

Revenue Review

Invert

I start this month with figure 1 from Tasmania, a 1/- Platypus stamp duty issue with the REVENUE overprint inverted. This 'error' being one of the scarcer errors in the Platypus series, sometimes easy to miss as it is on the 1/- value. This 'error' is also found on the 1d value.

Close

As we get another month closer to Xmas, I am still getting mail asking for revenue items because 'they' missed out in auction. Its time to rethink about all those revenues you have been missing out on, and open up your wallet just a tad wider! Revenues are not going to get any cheaper than they are right now, and if you miss out they will only cost you more next year.

Tripping

Had a trip over the ditch to the NZ stamp show in

September. The Kiwis are passionate about their revenues and railways and dig deep to acquire that elusive item. I witnessed a NZ\$20,000.00 railway parcel stamp collection change hands. This consisted of the later 1925-59 railway charges issues with many different station names. The buyer was delighted to add this to his already massive rail collection. Figure 2 is a rare pair of the 10/- value.

Bilson's Beauty

As some of you may have guessed by now I am a keen collector of loyalty 'store' coupons. These are collected and stuck into a book. It's hard to find complete books as most were 'cashed' in. Figure 3 shows the first Bilson's Pty Ltd of Colac, 1/- [two different printing shades] value I have seen. Bilson's were Universal Providers based in Colac in Melbourne with one stamp given out for every 1/- spent in store. When the coupon



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

book was full it was worth 10/- in redeemable goods. Bilson's established in country Victoria in 1899 and were bought out in 1952 by Foy & Gibson Ltd. So we can date figure 3 to before this take over. I would be interested in seeing any books you may have from different stores' around Australia.

C of A. N. T.

Some of the Northern Territory revenues just never show up, and when they do it's a 'cat fight' to get them. Figure 4 is no exception. The rare £1 was nice to see come up in auction recently. Beautifully pen cancelled, and even a couple of pin holes, what a cracker! This is only the second I have seen turn up in the last 20yrs. If you see another, dig deep and buy it.

Cuurt

Phoenix auctions turned up rather nice Western Australia 'Supreme Court' revenue overprint [fig 5]

showing the broken O in Court. Blocks of this issue rarely turn up and my guess is this block was saved by a collector of the time. Possibly being bought over the counter at the Supreme Court House in Western Australia. Some forward thinking done there by an astute revenue collector thinking outside the square.

Amalgamated

Amalgamated retailers of New South Wales overprinted their duty stamps "Amalgamated Retailers Limited" to stop pilfering by staff. It appears there was no stamp collectors working for them or figure 6 would be in mint condition. The overprint has picked up a stray 'A' being printed sideways over the 'D' of Limited. Only 2d & 3d values have surfaced with the overprints being in red or black. The company, Amalgamated Retailers Limited, existed for only 2 years, from 1953 until 1955. It was formed from the company, Cash Orders (Amalgamated) Ltd, and in



Fig 4



Fig 6



Fig 5

Revenue Review

1955 it became Waltons Limited. So with just a two year window it makes these overprints quite scarce.

Weird Watermark

Figure 7 [for those of you who may not know what it is], is a 'watermark bit' this being from Western Australia. No 2188, it shows: W.A. & Crown, four impressions of the multiple crown within "WA/GR", used for Western Australia Government Railways parcel stamps from 1907-66, an interesting watermark die that would fit into any Western Australian revenue collection.

Revenue Just

First up this month I talked about an inverted REVENUE on a 1/- Platypus of Tasmania. Figure 8 is a rather nice pair of the 10/- Dragons from Tasmania with REVENUE just appearing at the top. This being

grossly misplaced, as it should be in the middle of the stamp. This begs the question, have any blocks survived with REVENUE completely missing in one row but showing REVENUE in another row?

Tram

There are lots of remainder Silverton Tramways from New South Wales around, with the odd used copy. When you first look at figure 9 you may think 'common', but have another look and you will see it is perforated. 99.9% of these found are rouletted, in fact this is only the second 1½d perforated I have recorded.

Perfin Corner

The £30 numeral revenue from New South Wales is one of the harder values to find. Even better in a pair such as figure 10, and better still, if it carries a Perfin. In this case SBI of The South British Insurance Co Ltd



Fig 7



Fig 8

Dave Elsmore

was established in June 1872 as the South British Fire and Marine Insurance Company of New Zealand and in October 1907 it was incorporated and renamed the South British Insurance Co Ltd. The SBI.a device is a single die. In addition the device is able to make single and central strikes in both positions 1 and 2. In the large format, Edward VII bi-colour issues would not be possible with a multi die device in a horizontal array. The SBI.a pattern is only found on the revenue stamps of NSW, and then only in the period from about 1926 until at least 1966.

Shhhh

Figure 11 is rarely seen with S&H [Stewart & Hemmant] Perfin within. The device is a single head device as listed in the free on line catalogue of revenue Perfins and it was most likely located in the Queen Street premises as there is no postmark or cachet

evidence of Fortitude Valley or Ipswich use. There are subtle changes to the pattern over time. In around 1906 the shape of the H alters slightly and the left hand upright develops a slight bend on the right near the top. Later, around 1915 the right hand upright of the H shows a distinct wobble above the cross bar of the H. Both of these changes are most likely the results of repairs to the device. These repairs may have ceased after 1915, as towards the end of the devices life it is characterised by missing pins in the S and the top of the H, and the strikes tend to have many incomplete holes.

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Fig 9



Fig 11



Fig 10