Revenue Review

A Blue Swine

The Australian State of Queensland has turned up an error of colour. A blue $10 Swine duty [dated April 1969] in the very last print run of the $10.00 [fig 1], issued on Q/Crown upright watermarked paper perf 12. The $10 has only ever been recorded in Violet. "The Swine Compensation Act 1962" was assented to provide funds for the compensation of owners of swine destroyed to prevent the spread of disease. The scheme was scrapped mid 1969. I myself a collector of Queensland revenues for 35 years had never seen the $10 Violet [only in imperf proof format] until a small collection of Swine, Fly and stamp duty documents came onto the open market via a huge farm sale in Warwick. The town of Warwick is a 3 hour drive from Queensland's capital Brisbane. The buyer, who was at the sale, was looking for old bottles, tins, beer bottle labels etc when he spotted the page of Swine & Buffalo Fly Revenues. Once purchased, this collector in turn re-auctioned the page in the philatelic market. I have spoken to other advanced collectors of Queensland and all are missing the $10 Violet, none had records of a $10 Blue. Although classed as modern, this error of colour is unrecorded in the Queensland Government printing records. Fact is, it shows the 1969 printing, no mention of a change of colour. The blue is identical to the Queensland 5c Buffalo Fly revenue which was printed and issued at the same time as the Swine revenues. It is quite possible the printers proceeded to print the $10 Swine value directly after a print run of the 5c Buffalo Fly. The $10 blue Swine is the only Australian State Revenue, error of colour to surface so far. Tasmania records a small printing of an 8c Lemon but this was an issued colour from a 1st print run which was changed almost immediately. 'Bluey' a truly remarkable find.

Hey Hay

Dr Alan Craig from New Zealand has written to me with some notes about Hay's Discount stamps. Hays Department Store was founded in Christchurch by James Lawrence Hay in 1929. It would seem that the discount stamp scheme was probably started in the late 1930's and the first stamps to be used were undated. Stamps bore the inscriptions "Cash Coupon - HL [Hay's League] - Primo Mea Patrea [My Country First]". The year of issue of the stamp was printed upon it for the years 1945 to 1950. The later series of larger pictorial stamps bore the date by which they had to be redeemed i.e. the 1951 stamps state "Stamps must be cashed before 31st December 1952". This means no stamps can be found bearing the date 1951. The last stamps were issued in 1962 ["Must be cashed before 31 December 1963"]. In 1968 Hay's Ltd. merged with Wright Stephenson to form the new retail giant "Wrightsons Ltd". James Hay had two sons [twins] Hamish and David. Hamish spent time in the family business and later went on to become Mayor of Christchurch (1974-89) whilst David became a prominent New Zealand surgeon. Both James Hay and Hamish Hay were knighted for their endeavours. A well known Brisbane collector has a very nice unrecorded 100 'Sod Cottage' [fig 2].

More Beers to record

For the record a very nice New South Wales 6½d [fig 3] beer duty from the 1891 series is yet to be recorded and I wish to do so here. This stamp shows a solid value in the clear white octagonal tablet, top left. It is unclear whether there are any more values in this series showing this solid value. Maybe a reader has one? If so please let me know so I can record it.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Dave Elsmore

Up the Creek with no Bananas

Our good friend Dan Waters of Currumbin Creek on the Gold Coast has sent me a couple of documents with Queensland Banana Levy stamps on them. The first document shows a single 1d dated 23 Oct 1935 [fig 4] with the second document also with a single 1d on it dated 7 May 1936. On one of the documents it is noted that the bananas have been packed 'very slack'! These documents are the first I have seen with any kind of levy stamps on. I am waiting for somebody to find a large sugar bag full of levy documents, until then, Dan's two are all we have. Of interest, both these documents are addressed to Dan's dad who was a banana grower at Currumbin. Dan goes on to say the banana industry was thriving until the mid 1920s when it was completely wiped out by the virus disease 'Bunchy Top'. Control methods for the disease were found and the banana industry had been completely re-established by the start of world war two. The earliest date I have recorded for a banana levy is from the printer's proof book, a 1d green 2 May 1939. As we can clearly see these levy stamps were printed prior to proofs being recorded. One wonders just how many other dates in the proof book are either incorrect or added late. Many thanks, Dan for sharing some of your family history with us all.

On the Far Side

For a long time now I have collected bus and Tramway tickets. As we know Richard Peck has an excellent publication on the Australian tickets recorded. Good friend Bob H [not Hope!] from Brisbane has shown me a small selection which he has collected from Rockhampton, one of which is shown in fig 5. This is still a grey area in revenue collecting, nonetheless a fee for a service, whether Government or Private. Thanks Bob for sharing. Maybe you have some tickets from a closed bus service? If so why not share them with us.

Capital Medals

Canberra StampShow08 is all over for another year. The revenue section did extremely well with four entries, two attaining large vermeil. John Fletcher for his Cape of Good Hope revenues, and James Shaw for his New Zealand wages tax revenues, yours truly receiving a gold with special prize for my New South Wales revenues and last but not least John DiBiase of Western Australia a large gold for his international exhibit of Western Australia revenues. This exhibit also took out the grand prix, well done John. So all in all, revenues stole the show.

Web Site Update

For those of you collecting Toll Ticket Revenues I have made a page on my web site of the New South Wales toll tickets inc. Sydney Harbour Bridge, Peat's Crossing etc. I have also added a one frame exhibit on New South Wales Wine Revenues, completed Section 3 of the New South Wales Revenues in the series "Lets Teach the Judges how to Judge Australian States Revenues and Railways". Following on from the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, the Cinderella Club of Australasia now has a new home page, and this can be accessed from my web site.

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

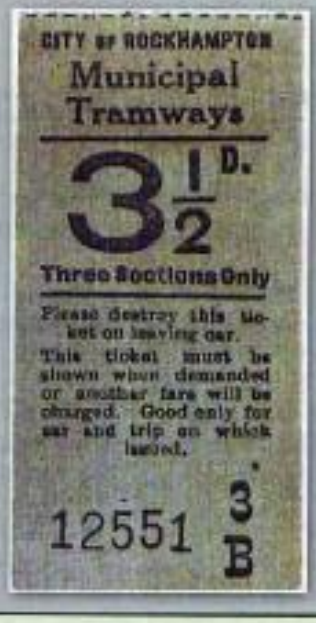

Fig. 5