

Revenue Review

Thomas Bryce

To start off this month a super box lid [fig1] spied in a cabinet in the Queensland Museum. Notably the bottom left corner has a grubby but very rare, 3d parcel delivery revenue from the 1908 series of Thomas Bryce and Co. This is only one of half a handful I have recorded used on a parcel piece. The fact the lid is intact makes it one of two to be recorded.

These large stamps were rarely saved by earlier students. Maybe because of the size, and the fact that they were just plain hard to find as once a parcel was delivered the wrapping would have been discarded. It would have been a case of rummaging through the rubbish bins.

That said, I am guilty of rummaging through many a bin at railway stations collecting the discarded railway tickets, parcel stamps and anything else that may have been collectable in the bin! Some of my best 'finds' have been found while 'doing' the closed railway stations. All you needed was a pair of

kneepads to crawl under the station floors collecting all the items that has slipped through the floor boards over time.

Dick Turpin

I picked up figure 2 in auction recently. What took my fancy was the fact that apart from being revenue stamped paper, I had yet to add one of these licences to my collection. This super piece was sent me whilst on the hunt for information about the Stage Coach runs within Tasmania.

I do not know in what year the first Stage Coach licence was issued, but in 1861 an Act to Amend the Act for the Regulation of Stage Coaches [number 25] repealing Section 10 of 6 William IV, No. 12 came into force 1 Jan 1861, causing drivers to be licenced. In the Act Un-licenced drivers caught were classed as 'amateurs' and would "*thereafter finger the ribbons at their peril*" Things do not change as the Act notes fines of between £2 and £20 for loitering within your coach and driving intoxicated.



Fig 1

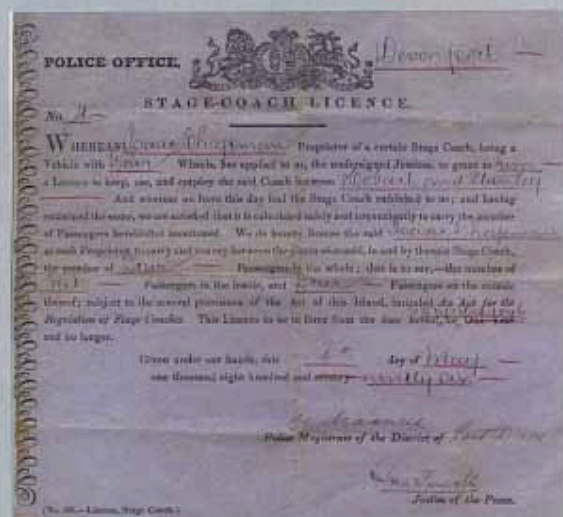


Fig 2

Dave Elsmore

I can only presume these Stage Coach licences were little needed, as few coaches were 'on the road' in 1861c as figure 2 is from a book dated from the 1870's with an actual date of 1896 on it. For a 5/- fee the owner of the Stage Coach could transport 4 passengers from Hobart to Stanley and back. Maybe you have a Stage Coach licence from other states, if so please share it here.

Free Advertising

I have spoke before about the free advertising Queensland Railways offered its customers. As a safeguard to theft large users of parcel stamps could have their company name printed in the station name cartouche. One would think if they were large users where are all the stamps now? Survival is non-existent; I did show a couple a few months ago. Figure 3 [Edwards & Co. Ltd.] fitting into the rare basket with just two copies recorded. While I am chatting rails figure 4 from Logan Village recently sold for a whopping \$66. This must be a record for

the 1927 issues. Logan Village is between Bethania Junction and Beaudesert where the Beaudesert Tramway takes over going onto Christmas Creek etc. I believe this was snapped up by the Qld Railway Archives who have for some time appointed a 'buyer' for railway stamps.

Even More Rails

Figure 5 from New South Wales is one of those 1d bland parcel stamps most of us just pass by, but upon further inspection you will see it has the R over NSW security under print on it. These emergency issues exist due to the exhaustion of watermarked paper, and are hard to find. When they do come up and are identified, they can bring a pretty penny. Keep your eyes peeled.

More and More Plates

Thought I would share a unique piece of South Australian Revenue stamped paper with you all [fig6]. As no £40 die was available 2 x £20 were



Fig 3



Fig 5



Fig 4

Revenue Review

used. £20 being to highest denomination available at the time, with this pair being the only recorded copies.

Inspect This

That is what Ken Moore of WA did and found himself with a totally unrecorded issue. Figure 7 being on watermarked paper. Great find Ken keep it up.

Unemployed

Figure 8 is another one of those odd values that fit the tax scale of the time, but rarely turn up as 99% were destroyed internally. Collectors only got the scraps, generally when a person had two jobs, and only put in one tax book with the other destroyed or left in the top draw. It is these 'top draw' items that have found their way into collector's hands. It was common in Queensland for a sheep shearer to work out of many farms with several tax books on the go,

but only submitting one to the tax department.

Patent Problems

Figure 9 was recently sold in auction as 'unrecorded' it achieved \$180. In my online catalogue I price this beast at just \$20 and was thinking of halving all the Patent revenue prices due to an influx on the market. They are popping up everywhere, but to pay \$180 because the seller stated it was unlisted is no more than 'a fool and his money' etc. If you are going to spend your hard earned readies make sure you educate yourself first or at least ask as many questions as you can, or you may as well drive down the road throwing your cash out the window.

Perfin Corner

David Andersen, a known Perfin nut from New South Wales, has kindly supplied scans of his revenue Perfin holdings to help with the research for the online catalogue "Private Revenue Perfins of



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8

Dave Elsmore

Australia". One of the more spectacular items he has is shown in figures 10 & 11. Apparently the stamps came off three separate documents and have been reunited to show a clear strike for the 'Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co', this being one of the largest patterns that has been used on issues of New South Wales.

For those of you interested the "Private Revenue Perfins of Australia" it has now released a beta version of New South Wales. As this State was the

biggest user of Revenue Perfins, it comes as no shock that this edition to the series of online Perfin books already has some 580 graphics loaded into it! You may have a page or two of NSW Perfins on revenues that could help make the study more complete, if so, I would appreciate a scan thank you.

I can be contacted by mail: P O Box 66 Springwood 4127 Queensland or an Email link from my web site ozrevenues.com



Fig 9



Figs 10 & 11