

THE 1<sup>D</sup>. KING GEORGE V  
A U S T R A L I A N  
COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

SURFACE PRINTED TYPES  
1914 to 1937

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A STUDY BY  
D. M. NEIL

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1947

PUBLISHED BY  
THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH SPECIALISTS SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN  
80 DUNEDIN ROAD, LONDON, E.10

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SURFACE PRINTED TYPES

1914 TO 1937

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THE GROSVENOR ENGRAVING CO. LTD., 73 FARRINGDON ROAD, LONDON, E.C.1

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## PREFACE

The aim of this work is to record the details of the five plates used for the issue of this 1d. adhesive postage stamp during the twenty-three years of its currency, so far as has been noted by others together with the results of my own study of mint sheets, blocks, and some two million used copies, in the hope that the result may prove of interest and practical use to the increasing number of Collectors who are specialising in the stamps of the Australian Commonwealth.

The view sometimes expressed that many minor varieties exist the noting of which would not prove useful, I disagree with, because I have found many such constant flaws of help in tracing the various states of the plates and the major varieties—particularly so where the Official Records appear somewhat meagre so far as they have been made known; also because, in my opinion, a specialised study of any stamp issue should be as complete as possible, should include the views of and information contributed by others, and not be confined to those details considered philatelically significant by an author, so that each reader may form his own estimate of the philatelic interest and value of the various items.

In the following arrangement an attempt has been made to avoid the necessity for frequent cross references and this has caused repetition of matter in some parts.

Some minor flaws which appear to have been constant still elude efforts towards plate etc. location. The dates given in relation to the varieties recorded are believed to be correct, but infallibility is not claimed in this or any other respect.

My thanks are tendered to all those Writers, Collectors, and Correspondents in the Commonwealth for much helpful information and for the stamps sent to me during past years, also to Co-members of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain who have helped me similarly.

D. M. NEIL.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This 1d. Surface Printed Postage Stamp of the Australian Commonwealth perhaps lacks the halo and many other desirable attributes of some of the line engraved stamps of the nineteenth century.

It was the minimum frank for letter postage for the first four and a quarter years of its currency.

The following brief summary, however, appears to prove that it established a record when compared with any other adhesive postage stamp issued up to the present date, and provides a wide and varied interest for those philatelists who engage in specialised study of it, viz. :

Only five plates, each with 120 units, were used during the twenty-three years of printings—this for a population of some 6½ millions in 1914 rising to about 7 millions in 1937.

One of these plates, that from Die III, was in use for some three months only during 1918.

The other four plates, first used in July 1914, were of hardenep steel, and three of these were from Die I only ; the fourth comprised 100 units from Die I and 20 units from Die II. These latter were re-entered on the plate in Die I fourteen years later.

Two of the " all Die I " plates were in use throughout the twenty-three years. Another of the all Die I plates, after some two years in use, had 2 units (a horizontal pair which became defective), cut out of it and replaced by two copper electros, one from Die I and the other from Die II. These electros were inserted within the hardened steel plate and held in position by printers' " bits ", and the part steel, and part electro, plate was used intermittently for printings for about another two years. Then it was kept in storage for the next ten years, at the expiration of which the two electros were removed and one adjoining steel unit cut out, new steel prepared for three units, dovetailed into the plate and three Die I units rolled in thereon and the plate again used for printings during the ensuing nine years odd. The inserted electros have the appearance of having been retouched during their period of use in the plate.

The plate with 20 Die II units also went into store for the same ten years as that with the inserted electros and was brought into use again also for the succeeding nine years odd.

Of the 480 units of the four hardened steel plates, 164 units became Located Plate Varieties, several of which occurred in different states after correctional attempts by Retouching, Re-entry, Rolling on Renewed Metal, etc., and additional flaws resulting from the treatment of adjacent units.

Two hundred and eighteen of those distinct states may be found during the twenty-three years' printings—three were Flaws on the plates when first used with 155 Flaws developing subsequently (including two on the Electro units), four were Retouchings prior to the first printing, and 27 Retouchings followed later; 26 were Re-entries in whole or part, and 3 units were Rolled on a renewed steel patch in one plate in 1928.

One of the three initial Flaws and two of the four initial Retouches remained unaltered at the final printing.

Four printers in all used these four plates; printings were made on paper with four different Watermarks and on Unwatermarked paper; the papers were surfaced, semi-surfaced and unsurfaced and also varied considerably during the period in quality, texture and thickness.

Printings were issued in Red for nearly eight years, then in Violet for two years odd, and lastly in Green for about thirteen years. In the Red group some fifty-six different shades ranging from Pale Pink to Deep Scarlet are recorded, in the Violet group the range was from Dull Purple to Deep Violet, and in the Green group from Pale Dull Yellow-Green through the Sage Greens to Deep Green.

The strain upon some other values was relieved frequently during the twenty-three years by Commemoratives, etc., but after the first few months, during which the balances of the Id. Kangaroo type and the Id. King George V engraved type were absorbed, the only alternative to the Surface Printed Id. for the remainder of that long period was the use of two  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps.



RECESS PRINTED 1913.



SURFACE PRINTED 1914.



DIE III 1918.

## II. DESIGN AND DIES

The estimate of 1d. stamps needed for 1914 was 2 millions a day. The Kangaroo 1d. plates were wearing somewhat, and the Georgian 1d. recess printing plates had suffered many re-cuttings of frames and general retouchings during the early part of that year. It has been reported that the total issue of the recess printed 1d. stamps was under  $2\frac{1}{2}$  millions.

The recess printed 1d. Georgian type of December 1913, which was T. S. Harrison's modification and adaptation of the prize-winning entry in the open competition of 1911, consisted of King George V's head facing to the left in a central banded oval, with crown central above the oval and with 7-flowered wattle sprays at each side of the crown in the upper corners. Below these a kangaroo on the left and an emu on the right both facing inwards and impinging upon the oval band. AUSTRALIA in white letters around the oval band top between the kangaroo and emu heads, and POSTAGE in white around the oval band base section between their feet. The numeral 1 in white in shield-like tablets in each lower corner, and between these the words ONE PENNY in small-sized white letters. The background within the oval was hatched, and without horizontal line shaded. The rectangular frame inner margin graduated in thickness and curved etc. at and about the four corners, with the diadem of the crown projecting above the top frame line level.

This recess printed design, with suitable and necessary modification and adaptation of detail for surface printing, was repeated in the surface printed issue of the 1914 1d. stamps. The size after this adaptation was  $21\frac{1}{2}$  mm. width, 25 mm. depth, with the crown top upward projection  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. and width 1 mm.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. of London prepared the surface printing Dies (and four plates) for this surface printed 1d. stamp as issued in 1914.

Not less than two Dies were prepared and dispatched to Australia. These constituted Die I and Die II and the latter had one distinguishing feature consisting of a white-pointed projection sloping upward to the right on the inside of the right-hand curve of the white border of the left value tablet.

It has been suggested that Die II was intended for postal stationery production only, and alternatively that the projection on this Die was not intended and occurred through inadvertance. The latter seems the more probable in view of the two vertical rows of 20 units from Die II which appeared in a right pane of one plate with all the left pane and the remainder of the right pane in Die I units, and also as Die I was constant throughout the other three plates and all four Plates seem to have been made by the makers of the Dies and dispatched by them with the Dies. (See also p. 10.)

Die III was introduced in May 1918 at the instance of the Government Printer, J. B. Cooke, owing to the shortage of the current paper and for the purpose of using up the remainder of paper which previously had been used for printing the 1917 War Savings Stamps. The four plates with Dies I and II were unsuitable for that paper



by reason of the size of the sheets, and the paper itself which was originally intended for recess printing use for Postage issues.

T. S. Harrison, who was at that date the Government engraver, worked up one of the Perkins, Bacon Dies in preparation for the production of a plate suitable for the War Savings paper remainder. The die thus dealt with was Die I and this treatment and alteration of it yielded what is known as Die III.

The chief distinguishing features of Die III are :

(i) In the upper left corner the third line of shading does not join with both the upper two wattle leaves but extends only for a short distance leftwards from the right leaf.

(ii) The shading around the King's head is more even generally, and this particularly necessitated the wider spacing of the lines in front of the head.

(iii) In the section of shading above the emu's back the colour lines do not join the oval colour band.

(iv) Four of the vertical shading lines on the King's neck at the left near the base are broken, giving the effect of a horizontal cut through them.

(v) The letters of ONE PENNY are heavy and uneven in outline.

(vi) The colour lines of shading on either side of the ONE PENNY are not joined to its coloured background tablet.

### III. THE PLATES

The Perkins, Bacon and Co. Plates (and Dies I and II) appear to have arrived in Australia about June 1914 and the first printings from them to have been on sale in July 1914.

Opinions have been expressed that two plates, referred to as the Right Plates, each of 120 units, were thus delivered and two more similar plates made locally from the accompanying Dies. Points in support of this view include that one Plate comprised 100 units in Die I and 20 units in Die II and that another plate, although all in Die I units, did not wear very well. Both these, it has been suggested, were made locally and are referred to as the Left Plates. They were not in use for the ten years' period after August 1918 to June 1928.

On the other side it has been reported that proof sheets from the "local" plates are among Perkins, Bacon and Co.'s file records ; also the first printing from the "local" plates showed on one of them the existence of a constant flaw (left pane unit 42) and a re-touch (right pane unit 40) and that both these varieties have been found postally cancelled July 1914. The other "Local" plate had 20 units in Die II, two vertical rows forming a block  $2 \times 10$  in the right pane, in the first printing and these have also been found cancelled July 1914.

It is improbable that two plates could have been made from the Dies received from England and printings produced from them and issued during July 1914. The two plates (the Right Plates) generally admitted to be of English manufacture, showed, as to one plate two retouches and one constant flaw, and as to the other one re-touch and two constant flaws, at the first printing. The earliest known cancellations of these six varieties are also dated July 1914.

In view of the foregoing it seems that the balance of probability leans towards all four plates having been manufactured by Perkins, Bacon and Co. and all four used for the first issue of July 1914.

The four plates were of hardened steel and presumably the four initial retouchings mentioned were made before the hardening process was applied.

The practice was introduced of printing this value directly from these original steel plates instead of the usual procedure of preparing electros from them, as and when required for use in the actual printing. The original steel plates were thus in use over a period of twenty-three years for various printings.

Each of these plates had, from the first, an approximately 3 mm. wide co-extensive marginal line on two sides of the units only. On one plate at top and left, another at top and right—the upper plates. On a third at left and base, a fourth at right and base—the lower plates. This was a provision for the use of all four plates in a composite block, around the border of which the co-extensive marginal line metal would give a steadying effect to the pressure during printing, and thus protect the surface metal of units adjacent to the plate border from undue wear through the action of the inking rollers. This also effected a coloured sectional margin line round the edge of the composite printer's sheet excepting across plate junctions and also at the points mentioned below.

This margin line was spaced about  $4\frac{3}{4}$  mm. from the stamps' frames and was not carried above the centre gutter margin spaces of the upper plates and a void space similarly occurred below the centre gutters of the lower plates. The normal sections of this marginal line were varied at the left side by curtailing their lengths opposite parts of the 3rd and 4th units from the top (upper left plate), and opposite parts of the 7th and 8th units from the top (lower left plate), in each instance leaving a gap of about  $26\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Similar breaks in this line occurred at the right, leaving  $26\frac{1}{2}$  mm. gap (upper right plate) and  $27\frac{1}{2}$  mm. gap (lower right plate). Also in sections of this line at the right of the right plates, opposite each of the centres of the 5th and 6th units from the top of each plate a circle was cut about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. in diameter in the 5th row section of the upper right plate, and about 1 mm. diameter in the other three sections. These showed in the printed sheets as white dots in the colour line sections.

