

# Revenue Review

## Escutcheon

Back in January 2007 I briefly mentioned 'Escutcheon'. Figure 1 shows three excellent dies which were used to prepare [rough up] a Vellum instrument for the Escutcheon process. These are the first dies I have seen, maybe you have something like this used as a paper weight on your desk! If so please share a picture with us all.

## Off The Rails

eBay turned up a nice Western Australia Midland Railway [Tramway] stamp selling for US\$220.00 and has stamp found its way to a UK collection. The farthing value is rarely seen, and I am surprised it sold so cheap. Low value railway parcel fee issues are scarce to rare from all states. One would think the farthing value would be more available because as they were withdrawn from sale, collectors of the time could have stocked up on low values, but it appears not. Keep your eyes peeled for any of these low values and if spied grab them at any cost as you may never see them again.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

## Five Gutters

It has been said gutters are always in the middle. Not so in Queensland, as figure 3 clearly shows the sheet layout for the 1966 first decimal impressed duty stamps. All values in the decimal impressed from Queensland are exceedingly rare, and when they do show up they are quickly snapped up by hungry collectors. As with figure 2 if you do see a decimal value buy it first and ask questions later, and yes figure 3 is unique.

## Face Value \$20,000

While I am showing off some nice Queensland decimal impressed issues, I would like to show you the top left corner block from a full sheet of 100 rouletted x \$200 stamps [total sheet face value a massive \$20,000]. Now this is an impressive sheet and single stamps are missing from 99% of Queensland collections. I would like to know if you own a used single copy [as I have not recorded a used copy as yet] but I do have a used pair of the



Fig. 3

# Dave Elsmore

\$100 rouletted issue.

## Bailiff Fee

Some Bailiff fees need to be updated in the record books as a few have come to light. Figure 5 shows three new finds; the 1988 perforated issue \$1 vermilion, \$2 light brown and \$7 greenish blue. It should be noted in other printed works on South Australia revenues that it incorrectly lists the \$2 as a grey colour. This needs to be corrected and I would like to place these on record here.

## Victoria

I think there is a lot of work still to be done on the printing dates of certain colours for the duty stamps. One such issue the 3/- typo Olive Drab in colour on type II paper is listed as being printed January 1893, when figure 6 clearly shows a much earlier date of May 1891 with some 20 months gap to fill! This is a huge date difference, maybe you have been working on this very issue, if so please let us all know your dates.

## Another New South Wales rare OS

Another scarce New South Wales £1 revenue overprinted POSTAGE and OS has turned up in a Paris auction [fig 7] no certificate. It is noted with the lot but it has the same centering as all the other recorded copies. Prestige sold a used copy which I used to own for about \$13,000 a few auctions back which was the sister copy to the Robin Linke auction copy which sold last year. I wonder if figure 7 would join onto the pair, it would be interesting to see if all known copies could be rejoined. One Sydney home based dealer disputes these OS copies as all forged. Is it me? or are there more and more very high value stamps and covers which have 'dud' certificates or 'bad' stating the item is not genuine or in its original state etc from the Royal Philatelic Society of London being sold in top end auctions as genuine with no mention of the dud certificate. It would be good to get this hobby regulated to stop the very obvious being sold to unsuspecting collectors. I do not know how some people sleep at night knowing full well [or



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

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being told] they are handling material with clearly bad certificates and on selling as genuine.

## Perfin Book Update

My Revenue Perfin Catalogue joint venture with David Coath, president of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia is on track and filling up nicely, but, there is still time for you to get your scans to us. Figure 8 is a rather rare, nay exceedingly rare S.B.N. [Sargood, Butler and Nichol. Warehousemen] perfin on a Victoria duty stamp. I have only recorded one other on the 1879-1880 design duty stamp. S.B.N. in printed works is shown as 'common' which tells us all just how out of date all printed works are at present. It may be common on a postage stamp but rare on a revenue. The only benefit is if you were to buy from a dealer quoting printed works. It's time perfins joined collecting in the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

## New South Wales Rails in Bulk

As this month's Revenue Review appears to be a bunch of snippets I will close this month by adding another eBay sale. Figure 9 shows a block of four New South Wales railway revenues. This had a starting price of \$99.00 on it and was sold as a complete set, but in single blocks broken up into single lots. It should be remembered these last series of pre decimal issues are from remaindered stock. I remember when complete sheets were sold by the New South Wales railway shop back in the 1980's for next to nothing. Be careful not to pay too much for them as there are stacks around and all SYDNEY station.

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Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8