

Revenue Review

IP

The time has come to update information known on the somewhat scarce to rare Commonwealth of Australia Patent Fee stamps [fig1], issued between 1954-1965 prior to decimalization. Over the 12 years pre-decimal Patent Fee stamps were used, 12 separate values were issued with four different value plate designs were used. Patent Fee stamps were printed in sheets of 60 (12x5) on gummed watermarked multiple Crown/CofA (sideways) stamp paper (SG 15) comb perf 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x14 $\frac{1}{2}$. The EKD for the £12 Patent Fee stamp is 2 October 1961.

Fee structures for Patents were complex, while Trade Marks & Designs were simple. In 1954 there were 72 separate fee structures, and by 1965 this grew to 78. Some values like the £7/10/- issued 1 January 1955 [due to an increase from £5] were purpose values used for 'Sealing a Patent'. Others

like the 6/8d value, was not a purpose value within the fee structure, and was purely used as a make up value for and when an 'Enlargement of Time' was requested. The 6/8d was in use for just 4 months before the fee structure was adjusted making that value defunct. Surprisingly the 2/- appears to be the hardest value to find.

The acquisition of Australian Patent fee stamps has been a difficult one for the revenue collector. All Patents were held in house by the Government, and the only option open to collectors of the time to add some Patent fee stamps to their collections was to buy mint copies over the counter at any Patent or Trade Mark sub-office.

Only in very recent times have revenue collectors been able to add used copies to collections. Firstly from a Canberra dealer from a few years ago who had a chap visit his shop with a small bag of torn



Fig 1

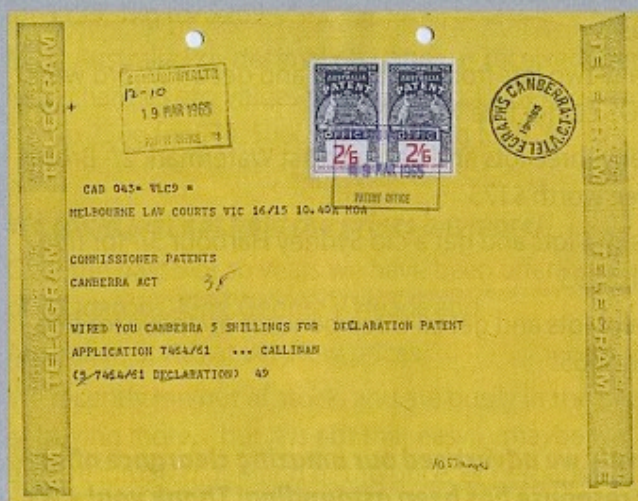


Fig 2

off Patent stamps he apparently 'found' at the local rubbish dump. There was a bit of a 'collector frenzy' when this dealer first offered these, with 100% finding their way into collector's hands within a few weeks. Secondly, a Patent worker was tasked with the job of destroying some Patent files. Fortunately for the collector, the stamps were torn off prior to the furnace. These also made their way into collector's hands. Unfortunately, this second 'batch' was 90% post-1966 decimal currency swamping the market, causing the second issue decimals and their value to plummet i.e. the \$100 was \$40.00 but now is worth just a couple of dollars. I have been informed in recent months the total 5 kilometers in length of Patent Office files [inc. stamps] held in the main Canberra Patent Office have been sent to the furnace with no chance of any more stamps or documents leaking into collectors hands. So what is out there is

it! If you have gaps to fill in your pre-decimals, good luck! The scarcer values to look out for is the 6/8d, 10/-, £4, £7/10/-, £12 and of course the 2/- . Figure 2 is a rather unusual usage in two ways. 1. revenues have been used direct on a delivered telegram to file, I have not seen another! And 2. 2x2/6d stamps were correctly used on documents that do not fit any of the fee structures. Oddly NO 5/- stamp was made available to cover a 5/- listed fee.