Each plate consisted of two horizontal panes of 60 units with 15 mm. wide space between them. Each pane had ten horizontal rows, each of 6 units, with vertical spacing between units  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. and horizontal spacing between units  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

With the four plates set up in a block for printing it should be noted that the two plates at the left of the block are referred to herein as Right plates and the two at the right of the block as Left plates. This is because the printed sheets from the block were obviously in reverse to the set up of the plates, and because for convenience of reference a plate, pane, and unit of a pane are mentioned in the order of their respective positions *on the printed sheet*.

Plate numbers, monograms, marginal imprints, and controls were

absent from early printings from the four plates.

Early in 1915 J. B. Cooke added two monograms in the lower margins to each plate. These consisted of C A monogram for Commonwealth of Australia and J.B.C. monogram for J. B. Cooke, each in a double-lined circle some 10 mm. in diameter. In the left plates: C A is below the 3rd unit from the right of the lowest row of the right pane and J B C is below the 3rd unit from the left of the lowest row of the left pane. In the right plates: C A is below the 3rd unit from the left of the lowest row of the left pane and J.B.C. below the 3rd unit from the right of the lowest row of the right pane.

About June 1918 T. S. Harrison was appointed Commonwealth stamp printer and for his first printing altered the J B C monograms of the left plates only to C A monograms; but the right plates appear to have been used in block for that printing with the C A and J B C monograms unaltered.



For the July 1918 printings all monograms were removed from the four plates, and the first Imprint T. S. HARRISON, COMMONWEALTH STAMP PRINTER, in plain block capitals 1 mm. in height in a single line 49 mm. in length, was introduced centrally below the gutter between the panes in the lower margin of each plate.

In 1919 the first Imprint was replaced (right plates only) by the two-line Imprint—T. S. HARRISON, AUSTRALIAN NOTE AND STAMP PRINTER, all in Roman capitals with the name central above about 20 mm. in length and in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. letters, and the designation below 40 mm. in length and in 1 mm. letters. In this setting the right vertical of N of HARRISON was practically in line above the vertical of P of STAMP.

In 1924 the Imprint setting was altered in one respect. This brought the right vertical of N of HARRISON almost in line above the right vertical of M of STAMP.

In both settings of the Harrison two-line Imprint for the upper right plate the full stop after PRINTER has been missing from all violet and green printings which have come the writer's way, and the letters E R in the same plate printing in green on Large Multiple Cr. A. Wmk. paper (first type two-line setting) were doubled in two instances.

The left plates were not in use after August 1918 until June 1928, so presumably the Harrison single-line Imprint remained in those two plates until John Ash brought them into use again at the latter date. Thus neither of the Harrison settings of the two-line Imprint nor the A. J. Mullett two-line Imprint occurred in printings from these two plates.

A. J. Mullett took over as Commonwealth printer about February 1926 and altered the imprints of the right plates by substituting his initials and name in the upper lines in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Roman capitals,

making a length of about 19 mm. Also he increased the four spaces between the words of each lower line, which then became 42 mm. in length.

In July 1927 John Ash succeeded Mullett and his name in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Roman capitals became the upper line 13 mm. in length on each of the right plates. The lower line remained unchanged. In this setting the N of JOHN is above the N of AND. In June 1928 the two left plates were brought into use again with this first type Ash imprint.

So far as material has been available for the writer it appears that in 1929 Ash altered all four plates' two-line imprints to plain block capitals with  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. letters in upper lines 13 mm. length, and lower lines  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. letters with  $42\frac{1}{2}$  mm. total length, and in this setting the N of JOHN was above the A of AND. The imprints continued in this setting until the plates were discarded in 1937.

The second and third vertical rows of 10 units each of the upper left plate, right pane were in Die II from first use of the plate until August 1928 when they were all re-entered in Die I by Ash.



DIE I

It has been suggested that the presence of these 20 Die II units was due to this plate having been originally executed in Die I and these two vertical rows found to be faulty ; that the surface of the metal was raised and the unsatisfactory twenty impressions at once cleaned off, and the 20 units re-rolled in what was intended to be Die I, but through inadvertance a Die II roller was used. Also that the correctness of this surmise is supported by the irregularity of alignment of some of the Die II units. This view is probably correct. Further, it has been pointed out that in the second vertical row of Die II units the distinguishing upward projection in the left value tablet forms a more acute angle with the white border of the tablet, and the projection is slightly shorter than in the case of the third vertical row.



DIE II.  
2nd. Vertical  
Row of Pane.



DIE II.  
3rd. Vertical  
Row of Pane.

These varying Die II impressions have been attributed either to damage to the Die, or to slight deficiency in the roller used, or to irregularity in the operation of rolling in. The last alternative seems the most probable if considered in conjunction with the presumption that the bumping up of the plate metal surface and 20 units removal and re-rolling in Die II was carried out in England before the application of the steel hardening process, in which event the thus treated but unhardened metal surface may have contributed to, and/or accentuated the irregularity of the rolling-in operation. In this connection it should be borne in mind that the various re-entries and re-touchings of the plates later, in the Commonwealth, were treatments of steel plates which had already been hardened by the makers' special hardening process and not treatments of unhardened steel to which that hardening was subsequently to be applied.

The probability of irregularity in the "second rolling" on unhardened metal which had been "bumped up" and prepared for that second rolling appears somewhat enhanced by a consideration of the following further variations in the Die II units.

The projections on the 10 units for the third vertical row are almost regular, finer, and jutting more nearly vertically upwards than those of the second vertical row in which the projection appears to vary for each unit. The top unit projection is clearly defined, then the clarity of definition decreases slightly in each unit downwards, and consequently the junction of tablet line and projection becomes broader, until on the ninth unit down the angle is very acute, and on the tenth unit the projection is almost merged in the tablet line. Printings from each of these two units of the second vertical row of Die II can be identified with reasonable accuracy in single stamps.



DIE II

Spur almost merged.

It is generally accepted that when the plates were used other than in a composite block for printings, either the left plates in vertical pair or the right plates in similar pair were used and this is confirmed by constant varieties of one pair being found in certain shades on the various papers, etc., whilst varieties from the other pair are not found in some shades on some papers and so on.

It may be said that some or all of the four plates were used singly on occasions for printings but there does not appear to be any definite record in support of single plate user.

Two printings from the left plates are reported to have been made by Cooke in October 1916 and the next printing from this pair made in December 1916. During the October-December interval two units (Nos. 34 and 35) of the right pane of the lower left plate became damaged in parts through rusting of the steel, reported as due to insufficient greasing of that part of the plate after the second printing of October. These defects it has been suggested, were noticed before the December printing was begun and in consequence only a small printing made in that month (in scarlet aniline) and another small printing early in January 1917 (in dull rose) before attempting to remedy the defects for future printings.

The flaws caused are described in the later section "Flaws, Retouches . . . etc." (see p. 47.)

The method adopted was, and remains, unique ; also it is hoped it will remain so—the defective units Nos. 34 and 35 were cut out of the plate and to replace them, two copper electros were prepared. One of these was from Die II and the other from Die I and both were fixed into the steel plate with printers' "bits", the Die II electro in place of unit 34 and the Die I electro in place of unit 35. Thus wedged into the plate they remained for some twelve years.

From January 1917 to August 1918 the left plates were used in the composite block for printings in six distinct shades on surfaced paper, and in twenty distinct shades on unsurfaced paper with the two inserted electros in the lower left plate, that is for some twenty-six printings at intervals during twenty months.

The rest of the twelve years the left plates were not in use.

Harrison appears to have been the Commonwealth engraver in 1916 and 1917 ; but it is difficult to credit that an experienced engraver (even under war-time stress and skilled labour shortage) would advise or adopt such a "makeshift" method of repair in the twentieth century.

Thus in the absence of official record or information to the contrary we may consider the probability of the printer, Cooke, having sent the Dies to the engraver (Harrison) with a request for the preparation and delivery of two copper electro single units without specifying particularly the intended special user, and upon receipt of them having cut out the rusted steel units and then wedged the electros into the plate.

These copper electros, which from the first appeared to have several flaws, as might have been expected, wore considerably and both show signs of retouching in the upper right corners during their use in some printings. It may be that these corners were not retouched and have a similar appearance to retouching as a result of slight movement in the plate causing these corners to receive greater pressure which affected their surface designs at these points. The rapid wear has been attributed in part to electrolytic action with the different metals used in contact. However, it would seem that copper was at sufficient disadvantage alongside hardened steel under the circumstances outlined to account for the wear which occurred, without assistance from electrolysis.

In June 1928 Ash brought the left plates into use again and for that purpose removed the two copper electros, units 34 and 35, also cut out the steel unit No. 40 (immediately below No. 34) which from the first use of the plates in 1914 had shown retouching of GE of POSTAGE. A new piece of steel sheet was dovetailed into the plate and the three units Nos. 34, 35, and 40 replaced by re-rolling in on this patch, each in Die I. This repair remained until the plates were discarded in 1937. These three units were very slightly out of alignment after this replacement and none of them was quite normal in the subsequent printings.

The major plate alterations have been noted in the foregoing and their effect upon the printings and that of the other retouchings and re-enterings are dealt with later in the "Flaws, Retouches, and Re-entries" section. (See p. 40)

### *5th Plate (Die III).*

In May 1918 the fifth plate was prepared by T. S. Harrison, the Commonwealth engraver, and comprised 120 units in one pane all from Die III, set in twelve horizontal rows of 10 units each and without any surrounding margin line, but with monograms in lower margin as previously described for the London plates, with the JBC below the third unit from the left and C A below the third unit from the right. The dimensions of the units and the spacing between their rows were the same respectively as in the four London plates.

As already noted (p. 9) in the "Design and Dies" section this plate was prepared with the object of suiting the texture and size of the surplus of the paper used for War Savings Stamps as a war-time economy measure.

The printings from this Die III plate were made by J. B. Cooke. The date of the first issue has been given as June 1918 and four distinct shades have been recorded. It appears that several printings were made from it between June and August 1918 and then it was finally discarded.

The plate was not of hardened steel and the various flaws and retouchings are noted in the appropriate section (p. 67).

It does not seem by any means to have borne the full demand of the 1d. unit postage rate during that short period, as in May 1918 the four London plates were printed from an unsurfaced paper in three distinct shades and in June 1918 in six distinct shades and in July 1918 in one shade; also in July 1918 the two right London plates yielded three distinct shades on the surfaced paper. The London plates thus appear to have carried the larger burden even during that short period.

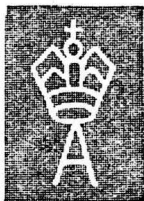
Consideration of the foregoing on the basis of an average need of 2 or  $2\frac{1}{2}$  million 1d. stamps daily seems to suggest that additional unnecessary expense resulted from the Die III plate venture instead of the economy aimed at. Moreover this plate appears not to have completed its intended function, perhaps owing to the effects of wear on unhardened steel, and to have been discarded before the stock of paper for which it had been specially prepared was exhausted.

#### IV. PAPERS AND WATERMARKS

The total width of the designs including margin line as set out on each London plate was approximately 12 inches and depth about  $11\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Paper for printing from the four plates in a composite block required further provision for an external margin throughout and for internal vertical and horizontal margins at the junctions of the plates, so that when the printer's large sheet was cut into four Post Office sheets of stamps (corresponding with the four plates) each of the Post Office sheets should have a suitable margin for handling. This required a printer's sheet of about 28 inches by 26 inches.

