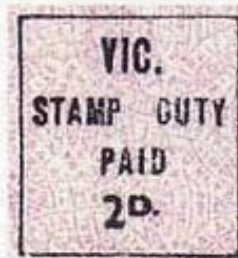


Fig. 3



Fig. 5

Fig. 6



New Zealand Revenues which are ex Ferrari, sold to this dealer more than 35 years ago. Some high prices for these revenues are being gained, but I believe they are still, well undervalued. The rare £1/2/6 selling for US\$425, a snip in my book. As with most quality revenues of Australasia it is only a matter of time before we see prices rise to meet the new demand in revenue collecting as more and more collectors are turning to revenues.

### Railway Essay

South Australia has a very nice essay of an unfinished design [fig 7 left] from the first 1886 issue. Very little is known about it other than a few have survived and are keenly sort by railway parcel stamp collectors. The issued design on the right of fig 7 has been modified to give it more clarity. The essay measures 49 mm x 63 mm.

### Auction House Customer Loyalty Means Zilch

A main area in which the revenue collector is disadvantaged is when you get some major auction houses trying to extort fees for catalogues or and I quote "if you want to stay on our mailing list you MUST spend a minimum of \$300 in our next auction". Now what if the auction house does not have the revenue items you would happily bid on but only has the usual re-lotted material you have seen time and time again in their auctions for the last 12 months? So what to do? Pay a fee of say \$60.00 to stay on the mailing list or spend \$300 on material you don't want or need? Never mind how much you have spent with them in years gone by, we must now group such auction houses in with the banks for loyalty! It means zilch.



Fig. 11

If the auction house cannot supply quality items of revenue status then as revenue collectors we should not be penalized. It appears to me the bread & butter clients are given no respect at all. However, if we all just collected Kangaroos and spent thousands that would please the auction houses no end, but woe betide the kangaroo collector who does not bid for 12 months or has not spent \$500 in the past 12 months, you will be struck off the list. Who knows the very next auction the poor vendor puts up his life long kangaroo material for sale does not realize the very collectors he wants his material to reach has been struck off the auction house mailing list.

I guess greed must play a big part in this, as it appears some major auction houses expect a minimum to be spent for every catalogue sent out, never mind if it does not have the material for the specialist collector.

I have in the past had to send items back as miss-described due to the lack of auction house experience in describing revenues and railways correctly, and let's be fair if a lot sells for \$3000, you do not expect it to have several small tears, without the lot being described as such. This has happened to me in the past, and I wonder if at that time I was having to pay a fee to have the auction house catalogue sent to me, would be entitled to a refund of fees due to poor description by that auction house? I think we all know the answer to that.

### Gremlins

The March edition was minus fig 11 [see nearby] and the third sentence should have been deleted.