GSB of FIJI

Last month I spoke of the Western Australia Government Savings Bank Stamp. This month I have a Fiji Government Savings Bank 6d stamp to show. A booklet was recently auctioned off with 5 of these crackers within. Previously listed as unissued with just a single copy perf SPECIMEN known and sold by Prestige Philately a few years ago. I have



Fig 3



Fig 4

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since tracked one more copy down in the UK, figure 3. Strangely the WA is listed as being used on the back of cheques, but I am yet to see evidence of this. All used WA copies I have seen of the WA stamp have the Government Savings Bank of WA on them. I believe these were used by school children to place in a saving booklet, and once an amount was saved in stamps you could then open an account up. It goes without saying, if you have a copy of the 6d in your collection please make contact with me.

Express Local

Figure 4 is one of those items that never turns up, well this one did! You could class it as a modern local 1950's? I have not seen another and can find out very little about this company. Maybe you have similar in your collection? If so please contact me.

More WA

As more WA material comes out into the limelight there are more finds to be had. Figure 5 was unlisted by me. It was kindly sent to me by Mike Mulroy, a well known WA revenue collector to add to my free on line revenue catalogue. Keep a lookout for one as I'm sure you will have a gap where this 1/9d would fit. Thanks Mike!

Zig-Zag

Figure 6 was a must have for the South Australia revenue collector. Blocks of the 1d zig-zag roulette appear scarce to find and when they do pop up do not last long on the market. The largest blk I had recorded was just 4 [2x2]. This one shown in figure 6 was on eBay with a crazy low 'buy it now' price, so I bought it! We all know the

Fig 5

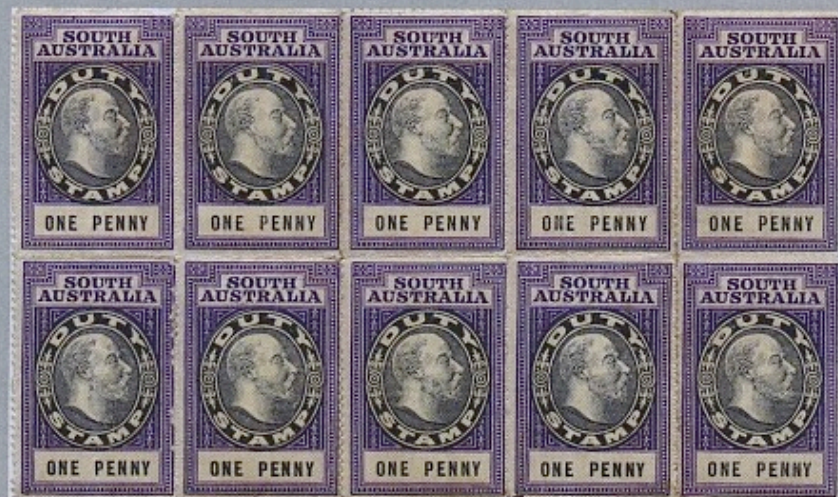


Fig 6

Dave Elsmore

saying 'if its too good to be true it must be' some people who love to hear the sound of their own voice just waffle this out time after time. Well, I for one do not believe in this, especially where stamps are concerned. If I did, my collection would be somewhat the poorer.

Bid More

Sometimes you know you should have just bid more on a lot after missing out. Figure 7 was recently auctioned so I decided to have a crack at it. After losing out and it selling for a silly low price I know I will have to wait a long time for any of these tiny OS issues to show up again. I will be more prepared next time! Keep a look out for this rare decimal issue from NSW railways and if you see any grab them as quick as you can.

Perfin Corner

Another cracking item for 'Perfin Corner' this month. Greg Howard from Tasmania sent me in a lovely dated strip [fig8] of the rare A Perfin on revenue usage. This is the first 'A.a' to be found on a Numeral issue. Exceedingly rare as was the A.a found on the 1d Platypus issue reported here from a few months ago.

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Fig 7



Fig 8