In July 1914 the paper introduced for this purpose was of the medium thin white wove type and Watermarked Large Tudor Crown about  $13\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height and 11 mm. width over single lined A about 8 mm. in height and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm. width, spaced to provide one "Crown A" about central for each stamp, also for a thin surround watermark line for each pane of sixty stamps and for the words "Commonwealth of Australia" in one vertical margin and "Postage" in the other vertical margin of each Post Office sheet with four single lined crosses, one in each corner of each such sheet.



The watermark words were in double lined block capitals 11 mm. in height and arranged on the printer's large sheet with "Postage" in left margins reading upwards and "Commonwealth of Australia" in the right margins reading downwards for each upper plate printing. For each lower plate printing with the name reading upwards in the left margins and "Postage" reading downwards in the right margins.

Where the name watermark occurred in a margin the words extended from opposite the second to the ninth horizontal rows of Crown A and where "Postage" occurred in a margin it extended from opposite the fourth to the seventh horizontal rows of Crown A. Paper watermarked in this manner was in general use for the sheets of this value until October 1926. During those  $14\frac{1}{4}$  years the supplies came from several makers and had many differences in quality, texture, thickness, shade, and surface. No doubt the war and post-war conditions contributed to the irregularity of standard and of supply.



### *Surfaced Papers.*

The ordinary paper used came under the general classification of "Wove" and it was usually fairly highly surfaced.

The first printing was on mediumly thin wove; later in 1914 this was changed to medium wove of uneven thickness.

1915 yielded even medium thin wove, uneven medium wove only slightly surfaced (often termed semi-surfaced), and even thin wove of somewhat greyish shade; and in

1916 uneven thin wove predominated; while in

1917 uneven, medium wove prevailed; and in

1918 it was principally even medium wove; changing in

1919 to uneven mediumly thin wove; but reverting in

1920 to even medium wove.

1921 brought uneven medium wove, thick uneven wove, and thin uneven wove; and

1922 thin uneven wove, and thin even wove.

1923 saw the extremes of coarse thick wove, and thin uneven wove; and

1924 thick even wove, and thin even wove; the latter of these continued in

1925 and was joined by thin uneven wove; and in

1926 highly surfaced thin uneven wove was general.

The ordinary papers were supplied ready gummed; but it has been reported that a few sheets were accidentally supplied without gum, were printed on and issued early in 1916.

### *Unsurfaced Papers.*

War emergency caused an insufficient supply of the surfaced paper from December 1916 to July 1918 and other paper was procured from various sources, but all watermarked as described previously.

This paper was all woven coarsely, rough surfaced and varied considerably in thickness during the period. These variations may be classed broadly as "Thick", "Medium", and "Thin". It was supplied ungummed and machine gummed after the printings.

Printings on this paper have been described as "Provisional Printings", but during the 1916-1918 period it appears to have been used concurrently with the surfaced paper. Printings on it occurred in thirty distinct colour shades from at least six printings from the two right plates in pair, and ten from each of the four plates either in block or in pair. During the same period surfaced paper printings were made in twenty-one distinct colour shades from at least one printing from the two left plates in pair, nine from the two right plates in pair, and three more from each of the four plates either in block or in pair. Also the Multiple Large Watermark paper was used for printings in four colour shades from the right plates in pair, and the Harrison plate War Savings Stamps paper for printings in four shades during parts of this period—both described under following sub-headings (see pp. 19 and 20).

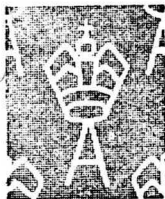
The extensive use of the unsurfaced paper for two years and seven months concurrently with the other papers would seem to

bring it out of the philatelic "Provisional" category and make the description "Unsurfaced Papers" more appropriate.

*Multiple Large Watermark Paper.*

In January 1918 a further type of paper was introduced. This was a rather poor quality white wove paper varying much in texture and thickness with Large Crown over single lined A Watermark very similar in outline to the original watermark for this value, with Crown about 14 mm. in height and 10 mm. in width and with A about 8 mm. in height and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm. width. These were arranged in alternate alignment so that not less than three parts and not more than five parts of separate Crown A designs would appear in the paper of each stamp, varying thus according to the degree of accuracy attained in "feeding" the paper during printing.

This paper was without watermarked border lines or words, the Crown A arrangement being constant throughout the printer's sheet.



It has been suggested that the use of this paper by Cooke was an experiment aimed at securing a paper satisfactory in printing result generally for both the Georgian and Kangaroo stamps, also particularly one which was foolproof to the extent that, however careless the user in either two-plate or four-plate printings it would be impossible to produce a printed sheet of stamps without the presence of sufficient portions of watermark in each stamp.

The frequent "off" centring in use of the single Crown A paper sometimes produced a Kangaroo type stamp which had "missed" the watermark entirely.

This Cooke experimental printing was from the right plates in pair and consisted of a small number of sheets, consequently only a few Post Offices received them.

One large printing was made by Harrison (who became Commonwealth printer in mid-1918) on this paper in 1919 from the right plates in pair.

This paper was used for other values also; but a small remainder appears to have been in store until May 1924 and then used by Harrison for a printing of this value in green from the right plates in pair. Throughout it was unsatisfactory because the varying thickness where watermarked caused inking complications referred to later in Section IX (p. 28).

### *The Die III Paper.*

Savings Stamps were used in 1917 and these were equal in size to the Georgian postage stamps, but were recess printed from a plate of 120 units set  $10 \times 12$  in a solid pane. The paper used for them had been ordered with a view to recess process user for postage stamps, and was supplied ungummed and in size suitable for 120 units in solid block, but was not delivered until after the recess process scheme of 1914 had been abandoned for George V type postage issues.

The watermark was Large Tudor Crown over single lined A, similar to that of the four-plate first surfaced paper, spaced for one Crown A about central for each of the 120 units and without watermarked border line; but with COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA in double lined block capitals reading upwards in the left margin and POSTAGE reading downwards in the right margin.

This paper was of medium thickness hard white wove and uneven in texture. It was only slightly surfaced and owing to its hardness was somewhat brittle. Its use for "Savings" stamps despite the POSTAGE watermark appears to have been a war economy effort.

When the savings stamps issue ceased the contingency of a paper shortage and a continued leaning towards economy combined were responsible for the use of this paper in surface printing 1d. postage stamps.

The plate in Die III previously described (see p. 16) was prepared by Harrison and used by Cooke for printings of the 1d. value on this paper from June to August 1918, during which period the four two-pane London plates were used also for various printings on the pre-gummed surfaced paper as well as on the ungummed unsurfaced papers.

The Die III sheets were machine gummed after printing. Although it has been chronicled in the Commonwealth that the Die III printings of 1918 were intended to use up the remaining stock of this paper, this does not seem to have been achieved, because in July 1940 (some twenty-two years later) W. C. G. McCracken, who succeeded John Ash as Commonwealth Stamp Printer, produced a 6d. War Savings Stamp 25 mm. by 20 mm. in solid sheets of 120 units, format  $12 \times 10$  on Large Tudor Crown over A watermark (sideways) paper with doubled lined block letters COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA watermarked upright in the top margins and POSTAGE inverted and reversed in the lower margins. The spacing between horizontal rows of twelve stamps was increased to an extent which approximately allowed for the difference in unit dimensions, viz. : Die III  $21\frac{1}{4}$  mm. by 25 mm. and 1940 "Savings" 25 mm. by 20 mm.

Thus another war appears (*inter alia*) to have caused another printer to produce some more of the 1918 "remainder", and incidentally to re-introduce a single-line perforator with it!

### *Unwatermarked Paper.*

Further difficulty in securing the Large Crown over A watermarked paper appears to have arisen in 1924. It was endeavoured

to meet this by obtaining paper locally. This paper was plain white wove of medium thickness and even texture without watermark and was gummed after printing.

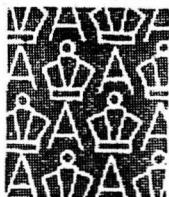
Three printings were reported to have been made in the sage green shades by Harrison from the London right plates in pair, yielding some 150,000 Post Office sheets of 120 stamps each.

These were issued in August 1924.

#### *Multiple Small Crown over A Paper.*

This paper was used first for this value in October 1926 by A. J. Mullett, and later became the standard paper for both Kangaroo and Georgian printings of all denominations excepting the £1 Kangaroo.

Suitability for use with these types of different size appeared to necessitate (*inter alia*) a smaller design of watermark than any hitherto used for Commonwealth stamps. This resulted in the adoption of a Small Crown somewhat irregular in outline above a small single-lined A watermark repeated closely spaced throughout the paper without border lines or words.



The Small Crown A design was about  $14\frac{1}{2}$  mm. over all in height with the A severed from the Crown band line by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. space. The maximum width of the Crown was about 7 mm. and of the A about 4 mm. The arrangement was such that each Crown had the A of the adjacent designs close to it and almost level with it on either side. This ensured that each 1d. stamp was watermarked either with four complete designs Crown over A and also six parts of such designs, or with three complete designs and seven parts of designs.

Supplied by Wiggins, Teape and Co., London, this paper was white wove of even texture and varied from thin to medium thick. It was ready gummed, and in the Commonwealth climate was found to have a tendency towards curling which increased in hot weather. This caused occasional slipping of the paper in the process of printing with resulting blurring of the colour and some double impressions.

Early in 1928 supplies of paper less liable to curl were obtained from another source, but with the same watermark.

From October 1926 to October 1931 all printings of this value were made on the Multiple Small Crown A watermarked paper :

(a) By Mullett from the London right plates in pair until June 1927, then

(b) By Ash until June 1928, and thereafter

(c) By Ash from all four London plates either in pairs or in block until October 1931.

### *Multiple Small Crown over C of A Paper.*

Another paper was introduced in October 1931 which became general for all Commonwealth issues. This value was the first issued on it, and subsequent printings of it were all made on this paper by Ash from the London plates in pairs or in block, until the four plates were finally discarded in May 1937 upon the issue of the Queen Elizabeth type 1d. stamp of the present reign.

The paper was even white wove of medium thickness and supplied gummed. The watermark consisted of a small Crown somewhat irregular in outline above single-lined C OF A. This design was repeated closely throughout the paper in similar manner to that of the previous Multiple Small Crown over A paper.



In height the design was about 14 mm., the Crown about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mm., the letters C and A about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm., and the letters OF about 2 mm. The space between the Crown and C OF A is about 1 mm. The width of the Crown is about 8 mm., and of the C OF A 12 mm.

The watermark arrangement ensured a minimum of one complete design and parts of six other designs in the paper of each 1d. Georgian type stamp.

### **V. SHADES OF PAPER**

Probably owing to the many sources of supply and the different degrees of texture the Single Crown A watermark paper had many variations in shade.

In the surfaced paper it may be convenient to class these into five groups: (1) White; (2) Bluish white; (3) Greyish white; (4) Pale cream and (5) Pale yellowish white. The varying thickness of the papers seems to enhance the apparent differences in shade according to whether the paper was thick, medium or thin.

The carmine rose and pink printing colour shades seem to predominate on the bluish white and greyish white papers. The carmine red and scarlet colour shades are frequent on the other three shades of paper.

The unsurfaced papers seem to have been chiefly white, bluish white, greyish white and pale cream, with rosine printings appearing to increase the bluish and greyish effects.

The Multiple Large Crown A paper was somewhat greyish white. The unwatermarked paper was slightly pale cream in shade.

During the violet and green printings period the Single Crown A paper was almost invariably white.

The Multiple Small Crown A and the Multiple Small Crown C OF A papers were both chiefly white with an occasional shade variation towards very pale cream.

