

# Revenue Review

## Oz Revenues

Some of you may already be aware I have had to change my web site address. My old server was Telstra who in its wisdom has decided to shut down all personal web sites by the end of September. This has forced me to relocate my web site, so I am now offshore with the domain name of [www.ozrevenues.com](http://www.ozrevenues.com) a much easier address to remember than the old one. If you Google ozrevenues I should come up first. I was quite amazed within the first week, I had people from 19 different countries looking at pages. So if you have not updated your bookmarks, can I please ask you to do so. Can I also ask if you would tell all your revenue friends, I would be most appreciative. This will avoid disappointment should anyone be a bi-monthly looker.

## Money in the Bank

Ok let's get into it. First up a very nice New South Wales private banknote [fig 1] was on offer at Status International last month. Dated 3 August 1869 and paying 1d duty on 30 August 1869 when the note was cashed, exceedingly rare revenue usage in any condition. Unfortunately out of my price range! Next we have a super promissory note auctioned by Tasmania Stamp Auctions, which sold for \$1150.00. The attraction of course was the usage of a Pictorial, but in this case it is the earliest recorded usage of the 6d value. [fig 2] It was interesting to watch it climb to this level with a revenue collector and postal history collector both after it. The postal history collector won out on the day. Ross the owner and proprietor of Tasmania Stamp Auctions [with



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 4



Fig. 3



Fig. 5



Fig. 7



Fig. 6

hat on] told me the note was found in an attic!

## What, £20 and no Cypher

Figure 3 is a strange new find. It was picked out of a rubbish lot of GB impressed duties by Ian Spencer a revenue collector based in Great Britain. This is the first use of base paper on velum I have seen for Tasmania, and as there is no record of a Cypher label being issued for Tasmania it has never had a seal on the reverse of the silver staple which is normally used to hold the 'tails' in place. Further, this being a rare colourless £20 makes this even more intriguing. I would like to record this new find here. Maybe you are reading this thinking I have a bag of GB embossed issue cut outs. If you have, you had better go check they are all from GB. If you do turn up one from Tasmania can you please let me know so I can record it here.

## What Station

There must have been a lot of parcels sent from Byron Bay in the past, and the use of their \$10 value must have been running low as figure 4 clearly shows. Byron Bay borrowed parcel stamps from Casino. This is quite uncommon as I guess it would present accounting problems etc. Other 'borrowed' parcel stamps have been recorded maybe you have some? If so please share them with us all here.

## NSW Specimen Cracker

Collectors of Specimen overprints would prick their ears up at the sound of a collector stating they had a small NSW duty stamp with a great big SPECIMEN stamped over it, figure 5 is one such item. It has not been recorded before, and I would like to do so here. Two different frames have been recorded in the rather ornate blue Old English font & frame, but only one has been seen by me on this particular stamp.

## Westies

John DiBiase of Western Australia, a well known face in the west offered to send me a block of 8 of the £5 Financial Tax MINT and for free! Boy was I excited [not a pretty sight!]. This was short lived when the block arrived it was in the form of a book marker from the Western Australia State Records Office. Apparently they hold a full sheet of the £5. Figure 6 shows half the

vertical block. There is a lesson to be learned here, never trust a Westie bearing gifts! Fortunately John is a good friend, it may be 1-0 John, but not for long!

## What a Nice Pair

A very nice £5 PNG revenue was in the last Revenue Society auction with the \$5 [fig 7] popping up in the last Premier Auctions of Melbourne. Both scarce and rarely seen these warrant more attention by collectors. If you have a block of either value can you please make contact with me.

## Beer Booklet Out

Dingle Smith of Canberra has kindly posted me the first published instalment in the beer duty update, he goes on to say: "*The authors are undertaking new annotated and illustrated listings of the beer duty stamps of Australia, both State and Commonwealth. The aim is to update existing catalogue listings and incorporate additional archival information and contributions from other collectors. This is especially the case for the Commonwealth issues from 1903 to 1918, when the stamps incorporated the names of the States and for the later period when there was a truly standard issue throughout Australia.*"

*The plan is to separately publish listings for each State, wherever possible in conjunction with an appropriate specialist society. The Tasmanian Philatelic Society [TPS] has kindly published Part 1 as a Special Edition of The Courier, the Research Journal of the TPS. The 21 page study has seven pages devoted the methodology of the listing and a summary of State and Commonwealth legislation".*

You can purchase this work which is in black & white as follows: For non-members of the TPS the Special Edition can be purchased at a cost of \$A10.00, plus \$1.10 postage within Australia and \$4.50 for all overseas addresses. Payment can be by Australian cheque or by PAYPAL, payment by credit card is not possible. Orders either by post to The Tasmanian Philatelic Society, GPO Box 594, Hobart, Tasmania 7001, Australia or via the TPS web site [www.tps.org.au](http://www.tps.org.au) and follow the links.

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