

Revenue Review

One Found

According to Ed Williams "The Postage & Revenue Long Stamps of South Australia" [2003] the £1 printing of 1892 and perf 11½ to 12½ [small holes prior to new larger pins fitted in 1895] had a very small printing total of just 6 sheets of 60 [6x10] or 360 stamps only. Going on a predicted 5% survival rate, or 18 copies showing any flaws on this stamp, must be seen as rare to unique. In fig 1 the value tablet of ONE POUND reads ONE FOUND. This flaw has not been recorded and I wish to do so here in "Revenue Review". Bill Lloyd Smith one of Ed's contributors to the book and noted in the bibliography tells me this is a rare find indeed and worthy of mention here in Stamp News. While I have my SA long stamps out I have an 1886 £15 silver [fig 2] showing a poor secondary value printing 98% missing, again this has not been recorded and I wish to do so here. This value has a single printing of only 10 sheets [600 stamps] perforated 10 with a fiscal survival rate of 1%. To give you an idea of just how rare this £15 value fiscally used is, it is missing from 99% of major SA collections Inc Ed Williams personal collection [sold in 1992] and none have been recorded in any South

Australian exhibits I have seen. In fact I would go as far as to say this is the ONLY fiscally used copy to surface so far, unless you are reading this with a smile on your face knowing you have a copy tucked away. If so, please let me know so it can be recorded. Further the £15 was NEVER stocked by the Post Office, subsequently never available over the Post Office counter. They were only available by order of the Issuer of stamps. It is interesting to also note, a further printing of 5 sheets was done in 1892, perforated 11½-12½. The perf 10 copy [fig 2] dated late 1895 possibly came about, working on the first in last out theory i.e. The 1892 printing was placed on top of existing stock of the perf 10 and subsequently used first. So until another copy surfaces we have a unique item.

At Auction

Several nice items [well quite a lot in fact] were up or grabs at Prestige Philately sale late last year. This may be reported elsewhere in this edition. Some star items were, South Australia 1977 Revenue Magpie wmk Crown/SA mint group \$2200 plus buyers, used copies [fig 3] bringing a premium over

mint remainders, so have a look in your collection you may be surprised. New South Wales Railways, 1918 2/- at \$575 plus buyers, Victoria Railways, 1879 specimen set \$2200 plus buyers [yours truly was the underbidder, drats] 3 additional values bringing \$2400 plus buyers, Queensland Tramways, Buderim and Mapleton sets of 3 bringing \$1700 each plus buyers. It should be noted the NSW Railways 1918 2/- selling for \$665 inc. buyers, was 1000%+ higher than a copy of equal appearance I brought on eBay a month earlier for just \$60. So where are you going to buy, and where are you going to sell.

More SA

While I am on SA last month I showed a very nice unique railway essay. Roger DeLacy-Spencer of the UK read this and has shown me some very nice pieces from of his collection. Roger is eBay 'Railwayphilately' and also sells some very nice material from time to time so make sure you have Roger bookmarked. One of the pictures [fig 4] Roger sent me is from a paste up sheet of essays and truly magnificent unique item. I will show a few more as we get



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

further into the year.

This that and a bit of the other

Another year has begun and I do hope you have not put on too much weight over the festive season, sitting there with your stamps out all over the dining room table whilst eating the Christmas pud! With 'er indoors complaining that she must get to the sales! Rereading that it sounds like I am being rather sexist so to all you ladies out there who also had your stamps spread all over the table and missed the frock sales I can only say you must have bloody good will power well done!

Cayman Island £50

A rather nice Cayman Island £50 [fig 5] was up for grabs on eBay late last year finally selling for US\$330.00 a snip at that price. I do not recall these being remaindered so to find a mint full gum copy, really should have brought more. But then eBay is a good place for bargains.

Amazing NSW find

Well I think it is. As I am collector

of Australian States cheque's I have many bank note dealers looking out for nice clean items for me. You could have knocked me down with a feather recently when a dealer friend put a handful of cheques and shares on the counter. I instantly noticed two of them had 1865 revenues attached! Finding usage of this 1865 provisional has been non-existent. One document has survived to date and was in the Ron Butler collection from the UK. Both items offered to me were from the Brisbane Gas Company and must have been together for 150 years. [A hoard of 1880's of Brisbane Gas Company shares were sold off in the mid 1980's] One unfortunately is torn in half and dated 24 Nov 1866 [fig 6] by tearing it in half it has taken half of a 1/- on the back with it, what a shame, BUT it's better than nothing. The complete share transfer has a name of John Keep Esquire of Sydney and is dated 23 Dec 1865 and has 2x10/- and 1x5/- on the back, with one of the 10/- being only half stuck down and showing full gum. I always wondered if they were sent out gummied, now we know. They equate to a usage rate of 1/- in 10 pounds in pursuance of the 1865 Stamp Act. We also now have a

new EKD for usage, the Butler piece of usage is dated May 1866. Both these items are a welcome addition to my NSW exhibit which will be on display and up before the judges at the Canberra Show in March 08.

3 on 2

Victoria has a very nice inverted surcharge. A copy of this was in the recent Prestige auction [fig 7]. This 3d surcharge on 2d was issued 4/5/1960 and had a relatively short life. A matter of months in fact with a 3d being issued late 1960. A quick look into "The Revenue Stamps of Victoria" by Bill Craig, tells me, it is not recorded. Remember if there is one mint copy, then there is a sheet out there. I wonder how many different revenues with inverted surcharges we now have. This is a nice addition to any collection.

I can be contacted by mail:
P O Box 66 Springwood
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Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7