## VI. THE GUM

Considerable variation occurred in the quality of the gum used for this value and a broad classification would be : (1) Clear white ; (2) Opaque white ; (3) Clear cream ; (4) Clear yellow ; and (5) Opaque yellow.

The ready-gummed Single Crown A watermark surfaced paper appeared with all five types during the many red group printings. Some sheets are reported to have been supplied ungummed in error, and to have been printed and issued ungummed in about March 1916.

The violet and green groups' printings were practically all on clear white gummed paper, with occasional tendency towards opacity on some of the green printings.

The unsurfaced paper, supplied ungummed and machine gummed after the printings, resulted in clear white (almost), clear cream and clear yellow, all with rather shiny gum. The last occurred principally upon the scarlet printing shade.

The Multiple Large Crown A paper was supplied ready gummed ; the gum was white and slightly opaque.

The " Savings " paper Die III sheets were gummed after printing with a very shiny clear cream gum which appears to have been somewhat unevenly applied. Despite the reported use of the gumming machine, and the paper being slightly surfaced, the gumming finish does not seem up to the standard of that of the unsurfaced paper with printings from the four London plates.

The unwatermarked paper was thinly machine-gummed after printing with slightly opaque white gum.

The Multiple Small Crown A and Multiple Small Crown C OF A papers were supplied ready-gummed in clear white and showed little variation in this respect.

## VII. INVERTED WATERMARKS AND REVERSED WATERMARKS

Printings on all the foregoing watermarked papers have occurred with the watermarks inverted through " feeding " sheets into the press with the watermark designs reversed in relation to those of the units of the plates.

This error was frequent in the London plates printings on Single Crown A papers in most shades of the red and green groups. It does not appear to have occurred in the violet group printings.

In the " Savings " paper printings from the Die III local plate, its occurrence has been reported as infrequent ; but, with due regard to the very short period this paper was used, it seems to have been fairly frequent.

Inverted Multiple Large Crown over A watermarks were very scarce in both Cooke and Harrison printings in the red group and also in Harrison's 1924 green printing.

The Multiple Small Crown over A inverted watermarks occur in both perforations (perf. 14 and perfs.  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ ) and in Mullett and Ash printings. They were scarce in Mullett prints which covered a period of nine months only, and were not frequent in

Ash printings. It has been reported that in one sheet (Mullett, perf. 14) issued three stamps in vertical row had the impression of a leaf in the paper with the remainder of the sheet in the Multiple Small Crown over A watermark.

The Multiple Small Crown over C OF A watermark occurred inverted, but infrequently. This watermark has been found "reversed" which would seem to have been caused by gumming the paper on the wrong side accidentally and subsequently printing on the ungummed side. It has been found both "inverted" and "reversed", this resulting from a sheet or sheets gummed on the wrong side having been put to press for printing on the ungummed side with the thus "reversed" watermark designs also "inverted" in relation to the printing plate. "Reversed" watermarks and "inverted reversed" watermarks are scarce.

One writer, referring to Multiple Small Crown over C OF A watermarked paper classes the variety "reversed" watermark as "a type not previously possible". This appears to be incorrect, because in the normal use of the Single Crown over A paper with the marginal words watermarked at the sides, where COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA is in the left margin of Post Office sheets the letters ALT are opposite the sixth horizontal row of units; and where POSTAGE is in the right margin the letters A G are opposite the sixth horizontal row of units. For instance, normally lower right plate, left pane, unit No. 31, the first stamp of the sixth row (variety "Diagonal hairline through right wattle" constant from September 1915 for several years), was opposite marginal watermark letters ALT.

If any of the surfaced paper was supplied gummed on the wrong side and printed on the ungummed side, i.e., "reversed", or if any of the unsurfaced paper was "reversed" in printing (a not improbable occurrence) and gummed afterwards on the unprinted side, the letters A G *reversed* would have appeared at the left of and opposite to unit No. 31 variety.

Thus "reversed" watermarks may have occurred and could subsequently be identified by the reversed marginal letters and their abnormal positions in relation to certain rows of units in full Post Office sheets, and also in relation to some of the plate varieties in strips and blocks having side margins with watermarked letters.

In the same sheet, with the single watermark "inverted" only, we find COMMONWEALTH etc. in the left margin with ALT opposite (No. 31) the sixth row and POSTAGE in the right margin with AG opposite the sixth row.

Further, if "reversed and inverted" single watermark occurred (a not unlikely combination of errors) then AG *reversed* would be found in the left margin of this sheet opposite the sixth row and ALT *reversed* in the right margin opposite the sixth row.

It may be that "Reversed" paper printings appeared during the war period stress and, so far as the unsurfaced paper is concerned, cannot be identified now where stamps have been severed from the watermarked portions of the sheets' margins.

Thus it is feasible that reversed watermarks on papers prior to the Multiple Small Crown over C OF A paper were possible, but that none of these has been discovered and reported to date.

### VIII. THE PRINTERS

During the period of production of this stamp, 1914–1937, four printers were employed :

J. B. Cooke	July 1914 to June 1918.
T. S. Harrison	Mid-June 1918 to early 1926.
A. J. Mullett	About February 1926 to June 1927.
John Ash	July 1927 to early 1937.

Cooke's printings were from the four London plates, sometimes in composite block and otherwise from either the left plates in pair or the right plates in pair, also from the Die III local plate.

Harrison's printings appear to have commenced with the four London plates in block. During part of July 1918 they were from the right plates in pair, and for the remainder of that month and also for August 1918 from the four plates in pairs or in block, and thereafter from the right plates in pair.

Mullett's printings were from the London right plates in pair.

Ash's printings were from the London right plates in pair until June 1928 when the London left plates were brought into use again and from that date onwards to 1937 his printings appear to have been from the four-plate block chiefly, with probably occasional printings from either pair of plates.

### IX. PRINTINGS, COLOURS AND SHADES

The Red Group of printings covered the issue period from mid-July 1914 to February 1922, when the Violet Group appeared consequent upon the Universal Postal Union colour scheme, and continued until May 1924.

Reduction of the unit letter postage rate in May 1924 brought with it a further change to the Green Group which lasted from that date to the final issue of this stamp.

*The Red Group* covered issues of this stamp in many shades, ranging from deep scarlet to pale pink. Various attempts have been made to record a complete list of these shades in the order of their appearance together with particulars as to which of the London plates was used for each shade.

In 1932 a Committee of Specialists was formed in the Commonwealth, consisting of Messrs. Appleby, Blagg, Hatcher, Johnson, Orlo-Smith, Purves, and Rosenblum, to consider this Shades and Printings problem with the object of providing further light on the subject and compiling as comprehensive a list as possible and with a view to the result becoming an accepted standard.

Two lists appear to have been prepared by the Committee, one for the surfaced paper printings and the other for the unsurfaced paper printings. The list which follows is a combination of the two lists into one with the necessary distinctions of "Surfaced", "Semi-surfaced", and "Unsurfaced" indicated by S., SS. and U. respectively, whilst L denotes the left plates and R the right plates.



July 1914	Carmine red	S.	R plates
	(single line perf. only)		
July 1914	Carmine red (pale, deep or bright) and Carmine rose	S.	R, L "
Aug. 1914			
Oct. 1914	Bright red (aniline), pale red and scarlet red	S.	R, L "
	(May be found with single line perf.)		
Nov. 1914	Salmon red (aniline), scarlet salmon	S.	R, L "
Nov. 1914	Deep red, deep scarlet and deep brownish red	S.	R, L "
Dec. 1914	Lilac rose (very scarce)	S.	R, L "
Jan. 1915	Reddish pink, scarlet pink	S.S.	R, L "
Feb. 1915	Dull red	S.	R, L "
April 1915	Scarlet (pale to deep), scarlet red	S.	R, L "
Sept. 1916	Scarlet (aniline), scarlet rose and deep scarlet	S.	R, L "
Oct. 1916	Dark scarlet (aniline)	S.	L "
Oct. 1916	Brownish pink	S.	L "
Dec. 1916	Deep scarlet aniline (shows the rust flaws)	S.	L "
Dec. 1916	Deep scarlet (aniline)	U.	R "
Dec. 1916	Deep scarlet, bright scarlet, and dull deep pink	U.	R "
Jan. 1917	Rose, dull rose and bright rose red (L plates very rare)	S.	R, L "
Jan. 1917	Deep red, deep pinkish red	U.	R "
Mar. 1917	Carmine rose	S.	R "
July 1917	Carmine (deep, dull, bright, pale)	U.	R "
Aug. 1917	Rose red	U.	R "
Aug. 1917	Reddish brown, orange brown and reddish pink	U.	R "
Aug. 1917	Orange red, orange pink	U.	R "
Oct. 1917	Crimson	S.	R "
Oct. 1917	Bright brown red, Venetian red	S.	R "
Oct. 1917	Brick red (pale and dark)	S.	R "
Nov. 1917	Salmon, salmon pink and reddish salmon	S.	R "
Nov. 1917	Salmon rosine	S.	R plates
Jan. 1918	Pink, pale pink, bright pink, rosine, lilac pink, dull rose pink and cerise	S.	R "
Feb. 1918	Carmine pink	S.	R "
Mar. 1918	Carmine rose (dull, bright) (Shows the two inserted copper electros)	S.	R, L "
Mar. 1918	Carmine	S.	R, L "
Mar. 1918	Pink (bright, deep), cerise	U.	R, L "
Mar. 1918	Rose pink, salmon	U.	R, L "
Mar. 1918	Rosine (bright, dull, reddish)	U.	R, L "
April 1918	Deep rosine, damson (shades)	U.	R, L "
April 1918	Plum, lilac rose (shades)	U.	R, L "
May 1918	Dull red (dull salmon, dull brown rose)	U.	R, L "

May 1918	Carmine red, crimson and crimson lake	U.	R, L	„
June 1918	Carmine rose	U.	R, L	„
June 1918	Brownish red, red brown, maroon, Venetian red and russet brown	U.	R, L	„
July 1918	Bright orange red (O.S. only)	U.	R, L	„
July 1918	Brownish red, orange red and dull plum	S.	R	„
Aug. 1918	Carmine red	S.	R, L	„
May 1919	Deep carmine	S.	R	„
Sept. 1920	Carmine (aniline)	S.	R	„

Ignoring the qualifications “dull”, “deep”, “aniline”, etc., when given in brackets in the foregoing list we find a total of 56 distinct colour shades—11 of them during the six months of 1914; 4 for the year 1915; 5 for 1916; 16 for 1917; 19 for 1918 and 1 for 1919.

It is remarkable that printings are recorded in January, February, and April of 1915 from the four plates and then a period of one year and five months of penny postage elapsed before the next printing date, given as September 1916.

Although used parcels have contained a comparatively high proportion of the dull red and pale scarlet shades cancelled 1915 and 1916, these early 1915 printings and the balance of previous printings in store would need to have been very large indeed to have met a daily demand for two millions throughout the succeeding seventeen months.

The February to August 1918 recorded printings and shades from the four plates are somewhat prolific, and then a nine-months' interval occurs in the list before the next right plates' printing of May 1919 in one shade—but in October 1918 this value ceased to be the unit letter postage rate causing a reduction in the quantity required subsequently.

The May 1919 printing is followed in the list one year and four months later by the September 1920 (one shade) right plates' printing, and no further Red Group printing is given.

