

Revenue Review

What, Bogus! Never!

Prestige Philately has some very nice Railway, Locals/Bogus issues awaiting auction early May. Owner, Gary Watson sent me a few scans as a taster of what is to come.

Found in the back of a European stamp collection were sheets, part sheets and singles of 3 Railway, Local/Bogus issues namely Echuca railway, River Murray Steam Navigation & Torres Strait Settlement.

Firstly the Echuca Railway. It still, to this day, has not been established whether or not this issue was in fact put into service, as no 'used' copies have surfaced as yet. Maybe it was some kind of essay. Figure 1, the 1/2d showing imperf vertical is a known variety, but nice to see it in a proving strip of 3, with figure 2, showing a full sheet of 6. This now plates the weak lower leg of first E of Echuca at row 1 stamp 1. Or has it? I have also been shown a sheet format of 3x4 [1d]. Further the obvious misplaced

line perfs makes this sheet the reason it may have been saved by a collector in the first place.

Secondly the River Murray Steam Navigation issues. These surprisingly always command a high price, as it has still not been established whether or not they are bogus. The 'facts' regarding this carrier has more questions than answers.

Survival of these stamps [remainders] is around 98% mint, with only 2 loose stamps having odd cancels. A cover bearing a 2d postage stamp and a 3d Murray label is also recorded. Why it would cost 3d to forward a single intrastate letter is questionable to say the least. The J K M initials tying the stamp to the cover are purported to be that of K J Mayne who was manager of the Echuca branch of W McCulloch & Co, but research shows Mr Mayne never signed with his initials, he always signed 'K J Mayne'.

Each value appears to be struck singularly from secondary dies, and all poorly line perforated, not the mark of a professional printer. The 1d is known



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3

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as a die proof struck in green, and the 1d does not have the value numeral in the upper corners, unlike the other three in the set. The ½d is found 'HALF PENNY' & 'HALF PENCE'.

Thirdly, the Torres Strait Settlement. This label was issued in a set of 6 values 2c, 4c, 8c, 16c, 24c & 36c. I have been shown a blk of 15 of the 16c value in green [3x5] the vertical row of 5 having left margin. The blk is imperf top and bottom telling us all, that this was probably the height of the sheet. These are c1879 and are defiantly labeled as bogus issues as there, was no settlements in the Torres Strait at this time. Located between Cape York Peninsula and Papua. Nothing has shown up on cover. It was thought a Steam Navigation Company might have produced these, but as with the Echuca, River Murray Steam Navigation Co, & the Torres Strait Settlement, it's all conjecture.

Figure 4 is showing the fun/trouble somebody has had trying to attempt, well, I'm not sure what is

being attempted here, other than to maybe create a collectable item.

In conclusion, it's interesting that these three 'issues' have surfaced together. They all appear to have been done on the same line perforator. It could further be construed that these all came from the one maker! I will leave it for you the reader to decide.

You Show Me Yours

I was doing a bit of 'You show me yours' and 'I will show you mine' [as one does] with a fellow collector from Victoria. I showed figure 5 and he came back with figure 6. Can any reader add to the Bendigo Tramway parcel & ticket issues?

German Beer

The same collector from above, Simon Cronk [Cronky] has shown me 3 Victorian beers he picked up on the German eBay site. Figure 7 being unrecorded on beige paper and the first I have seen



Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6

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actually used [halves on the cart note later rejoined]. Figure 8 shown for comparison. Figure 9 the 8/3d is really grubby with stains & washed out colour [just how I like them]. Exceedingly rare in any condition but used being a favorite of mine!

Foiled Again

As Victoria appears to be dominating this month's Revenue Review I thought I would share with you a recent buy. Figure 10 being the Parcel Stamp section of the 1877 Victoria Railway counterfoil series. 6/- being the highest value in the series, which equates to 2 weeks wages of the time. A substantial parcel would have been sent with this. Interestingly this high value 6/- was dropped from the parcel rates, with 5/- topping the highest in a series until some 70 years later, when in the 50's a 10/- was added to the rates.

This 6/- is the first and only used copy I have

seen, and with just a tad over 53,000 issued, survival of any is a miracle. Maybe you have one sitting in a book, if so please share it here so we can add it to the counterfoil register of known copies. I have recorded specimen overprints of the whole series of counterfoils, used copies are another matter.

One could argue the actual lower portion of the counterfoil known as the 'check', which was un-gummed, and being the receipt/proof of identity portion belongs in the actual revenue section of the catalogue. It was merely proof of payment, and not an actual railway parcel stamp and did not travel on the railway system. The 'check' was separated at the time of consigning the parcel. These were then forwarded, by post or otherwise to the consignee or agent collecting the parcel at its destination. Upon the progressive number being matched up, the parcel was handed over. This begs the question as to why the 9d value exists without a progressive number on?



Fig 7



Fig 8



Fig 9



Fig 10

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How was the collector of the said parcel identified upon collection? Maybe you know? If so please share it here.

Trust WA

Figure 11 is a rather nice Freemantle Harbour Trust 1d Luggage receipt. I have not seen this before and would like to record it here. I have other Freemantle Harbour Trust issues recorded, so it is nice to add this to the listing.

Local Envelope

Trove turned up an interesting graphic re the McCulloch & Co. Most of us are aware of the W. McCulloch & Co locals but figure 12 appears to be the back of an envelope advertising the company. Has any reader seen an actual envelope showing this advert? c1881 the design is similar in design to the 'Registered' McCulloch locals shown on my

web site. A few minor changes can be noted when comparing the two.

Perfin Corner

Figure 13 is an unrecorded British firm B&S.a on a Customs duty roulette issue. When I say unrecorded, well it is in fact now recorded in the free online Revenue Perfin book. A link from Perfins.com.au will take you into this book. David Coath the Victorian Perfin nut is to be credited with its identity. Thanks David. It should be noted that Jeff Turbull from the UK Perfin Society has been avidly helping with the Revenue Perfin Book of which both David Coath and myself are indebted.

**I can be contacted by mail: P O Box 66
Springwood 4127 Queensland or an Email
link from my web site ozrevenues.com**



Fig 11



Fig 12



Fig 13