

Revenue Review

Victoria Unissued 19/-

It is not often we get to see something new from Victoria. I have spoken in the past how the state of Victoria has been researched to death. Well, this month I have an unrecorded 19/- of unissued status to report.

This perforated 11.6 die proof, drab in colour, on plain blue/green paper, is a first in the recorded unissued values to be found from this series of stamp duties of 1879-84 on blue/green paper. All recorded values [2 of each only 7/- 8/- 9/- 11/- 12/- 13/- 14/- 16/- 17/- 18/- 19/- and a single used 15/-] have been printed on white plain unwatermarked paper perf 12½.

I have shown this to the authority on Victoria Geoff Kellow, who goes into depth in his excellent publication *The Stamps of Victoria*. Geoff tells me that there is no evidence that printing plates were ever made for these unissued Stamp Duties. This is the first he has seen in this late state of the die which is different to the 19/- illustrated in his Victoria book. So with all that said, I would like to record it here first in *Stamp News Revenue Review*. How exciting!

Collecting Air

Some strong bidding on a very nice £5 bi-colour of 1888 [fig 2] with a common listed perfin O&M. Ord & Minnett were Stock & Share brokers in Melbourne, but on these

high values a common perfin becomes super rare, and this is the first I have seen on the £5. It sold for over \$200. Quite a remarkable price as the buyer only collects the air in the middle of the holes, with no interest in the stamp itself. I do know the buyer, a very keen Victorian perfin collector. While I am chatting about perfins I should devote more space [no pun intended] to them in this column.

There is a very active Australian perfin club out there with regular auctions and circuit books going around Australia constantly. The club also publishes an excellent quarterly bulletin. *The Perfin Club of New Zealand & Australia* would welcome new members. The secretary's email is johnmathews@canberra.edu.au Revenue stamps have been a good source of proving pieces for many of the states perfins with many attached to Insurance policy's company receipts etc. Information on Ord & Minnett Stock and Share brokers was gleaned from the *Handbook of Australian Private Perfins* publication by John Mathews 1992. The rarity listing is generally for plain old postage stamps, many perfins on revenues appearing much harder to find, and when offered on the open market attain quite high prices. There is a world perfin web site for those of you on line. *The Perfins Club*, founded 1943, they have links to other perfin sites and auctions. You can also view Vol 1

No 1 of their April 1945 bulletin, in fact they have the 1st 10 years of bulletins on line, check them out here: <http://www.perfins.org/index.htm>

News

John Barefoot has sent me the final draft of the Australian States revenues for a final glance over before going to print on the eighth edition of *British Commonwealth Revenues*. John maintains a very good web site for revenue collectors <http://www.jbarefoot.co.uk/> and has many revenue publications on offer including one of his latest on *South East Asia Revenues* which includes a priced listing of the revenues of Bhutan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, China (Jap Occup), French India, GB Consulars in Asia, Hong Kong, IndoChina, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Labuan, Laos, Macau, Malaya, Manchoukuo, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands Indies, North Borneo, Philippines, Portuguese India, Ryukyus, Sarawak, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor, Tuva, Vietnam, and Wei Hai Wei. Another recent publication is *Benelux Revenues* this includes revenues of Belgium, Belgian Congo, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Netherlands Colonies, including Municipals for some areas.

In one of the last Status International auctions, a group of philatelically contrived surcharges were on offer as genuine:



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

fortunately this up market auction house soon changed the description to correct this error so that the unsuspecting buyer would not be left with a lemon. Well done Status International. This makes a change where some auction houses appear to be working for the vendor only. Ironically the plain last issue 1950 Bryce revenues that were lotted along with the surcharges never sold. All the forgeries did! Status also sold a very nice South Australian 2d Railway stamp [fig 3] with an Aldgate AP 14 87 SA squared circle complete strike. Nice to see these complete strikes on railway stamps. While on SA another inverted head and value on the 1d Edward popped up in the last Prestige Philately sale, selling for 10g's, a tad more than the last copy which sold in January this year by Stanley Gibbons of Melbourne. At these prices we should see a few more come out of the woodwork. It is now confirmed the 1d [with an unsighted 2d] perforated Jetty Toll revenue of South Australia were issued on watermarked paper. Some of you may have noticed, I now have 'a new look' homepage to simplify the ever amounting pages that are being added.

Troublemakers

Sometimes you find something that is just a plain valueless design with no revenue significance [fig 3] and you have to ask

yourself, now where does this fit in? With Fig 4, again ask yourself is it a revenue or is it a postage stamp? When things are not catalogued or just don't fit in, in the world of revenues we call them "troublemakers". Fig 4 is a customs seal, and of no revenue significance. Fig 5 is a postage stamp used to pay a fee for a service, in this instance we can only presume a telephone bill, without the item being tied to a telephone account or a parcel wrapper [which would then show the incorrect use of the cancel] this must be classed as, revenue use of a postage stamp.

I have seen some dealers sell items with this cancel as a postage stamp probably out of plain ignorance, but it's clear enough. Some may say "if it looks and feels like a postage stamp then it must be one" what a load of cobblers! Fig 4 is courtesy of PPA Premier Postal Auctions who had a few of these seals on offer in their last sale. Fig 5 was sent to me by Ray Pinniger. *The State Revenue Society* of America established 1955, often has several troublemakers to report in each quarterly issue of their excellent journal. Examples are Iowa alcohol bottle refund stamps; Vermont Fish & Game stamps Inc the \$5 Vermont Turkey hunting licence stamps. Further, your Muzzleloader licence stamps will cost you \$10 per year. My thanks to Norm Hart for kindly passing on back issues of *The State*

Revenue Society journal.

NSW 3d & 8c Double perf

Some quite spectacular perf errors are known on many of our revenues and because they are revenues none were destroyed. All were to be accounted for and sent out of the states printers in all sorts of condition. Fig 6 the NSW 3d piece was brought by me from a dealer at Sydplex88 for \$5 if I remember correctly. It may have doubled in price by now, if only I could find the bit in the middle, maybe it would be of interest to a perfin collector! Ok I'm getting carried away now.

Fig 7 is again, quite a spectacular perf error, not only is the strip showing the signs of part double perforating leaving NEW SOUTH WALES at the bottom, the lower four rows are imperf at right.

If you have other nice perforation errors why not share them with us.

I can be contacted by mail:
PO Box 66 Springwood 4127
Queensland or an Email link
from my web site <http://users.bigpond.net.au/dave1/index>



Fig. 4

Fig. 6



Fig. 5

Fig. 7