The Violet Group first appeared one year and five months later in February 1922. However, as this stamp continued in the Red Group issue during the three years and seven months ending February 1922 in many shades besides those of carmine red, deep carmine, and carmine (aniline), it is reasonable to conclude (a) that Harrison's Multiple Large Crown over A watermark paper printing of about December 1919 was not included in the list, (b) also several pre-August 1918 printings in various shades were still in stock, probably as a result of each printing being stacked in the printer's store on top of the remainder of previous printings, so that when sheets were sent to the Post Office from time to time it is likely that some of the consignments contained mixtures of the earlier printings and shades with those of the more recent printings.

This suggested Commonwealth practice in regard to the storage of printed sheets has some bearing upon the remarks anent single-line perf. 14 appearance dates under “Perforations” (see p. 33).

In regard to the July 1914 printings of the list—it may be that the first printing was from the left plates only ; but it appears more probable that it was made from all four London plates, as varieties from retouchings and from flaws existing at the commencement on the two right plates and on the lower left plate, also Die II stamps from the upper left plate, have been found with July 1914 cancellations. If the first printing was as stated in the list, it would seem that the second printing from the four plates followed it very closely, and then sheets from both these printings were issued simultaneously by the Post Office about the third week in July 1914.

It is interesting to observe the different effects of colour shading from the same inks of this group when used on the surfaced paper and on the unsurfaced paper.

Variation in consistency of the ink, "dry" inking and heavy inking, often partly attributable to climatic conditions, occurred frequently during the unsurfaced paper printings, and the uneven surface of the paper appears to have emphasised the results of these irregularities. They occurred on the surfaced paper printings also in lesser degree.

Cooke's printing, issued in January 1918, from the two right plates on the Multiple Large Crown over A paper was made in four distinct shades: carmine pink, pale pink, deep rose and aniline red. Various gradations appeared between carmine pink and pale pink. This printing is stated to have been a small one for experimental purposes to test the suitability of this paper for general use in both Georgian and Kangaroo types. None of the shades is plentiful ; the deep rose is scarce and the aniline red is rare. Likewise the retouches and constant flaw varieties are scarce. Cancellations dated prior to December 1919 and the two War Slogan cancellations " Help to Win the War, Buy War Savings Certificates, Eligibles Enlist " and " Invest in the 7th War Loan "—the former in three lines and the latter in two lines—on stamps with this watermark identify this printing.

This experimental printing was satisfactory to the extent that sufficient portions of the watermark appeared in each stamp printed. The watermark, however, caused a somewhat blurred inking effect due to variation in the degree of thickness of the plain portions and the watermarked portions of the paper.

Consequently this paper was not adopted as the standard Commonwealth stamp paper, but most of the supply was used up in the printing of other Georgian values.

Harrison also made a printing on this paper in December 1919 from the two right plates, the colour shades were : Carmine, deep carmine and pale carmine varying to carmine pink.

The last shade is slightly more pronounced than Cooke's printing in carmine pink and is very scarce. Retouches and constant flaw varieties are more frequent, owing to a larger printing, than in the case of the Cooke printing but are by no means plentiful. The blurred inking effect referred to in reference to Cooke's January 1918 printing was found in this printing and appears slightly increased in effect in the deep shades.

This paper was not used again for this value until May 1924.

Cooke's printings from the local Die III plate on the "Savings" paper appeared in June 1918. It would seem that a few printings were made during the next three months on this paper as the various states of flaws and retouchings appear to indicate more than one printing. The colour shades again varied and may be described as rose red, rose carmine, red and brownish red.

One block of twenty stamps has been reported as printed on both sides of this paper; the error is assumed to have been confined to a single sheet.

These printings were made concurrently with printings from the four London plates until the remainder of the "Savings" paper was believed to have been used up by about August 1918, and after this no further Die III printing was made. In 1940, as previously noted (p. 20), a further remainder of this paper was used for 6d. savings stamps of the next war.

*The Violet Group* was all from Harrison printings from the London right plates only and made between February 1922 and May 1924 on the Single Crown A paper.

The early printings appeared in deep purple and graduated through medium purple to pale purple.

Later these changed to various shades of deep violet and to reddish violet. One of the deep violet shades appeared almost aniline. These later shades were less frequent than the early "purples". Inking consistency variations may be found also in this group.

*The Green Group* printed by Harrison first appeared on the Single Crown A paper from the London right plates only in May 1924 and continued on this paper until about February 1926.

The colour shades were sage green, pale sage green, varying to deep sage green. Inking consistency variation occurred also in this group.

Also in May 1924 Harrison used up the remainder of the Multiple Large Crown over A paper, which it has been reported had hitherto been overlooked, in a printing from the two London right plates only. This printing was issued on 20th May 1924, in shades of sage green and pale sage green. A blurred inking effect is found in this printing similar in degree to that of the printings upon this paper in the "Red Group".

Likewise later in 1924 Harrison made three London right plates' printings on the unwatermarked paper, the shades of which vary from sage green to deep sage green. These first appeared in August 1924 and it has been reported that about 150,000 Post Office sheets in all were issued.

About February 1926 Mullett took over from Harrison and continued the printings from the London right plates only on the Single Crown A paper.

During that year a supply of this paper was obtained from a new source and was highly surfaced, of poor texture, and with the watermark difficult to distinguish.

Mullett's printings were chiefly in yellowish green, dull yellowish green and dull green.

In October 1926 the Multiple Small Crown over A watermark paper was introduced and this value was the first issued on it.

Mullett's printings upon it covered the period from October 1926 to June 1927 and were all from the two London right plates in sage green, light sage green, pale green, dull green and deep green.

Ash's printings on this paper from the same plates extended from July 1927 to June 1928, when the two left plates were brought into use again and either four plates in block and/or two plates in pairs printings continued by Ash as occasion arose until October 1931.

These printings varied in range of shades between dull green, dull yellowish green and deep yellowish green.

From October 1931 Ash's printings were either from the four plates in block or from two plates in pairs, on the Multiple Small Crown over C OF A paper, at intervals until May 1937, when this stamp was superseded by the rotary recess printed type of the present reign.

The shades appearing on this paper were: green, deep green, dull green and pale green.

Occasional variation appears to have occurred in the consistency of the ink etc. in the Mullett and Ash printings, also on both the Multiple Small Crown A and Multiple Crown C OF A papers, causing "dry" inking, heavy inking, and slight smudging which produced an effect somewhat similar to double impressions.

## X. BOOKLETS AND COILS

No particular significance attaches to such Booklets and Coils as were issued with this design and value because no special plate was prepared for either of these purposes.

Stamps for booklets were provided by cutting small blocks from the normal printed and perforated sheets from the London plates. These blocks had portions of margin paper at the left to allow of binding into the booklets.

No detailed record appears to have been kept as to whether blocks for this purpose were taken from the printings from all four London plates or only from one or more of them; consequently it is obscure as to which colours and shades appeared in booklet form.

It is understood that some of the "red" printings appeared thus, and if other colours were later used for this purpose it is clear that only those plate varieties and varieties of paper, gum, perforations, colours and shades, etc., which appeared in the Post Office sheets from the London plates could have appeared in the booklets. Also, in these circumstances, when a stamp had been severed from a booklet, the only clue as to whether it came from a booklet would rest upon the opinion that its severance had been effected by machine cutting through the perforation on one or two of its four sides and so indicated possible booklet source.

The issue of this value in coils from slot machines appears, so far as the writer understands, to have been confined to the green printings on Multiple Small Crown A and Multiple Crown over C OF

A papers, and presumably on the former paper comb perforated  $14 \times 14$  as well as  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ , and on the latter perforated  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  only.

The coils were made by cutting vertical strips of margins and stamps from the normal London plates' printings and joining the strips with a small section of the gummed marginal paper.

Hence, as in the case of the booklets, only those varieties of this stamp found in the Post Office sheet issues could occur in the coil issues.

After severance, the cutter-divided perforations of the two vertical sides and the small gummed strip joints are the remaining indications of probable or possible coil issue.

Further detailed information as to both booklets and coils of this stamp would be of interest.

### XI. COMPARTMENT LINES

These lines occurred at varying intervals during all printings from the four London plates from 1914 to 1937.

They have the appearance of extra-coloured frame lines on the stamps and were not confined to specific units. These lines occurred outside the frames of the stamps and parallel with the frames, and are found in short sections at any of the sides and in angle sections at any of the corners of a stamp, also in full sections at one or more sides and occasionally on all four sides of one stamp. Where these lines occurred on all four sides of one stamp the colour is usually found uneven in thickness and is generally broken on one or two of the sides.



COMPARTMENT LINE.



COMPARTMENT LINES.

When horizontal, these lines were about 1 mm. from the corresponding frames, and when vertical about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. to  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. from the frames.

The "all four sides" variety is scarce and appears to be confined to the Red Group printings. "On two sides" varieties, usually of the top and one side (either) or bottom and one side (either), occur chiefly in the red group and only very occasionally in the other colour groups. Compartment lines on any one side are fairly frequent in the printings of every colour group.

Thus a stamp from a unit may be found with one or more compartment lines in one printing and in another printing from the same unit without any compartment lines and again in yet another

printing with one or more compartment lines.

These irregular varieties appear to have resulted from the condition of the plates and the varying degrees of inking during the many printings ; also the quality of paper seems to have had a qualifying effect.

It is clear that, with the surface printing method, the raised portions of the metal of the plate take the ink and convey the coloured impression on to the paper in similar manner to that of printers' type in the process of letterpress printing.

On completion of rolling the 120-unit impressions on each of these plates it would appear that the metal surface left between the units and around the outer sides of each pane of sixty units would have to be reduced in level to prevent these also conveying colour on to the sheets in course of the printing process.

It has been suggested that this necessary reduction took the form of cutting internal division and external pane surround channels. Also that the channels were of slight depth and somewhat rough and uneven in finish. Further that this permitted gradual accumulation of ink in the channels which, unless cleaned off at frequent intervals during printing operations, would attain to the units' surface level at various parts of the plates, and as and when this happened the ink would be transferred to the sheets and result in these compartment lines until the next cleaning off was made.

This seems the most probable explanation of the appearance of these lines at varying intervals and in varying thickness, lengths, and positions in most printings from the four London plates.

Other conditions which seem to have influenced their comparative frequency and to have contributed towards these lines varying from heavy and clear to thin and faint, and often being broken and in short sections only, were the degree of consistency of the inks and the intervals between stirring them during printings, the climatic conditions existing at the time of each printing, and the state of the surface of the papers.

This last feature appears to have been an important contributory as on highly-surfaced papers these lines appeared less frequently, were usually thin, often only in very short sections, seldom at more than one of the four sides of a stamp, and infrequently forming angles at one or more corners of a stamp.

On the unsurfaced papers the lines were often heavy, frequently at two sides or three sides of a stamp, generally unbroken when at one side only, and often forming angles at two or three corners.

So far, it is only on unsurfaced printings that the writer has succeeded in finding compartment lines on the four sides of the stamp. Also compartment lines appear to have occurred considerably more often on the unsurfaced paper printings. In the later green group printings on both the Multiple Small watermark papers these lines appeared infrequently.

It has been suggested that, when the plates were used in vertical pairs for printings, compartment lines were more liable to appear

on the stamps near to those borders which had not the support of the 3 mm. wide co-extensive marginal line during the pressure of printing. Often, however, compartment lines appeared on some of the stamps nearest to the marginal plate lines and also on some of the stamps at the borders which were without marginal plate lines.

## XII. PERFORATIONS AND IMPERFORATE

It was decided to perforate the surface-printed Georgian issue in gauge 14. This value as the first stamp of that issue was the first to appear in this gauge.

Report has it that when the dies and plates for this value were ordered, a comb machine was also ordered for perforating the sheets in gauge 14 and that the machine did not arrive until after the first issue of this value.

The delay in delivery necessitated the use of existing machines and it has been stated that an old single-line cutter machine of Victorian issues' user, and which gauged  $12\frac{1}{2}$  was refitted and adjusted in gauge 14 and used for sheets for the first issue of this value.

These sheets appear to have been issued with the horizontal rows of perforations carried through the central gutter margins between the panes.

It was reported that the sheets perforated single line 14 of this first issue were from the two London right plates only and that subsequent printings for many years were comb perforated  $14 \times 14$ . Several years later it was recorded that a small printing made from all four London plates, towards the end of 1914, had also been perforated single line 14.

As some first issue retouches and plate flaws from both the left and right plates have been found cancelled in July 1914 it appears more probable that the first printing issued was from all four plates and that the sheets of this issue were all single-line perforation 14.

It would seem quite acceptable that some other early printings besides the July 1914 and the later reported 1914 printing, were issued single-line perforated 14 in carmine red, deep red, and scarlet shades. It may be that the 1915 cancelled single-line perforated 14 appearances were due to stacking 1914 printed and perforated sheets in the store room on top of previous remainders, and this might well have caused sheets of both single-line and comb perforations 14 to reach various Post Offices some time after the use of the adapted single-line machine had been discontinued for this value.

Comb 14 perforations also are found cancelled with dates of later months in 1914. The comb machine when first used, and other comb machines used later, gauged about  $14\frac{1}{8} \times 14$ . The holes were very slightly smaller and the alignment somewhat more accurate than was the case in single-line perforation 14 sheets.

Thus it would appear correct to record that Cooke printings may be found in some of the early shades of the red group used from about mid-July 1914 to mid-1915 in both single line perforations 14 and comb perforations 14, on Single Crown A watermarked papers, in both Dies I and II and from all four London plates.



Also thereafter Cooke's printings from these four plates and the one local plate were all perforated comb 14.

The Die III local plate (10 × 12) sheets appear to have been dealt with in two operations, first perforating the left-hand six vertical rows and then treating the remaining four vertical rows at the right. The perforations at the junctions were slightly out of alignment.

Stamps with abnormally large margins, and badly centred stamps may be found frequently in either perforated gauge. Rough perforations may be found in the single-line and occasionally partly blind perforations. The former are very frequent and the latter moderately so in the comb gauge. Rough perforations particularly abound in the unsurfaced papers.

*Double Perforations* occurred occasionally in both single-line and comb 14, and in the latter may be found in most shades of the red group printings of Cooke and Harrison in Dies I and II. The single-line double perforation in the surfaced paper, and the comb double perforation in surfaced and unsurfaced papers. Cooke's printings on the "Savings" paper in Die III have been found with the double perforation variety. Harrison's London right plates' printing in the violet group Single Crown A has been found with double perforation. Double perforations occurred with both Mullet's and Ash's printings on the Multiple Small Crown A paper in the green group in comb perforations 14 and in  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ . Those of Mullet in the smaller gauge are scarce and in the larger very scarce and those of Ash are by no means plentiful in either gauge.

Cooke's 1918 printings in Die III on the "Savings" paper were comb perforation 14.

Harrison's June to August 1918 printings from the four London plates on both surfaced and unsurfaced Single Crown A papers in shades of the red group were all comb perforation 14, as were all his London right plates' printings after August 1918 in the red, violet, and green groups.

Harrison's 1919 printing on the Multiple Large Crown A paper from London right plates was in comb perforation 14, and appears occasionally badly centred and also with rough perforations in the red group; and similarly his May 1924 green group printing on this paper.

Harrison's 1924 unwatermarked paper printings (issued August 1924) were similar as to plates and perforation to those on the Multiple Large Crown A paper.

*Rough Perforations.* Comb 14 were frequent with all the medium and thick papers in the various watermarks and colours throughout, and fairly prevalent in the thicker papers comb  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Imperforate Stamps* have been found in the red group. There is little doubt that these were printers' trial pulls which were intended to be destroyed but appear to have been mis-appropriated and occasionally postally used.

*Imperforate at Right Side.* Two used Single Crown A stamps in carmine red imperforate at right and with single-line perforation 14 on the other three sides reached the writer via some used "mixture"

on pieces in 1935. One is large-ring-cancelled "MELBOURNE—AP 15" with the imperforate margin cut  $3\frac{1}{4}$  mm. wide and the opposite margin  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. wide, frame to inner edges of perforation holes; the other is similarly ring-cancelled "WOODEND 19 AP 15" and with the imperforate margin irregularly torn but about 4 mm. average width. Both were on surfaced paper and each had a clear compartment line at the imperforate side. A used specimen of this stamp in red was reported in 1926 in an English Philatelic Journal and described as "imperforate on one side". These three seem to have been ordinarily postally used, and this variety would appear to be authentic but scarce.

*Imperforate at Base.* The May 1918 Crown A unsurfaced-paper printing has been reported to have yielded a few stamps "Imperforate at base". In considering this variety the complication of the comb perforator producing "imperforate at one side only" arises and requires explanation, without which this variety might be placed in the "doubtful" category. The comb machines used were reported to perforate at the top (or the bottom) and at the two sides of stamps at a single stroke and it may have been that by error in manipulation the lowest rows of sheets, or part of those rows, remained imperforate at base through a slipping movement of the sheets during the process. The number of various errors which have arisen during the twenty-three years of the production of this type value may well cause one to hesitate to reject what may at first seem impossible phenomena regarding it. This is particularly emphasised by the production early in 1940 (by a South Australian collector) of a Die III Vertical Pair on the War Savings paper from Cooke's 1918 printing. This pair, with each stamp punctured for official use by the New South Wales departments, was from the base of a sheet, the lower stamp having a full depth of margin paper below it and being "Imperforate at base" with the remainder of the pair comb perforation 14. The whole piece is with full gum and in Mint condition. Thus, the possibility of an error in the comb process which would produce imperforate at base and comb perforation 14 on the other three sides appears definitely proved.

*Imperforate at Three Sides.* Two sheets of the violet group were reported issued at GUMERACHA, South Australia in June 1923 comb perforation 14, with the stamps of the lowest rows of each perforated at the top but all stamps of these rows imperforate on the other three sides.

$13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  Gauge. Towards the end of Harrison's printing period the comb perforation 14 machines of 1914-15 were showing signs of their age and it is reported that new machines of  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$  gauge, which were likely to be more suitable for the Georgian type stamps by reason of the larger gauge, were ordered from the Victoria Railway workshops late in 1925. These were not delivered, however, until over a year later. Hence Harrison completed his printing tenure in the green group from the London right plates on the Single Crown A paper with comb perforation 14 sheets and Mullett took over and continued this group, paper and perforation until October 1926.

*Perforation 14 and Perforation 13½ × 12½.* From this last date Mullett's printings from the London right plates as before were on the Multiple Small Crown A paper comb perforation 14 until the long awaited comb perforation 13½ × 12½ machine arrived in December 1926. This value (the first used with the new gauge) was then issued comb perforation 13½ × 12½ from the same plates and on the same paper in the same colour group.

The 13½ × 12½ machine soon broke down (after two weeks' use it has been reported) and the old comb perforation 14 machines were resorted to for this value until February 1928. As John Ash took over the printing work in July 1927 the re-appearance of the 13½ × 12½ perforation was in his printings.

Thus Mullett printings with 13½ × 12½ perforations are scarce in comparison with those of Ash who continued its use with this paper in the green group from the London right plates until June 1928 and thereafter with the four plates until October 1931.

*4th Watermark Perforation 13½ × 12½.* Ash's printings on the Multiple Small Crown C OF A paper from all four plates appeared in this perforation in October 1931—this once again being the value issued first on a new paper—and continued thus perforated until the final printing of 1937.

### XIII. RETOUCHING AND RE-ENTRY METHODS

The description "Surface Printed" conveys that the upper level of the metal on the finished printing plate holds the ink and in the process used transfers it on to the paper. For this value stamp rollers were prepared from the dies, and the unit designs rolled-in on the steel plates. Thus, a heavy rolling-in would tend to lessen somewhat the protruding detail designs and increase the area of those portions of them which do not hold ink for transfer to the paper. Where a minor flaw occurs upon a unit of a plate it can in many instances be skilfully retouched so that upon subsequent printing the unit treated gives a practically normal result. If considerable damage has occurred it may be possible to correct a whole unit, or a number of units, by re-entry of the affected design or designs upon the plate. These corrective and remedial measures were resorted to very frequently during the long user of the London plates, and once at the very least during the short user period of the Die III local plate, of this value.

*Retouching.* For minor errors and to re-adjust weakening frame lines the method used was to knock the reverse side of the plate by the affected part to raise the surface design section and after this, if found necessary, to touch up the surface metal with a graving tool to finish off the detail as correctly as possible.

The plates appear often to have suffered damage, possibly from wearing of the surface metal designs during the long years, and occasionally from accidents in handling the plates, also frequently through the process of correction applied to one unit design having affected the designs' metal of the neighbouring units, or having affected the metal of these latter to an extent which made it more liable to wear in parts after a short interval. These required more

than the mere preliminary knocking up of the metal, and major retouchings were effected by drilling holes in the metal at the back of the plate (usually one hole of diameter related to the area needing treatment for each design retouched) to a depth which left about  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{10}$  inch thickness of metal at the affected part. The portion of metal thus reduced in thickness was carefully knocked up by hammering a metal punch held against the thinned portion. The designs or parts of them were then remodelled and adjusted to printing height with a graving tool and the holes filled up at the back of the plate with lead or other suitable metal. A study of the major retouches of this value (and other values) tends to justify the conclusion that the surrounding units usually suffered in some degree from the effects of knocking up of part of the metal of their neighbours.

Accidental knocking of the surface metal in some instances no doubt had the effect of leaving small distortions which appeared similar in printing results to those of minor retouchings.

Generally it appeared that the larger and the worse the retouch the greater was the variety which occurred in subsequent printings.

*Re-entry.* This method of correction was resorted to where the magnitude of the flaws or the damage to the plates made the retouching process unlikely to be successful, and also when it was decided to change the twenty Die II units' designs on the London upper left plate, right pane, to the normal Die I type. This last was most probably the second occasion of re-entry (see p. 13) on that plate of these twenty units in the same positions, as well as constituting the largest one block re-entry (twice) of any Commonwealth denomination, if not also the largest one operation re-entry known for surface printing postage stamp plates. The procedure adopted was to hammer the back of the plate metal until the necessary area of the face metal had been raised sufficiently; then the unit or units' designs thus raised were burnished off and re-rolled on the plate as accurately as possible in regard to alignment and to obtain the renewed designs at the same surface level as that of the rest of the units of the plate.

The hammering up of the metal for the re-entries occasionally caused immediate flaws and/or distortions of nearby units' metal. Also, the hammered up sections and parts of the plate metal in proximity appear sometimes to have developed surface cracks almost at once, and sometimes to have caused liability to surface cracking and faults of slight degree which materialised later.

*Inserted Electros and New Steel Dovetailed into Plates.* The instances of each of these two methods of treatment which occurred have already been dealt with under "The Plates" heading (p. 15 and p. 16).

#### XIV. THE "MAKE READY" METHOD

This is a temporary process, otherwise termed "découpage", which does not entail any alteration of the printing plate and its application; so far as this value Commonwealth stamp is concerned it has been reported (only in the Commonwealth) as having been resorted to during a London lower right plate red group printing by

Harrison on the Multiple Large Crown A paper in 1919. A two-line imprint block was found in 1939 with the flaws on three units partially corrected in this manner, viz. : Left pane No. 54 "Fernleaf flaw to right of value words", also No. 60 " RA of AUSTRALIA joined at base ", and right pane No. 56 " Kangaroo's tongue out ". These constant flaws were not corrected to normal in the block referred to but were eliminated temporarily to an extent which approached normality.

This method of correction was of necessity only temporary, as it comprised the adjustment of the pressure upon the paper at flaw points' contacts during printing. It was based on the fact that in surface printing the lower levels of the plates' metal yield the uncoloured portions of the designs on the printed sheets, and that where unintended white flaws occurred in some instances on the printed sheets they were caused by damage to the plate surface and the consequent slight lowering of design metal level at the damaged parts. These white flaws might be partly or entirely eliminated if additional pressure were brought to bear behind the printing paper and only upon the small area of it exactly opposite each flaw during printing. By such means the increased pressure brought the small area of paper against the "flawed" section of a unit of the plate, and the contact thus made caused ink to be transferred to the sheet at plate flaw points which would otherwise have failed to receive any ink. Hence this expedient was tried only where a small ink-conveying section of a unit's surface metal had been dented minutely or otherwise worn down a little.

This temporary correction was carried out by printing two proof sheets and cutting from one of them the exact flaw portion of each unit which it was intended to treat, and then reinforcing the other proof sheet by fixing these flaw portions accurately upon the flaws of the respective units with adhesive matter. The second proof thus treated had a double thickness of paper, plus the adhesive extra thickness, at the flaw points of the various units, and was ready for use behind the stamp paper sheets during printing to act as an additional pressure pad where the flaw points had been "doubled".

The "padded" sheet was then attached to the pressure plate or roller of the press in a position adjusted to ensure that the "doubled" parts would coincide with the relative plate flaws as accurately as possible when pressure was exerted in the process of printing, and so that the "doubled" parts caused inking contact at the flaw points.

It will be apparent that this method could only have been a very temporary remedial measure, as the "doubled" portions of paper and the adhesive of the "padded" sheet could not stand the printing pressure effectively for long, and new "padded" sheets would have been required at frequent intervals. Also deep flaws and cracks, etc., were unsuitable for this temporary treatment and would yield poorer results than in the case of shallow even-shaped flaws.

Both London right plates were used for the 1919 Multiple Large

Crown A watermark Harrison printing ; but it does not appear that the "Flaw to left of right I" (U.R.P. R.P. 21), "Flaw by 'Roo's legs and below King's neck" (L.R.P. L.P. 37), and some other varieties presumably suitable for this treatment were similarly experimented with.

The reasonable conclusion would seem to be that the "Make Ready" method was tried as an experiment in respect of a few units of one or both of the London right plates, was not considered very satisfactory in result, and was discontinued as soon as the few "padded" sheets tried on the printings became ineffective through wear pressure, etc.

Also it is probable that the experiments were repeated at very occasional intervals during the green group printings on Single Crown A, Multiple Large Crown A and unwatermarked paper. If this was so, then positioned blocks with "make ready" flaw partial corrections must be scarce and of considerable interest to specialists in this value of the Commonwealth.

## XV. CONSTANT VARIETIES AND DOUBLE VARIETIES

*Constant Varieties.* These may be described as comprising any Die varieties other than Dies I and III, all flaws however caused in the plates' metal of units which resulted in a variation from the normal design in the printing, the corrections attempted by re-touching and re-entry, whether approximate normality was obtained or not, and subsequent wear either after correction towards the original abnormality or resulting in fresh abnormality occurring, and any subsequent attempts at correction. This summary includes retouchings and re-entries which caused immediate or deferred damage to neighbouring units.

Heavy inking often made a constant variety appear less pronounced than when the inking was normal.

*Double Varieties.* These occur where any constant variety as defined above occurs, also either on paper with watermark inverted, or reversed, or reversed and inverted, or with double perforation, etc., or imperforate at one or more of the four sides, etc.

*Compartment Lines.* These inconstant lines also may be found occasionally with both constant varieties and double varieties.

## XVI. CANCELLED TO ORDER

From 1913 to late 1943 the Commonwealth Post Office sold sets of current and obsolete stamps unused other than by a cancellation which was lightly stamped over a small portion only of each stamp or overprinted "Specimen".

This value occurred with the cancellation only in these sets, with Crown A watermark in shades of red and violet and with Multiple Small Crown A watermark in shades of green, perforation  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ ; also the overprinted O S Multiple Small Crown over C OF A stamps were sold thus, singly or in blocks cancelled to order at face value.

In the cancelled to order sets sold at under face value remainders

appear to have been used and it may well have been that other watermarks, etc., of this value crept into such sets.

The only object of recording this undesirable practice is to call attention to the possibility of small clear part cancellations with thin ring line and thinly outlined letters, etc., in somewhat glossy black ink, with parts of the word "Melbourne", parts of a date, and sometimes the letters G.P.O. on stamps of this value coming under this category, with a view to their rejection by collectors from sections other than of "Cancelled to Order" and "Specimen" stamps. The ring of the cancellation used for these sets at first was of 25 mm. diameter, later a cancellation with 27 mm. diameter ring was used.

## **XVII. THE FLAWS, RETOUCHINGS AND RE-ENTRIES OF: A. THE FOUR LONDON PLATES**

The following is intended to form a comprehensive list of Plate Flaws, Retouchings, Inserted Electros, Re-entries, Rollings on Renewed Steel, "Make Ready" temporary adjustments, and varieties generally which occurred during the printings from these plates from their first use in July 1914 to the final printing of 1937.

Each unit known to have been originally, or to have become later, a variety, is dealt with separately and the whole of the particulars relating to it, so far as known to the writer, are given in succession under its plate and pane positional number.

Where varieties are noted as having appeared first in 1937 they remained constant up to and in the final printing unless stated otherwise.

For convenience of brief quotation reference the panes and units and states of the units affected are numbered in the manner adopted by the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain, viz.:

The panes are numbered in Roman numerals thus:

Upper Left Plate: Sheet with Margin line at Top and at Left  
Left Pane I Right Pane II

Lower Left Plate: Sheet with Margin line at Left and at Base  
Left Pane III Right Pane IV

Upper Right Plate: Sheet with Margin line at Top and at Right  
Left Pane V Right Pane VI

Lower Right Plate: Sheet with Margin line at Right and Base  
Left Pane VII Right Pane VIII

The units of each pane of sixty stamps are numbered in Arabic numerals, commencing at the top left corner of the printed pane (Unit 1) and continuing horizontally along each row of the pane to the bottom right corner (Unit 60)—thus the fourth stamp from the left in the second horizontal row of a pane is numbered 10, and the second stamp from the left in the sixth horizontal row of a pane is numbered 32, etc., etc.

Flaw varieties are referred to by the pane numbers followed by the unit numbers only; when retouched the letter R is added after the two numbers; when re-entered Re is similarly added after the two numbers; where replaced by inserted electro E follows the

numbers; and where rolled on renewed steel RS follows the numbers, etc.

Subsequent states of any of these varieties are indicated by adding (a) or (b), etc.; and "make ready" temporary printing adjustments are indicated by MR following the two numbers.

These short reference indicator numerals and letters are given in brackets after the particulars of each state of each unit variety noted in the following list:

- | <i>Unit<br/>Number</i> | <b>Upper Left Plate</b>  | <b>Left Pane</b> | <b>(Pane I)</b> |
|------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------|
| 3                      | Slight distortion in right frame just below Emu's tail—1937 (I, 3).  |                  |                 |
| 6                      | Lower left corner of frame blunted—Flaw, Dec. 1915 to Final (I, 6).  |                  |                 |
| 13                     | Hairline from right border through wattle to top of colour band behind Emu's neck—Flaw, June 1928 to Final (I, 13). The hairline commences 2 mm. down from the outer edge of the top frame. From about late 1931 the top frame appears slightly notched near the right corner. In some printings the section of hairline below the wattle does not show (I, 13 (a)). |                  |                 |
| 14                     | Right frame shaved at top—Flaw, Sept. 1915 to Final (I, 14). This causes the frame outline to slope inward for about 1 mm. where "shaved".   |                  |                 |
| 16                     | Lower frame very thin under NE P of ONE PENNY—Flaw, June 1928 to 1935. Frame somewhat heavier and rough-edged 1931 to 1934 (I, 16).<br>Frame notched upwards under E P, one printing in (I, 16 (a)) 1935; and then retouched leaving the lower frame slightly irregular thereafter to Final (I, 16 R).   |                  |                 |
| 17                     | Thin base line under NE of ONE 1928 to 1935 (I, 17).   |                  |                 |
| 18                     | Thin base line with slight curve upwards below NE of ONE 1928 to 1935 (I, 18).   |                  |                 |
| 19                     | Coloured dot to left above crown top—Flaw, Jan. 1915 to late 1931 (I, 19) and then retouched to normal and thus to Final (I, 19 R).  |                  |                 |
| 21                     | Lower frame dented up slightly under N of ONE—Flaw, June 1928 increased minutely in 1931 (I, 21); and retouched to normal 1935 and thus to Final (I, 21 R).  |                  |                 |
| 22                     | Small frame break under first N of PENNY—Flaw, June 1928 to 1931 (I, 22)—almost normal until 1935 when one printing appeared with flaw upward curved frame dent under NN (I, 22 (a)). This was retouched almost to normal and thus to Final (I, 22 R).   |                  |                 |



I. 22 (a).



I. 28.



- 28 Lower frame slightly uneven at left, upward curved dent in frame under second N of PENNY—Flaw, one printing in 1935 (I, 28) and then retouched almost to normal and thus to Final (I, 28 R).
- 34 Curved notch in lower frame  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner—Flaw, 1935 to Final, believed caused at same time as 22 (a) and 28 preceding but not corrected when they were (I, 34).
- 36 Small white spot above Emu's back—Flaw, March 1915 to Aug. 1928 (I, 36) ; when retouched to normal and thus to Final (I, 36 R).



I. 36.

- 40 Curved notch in lower frame  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner—Flaw, 1935 to Final—same remark applies as for No. 34 foregoing (I, 40).
- 44 Small break in right frame  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top—Flaw, June 1929 to late 1935 (I, 44), then retouched to normal and thus to Final (I, 44 R).
- 46 Diagonal hairline 2 mm. in length from right border through shading at right of fourth right wattle flower—Flaw, first Ash printing June 1928 to 1935 (I, 46) ; additional flaw, curved upward notch in lower frame under second N of PENNY, first printing in 1935 (I, 46 (a)) ; then retouched to normal as to lower frame, but hairline remaining to Final (I, 46 R).
- 50 Shading lines faint above left wattles 1928 to 1935 (I, 50).
- 52 Notch in lower frame  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner, 1937 only (I, 52).
- 55 White flaw on fifth wattle at left—Reds (probably 1915) to Final (I, 55).
- 56 Horizontal shading lines of background thinner generally and particularly above left wattle and below value tablets. White border wider in parts and in some printings frame top at left uneven. Occasionally with slight notch or break in lower frame under E of ONE—believed re-entry but may be only a weak impression and/or surface wear, about 1915 to Final (I, 56 Re).

*Summary*—23 flaws, 8 retouchings and 1 re-entry ; totalling 32 varieties affecting 20 units.

**Upper Left Plate      Right Pane      (Pane II)**

- 2 Die II unit 1914 to Aug. 1928, when re-entered in Die I and thus to Final (II, 2 Re).
- 3 Ditto (II, 3 Re).
- 8 Die II unit 1914 to Aug. 1928, when re-entered in Die I, causing flaw 3 mm. diagonal white line to left of first A of AUSTRALIA and continuing within the oval towards King's nose, and thus to Final (II, 8 Re).



II. 8Re.

- 9 As No. 2 of pane (II, 9 Re) ; but in 1937 developed small white flaw above 'Roo's forefeet (II, 9 Re (a)).
- 10 Small white flaw in front of Emu's neck 1937 (II, 10).
- 14 As No. 2 of pane (II, 14 Re).
- 15 Die II unit with flaw, two small notches in lower frame below left value tablet (II, 15). Re-entered to normal Die I Aug. 1928 (II, 15 Re). In 1936 printings one of the notches reappeared (II, 15 Re (a)), and in 1937 the second notch reappeared and the larger notch became a left to right diagonal frame break  $4\frac{3}{4}$  mm. from left corner (II, 15 Re (b)).
- 16 Notch in lower frame  $2\frac{3}{4}$  mm. from left corner and lower frame ragged at left otherwise, 1928 ; corrected in 1931 ; appeared again in 1936 and corrected again in 1937 (II, 16).
- 20 As No. 2 of pane (II, 20 Re).
- 21 As No. 2 of pane (II, 21 Re) ; in 1936 the solid colour of the right tablet began to wear to the left of the base of I, and thus to Final (II, 21 Re (a)).
- 26 As No. 2 of pane (II, 26 Re) ; in 1937 slight white flaw appeared in left tablet to the right of the base of I (II, 26 Re (a)).
- 27 As No. 2 of pane (II, 27 Re) ; in 1937 slight wear showing in shading at right of right value tablet, forming vertical white line (II, 27 Re (a)).

- 28 Coloured dot to left of crown top 1928 printing only (II, 28).  
 32 As No. 2 of pane (II, 32 Re).  
 33 As No. 2 of pane (II, 33 Re).  
 38 As No. 2 of pane (II, 38 Re).  
 39 As No. 2 of pane (II, 39 Re).  
 43 V-notch in top frame 5 mm. from right corner—Flaw in 1937 (II, 43).  
 44 As No. 2 of pane (II, 44 Re) ; in 1937 notch developed in right frame 3½ mm. from top and frame nearby wearing (II, 44 Re (a)).  
 45 As No. 2 of pane (II, 45 Re) ; in 1937 white flaw appeared in right frame 1½ mm. from top (II, 45 Re (a)).  
 46 Three almost vertical white flaws in shading to right of Emu's legs, in 1937 (II, 46).  
 50 As No. 2 of pane (II, 50 Re).  
 51 As No. 2 of pane (II, 51 Re).  
 55 Notch in left frame 14 mm. from top—Flaw in 1937 (II, 55).  
 56 As No. 2 of pane (II, 56 Re).  
 57 As No. 2 of pane (II, 57 Re).  
 58 Slight notch in lower frame 4 mm. from left corner—Flaw, 1928 to Final (II, 58).  
 60 Upward bulge in top frame near right corner—Flaw, 1914 to June 1928 (II, 60). Retouched, or further damage, about June 1928 causing Y of PENNY to lean towards preceding letter N and thinning of colour shading lines below the right tablet, and thus to Final (II, 60 R).



II. 60R.

*Note.*—In 1936 and 1937 printings all the 20 Die II units, which were re-entered in Die I in August 1928, showed signs of surface wear resulting in the solid colour portions appearing patchy in various parts—this being more noticeable in the paler coloured green inkings.

*Summary*—18 flaws, 1 retouching, 20 re-entries, totalling 39 varieties affecting 28 units.

**Lower Left Plate      Left Pane      (Pane III)**

- 2 Left frame curved slightly inwards at top for 2½ mm., and top frame shaved at left for ¾ mm.—Flaw about 1915 to Final (III, 2).  
 12 White flaw in shading about 1½ mm. above Emu's back and central between oval and border, in 1937 (III, 12).

- 14 Small white flaw in shading by border at right 7 mm. above base, in 1937 (III, 14).
- 15 Small white flaw in shading at left of crown  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. from fourth pearl, 1936 to 1937 (III, 15). Additional flaw in 1937, white spot in lower frame 2 mm. from right corner (III, 15 (a)).
- 20 Minute break in right frame  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top—Flaw 1937 (III, 20).
- 23 Distorted second N of PENNY and white flaws in words tablet colour to right of foot of Y and in shading to left below right numeral tablet—Dec. 1916 to Oct. 1928 (III, 23).



III. 23.



III. 23R.

Retouched, leaving the Y heavy at foot and affecting the shading at right of same under value tablet. In some printings the third white line caused by the shading encroaches on to the solid colour words tablet towards the Y—Oct. 1928 to Final. (It may be that this was retouched a second time) (III, 23 R).

- 27 Curved shallow notch in top frame 1 mm. from right corner—Flaw Nov. 1917 to Final (III, 27).
- 29 Retouch to upper right corner leaving uneven-shaped white flaws in frame at top and right, also affecting adjacent border and shading. Retouched Dec. 1916 (III, 29 R).

Believed again retouched about June 1928, removing the frame flaws of previous retouch and leaving the top frame edge slightly irregular and the right frame at top thinned slightly for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm., and thus to Final (III, 29 R (a)).

The original flaw which caused the first retouch to be made is unknown.



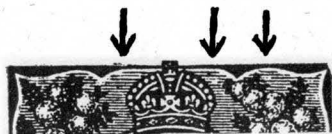
III. 29R.



III. 31.

- 31 Final A of AUSTRALIA with left foot deformed causing slight enlargement turning upwards towards I and usually joining that letter. Flaw June 1928 to Final—presumably caused when

- overhauling the plate after ten years in store (III, 31).
- 36 Small white flaw in shading line by wattle leaf above L of AUSTRALIA. 1931 to Final (III, 36).
- 37 White flaws in upper shading lines, at left of second pearl of crown, at right of crown near third pearl, and by leaf above second wattle at right—1915 to Final (III, 37).

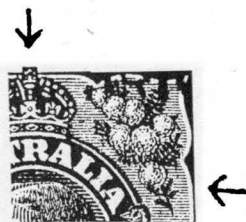


III. 37.

- 40 Small white flaw on 'Roo's back just below the shoulder—about 1915 to Final (III, 40).
- 42 White flaw in shading below pointed section of right value tablet. On plate from first printing, July 1914 to Final (III, 42).



III. 42.



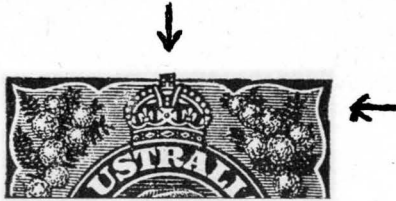
III. 43.

- 43 Dent in top of R of AUSTRALIA, final A rounded at top, and balled left foot of final A—1915 to Final ; appears to have been caused at same time as damage to No. 37 of plate (III, 43).
- 44 Two small V-shaped notches in top frame, one  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from left corner and the other 6 mm. from right corner—1934 to Final ; but in some of the paler green printings appears almost normal (III, 44).
- 45 Uneven  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. angular notch in top frame  $5\frac{1}{4}$  mm. from left corner—1934 to Final ; shade remark as for No. 44 (III, 45).
- 46 V-notches in top frame, one  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. and the other 6 mm. from left corner—1934 to Final ; as No. 44 (III, 46).
- 54 Small horizontal colour line  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. in length outside and 1 mm. below lower frame and commencing about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. to right of foot of Y of PENNY—1936 to Final (III, 54).
- 57 Small white notch in words value colour tablet below ON of ONE—1937 (III, 57).
- 60 Small notch in lower frame  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner—1931 to Final ; very faint in all deep inking (III, 60).

*Summary*—20 flaws and 3 retouchings, totalling 23 varieties affecting 20 units.

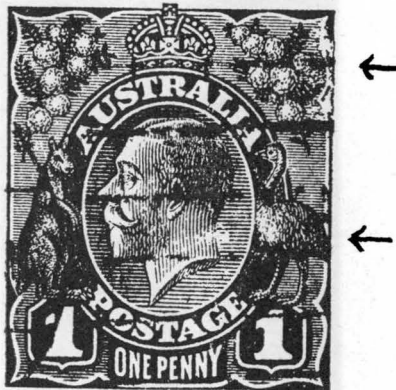
**Lower Left Plate      Right Pane      (Pane IV)**

- 2 Left frame shaved inwards for about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. at top—1918 to Final (IV, 2).
- 6 Crown top sloping downwards from right to left, top frame notched  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner, and right frame with dented inwards curve for  $2\frac{3}{4}$  mm. at top—1936 to Final (IV, 6); possibly result of retouching but more probably accidental knocking of plate.



IV. 6.

- 13 White dot between AL of AUSTRALIA—Flaw 1937 (IV, 13).
- 31 Notch in left frame  $10\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top corner wearing very shortly into right to left downwards diagonal break, although ink clogging often caused appearance of external notch only in several later printings—about 1928 to Final (IV, 31).
- 34 Damage by rust during storage (Oct. to Dec. 1916) causing white flaws in right frame and immediately adjacent shading lines and wattle leaves. The area affected is about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in width (from outer edge of frame) and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in depth, the upper part of the damage starting  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. below outer edge of top frame; also with similarly damaged irregular area affecting part of six shading lines within the oval to the right of the King's neck (opposite the Emu's breast) and extending partly over seven of the vertical shading lines of the King's neck at right—Dec. 1916 one printing in scarlet (somewhat oily inking appearance) on surfaced paper and another small printing early in Jan. 1917 in dull rose on surfaced paper (IV, 34).



IV. 34.



↑  
IV. 34E.



↑  
IV. 34ER.

About mid-January 1917 this defective unit was cut out of the plate and replaced by a copper electro from Die II inserted and wedged with metal strips—plate used with inserted electro during period late January 1917 to Aug. 1918 at intervals. Throughout the electro printings showed constant flaws consisting of: small break in top frame about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner, white flaw in shading under Emu's tail, and splayed or blunted lower left corner of frame (IV, 34 E).

Upper right corner of electro appears as if re-touched between Jan. 1917 and Aug. 1918, also general wearing of metal and particular wearing causing the crown top to decrease and ultimately disappear and later wearing away of top frame metal in part and the rounding off of frame at the four external corners with the left frame becoming jagged and notched on the outer side for 5 mm. from the top downwards (IV, 34 ER).

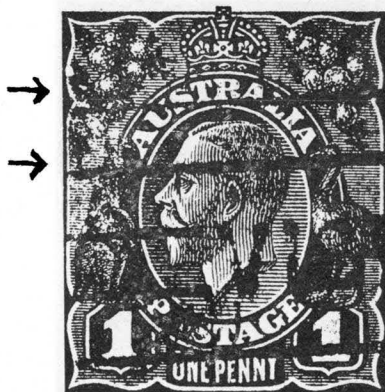
Plate not used after Aug. 1918 until June 1928 when inserted electro removed, new steel dovetailed into plate, and unit rolled in Die I on the renewed metal patch. The colour shading lines are generally somewhat thinner than normal and particularly so below the value tablets. The unit is slightly out of alignment in the pane—June 1928 to Final (IV, 34 RS).



↑  
IV. 34RS. ↑

- 35 Damaged similarly to No. 34 by rust causing white flaws on the lowest two left wattles and the leaves by them and the frame and shading lines down to the level of the 'Roo's hip and also on the 'Roo throughout above the hip—Dec. 1916 and Jan. 1917 printings as described for No. 34 (IV, 35).

Mid-January 1917 treatment and particulars as described for IV, 34 E foregoing ; but with electro in Die I. Throughout the electro printings showed the following constant flaws: Notch in left frame  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top, smaller notch in left frame  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top, and frame rounded at lower right corner (IV, 35 E).



IV. 35.



IV. 35E.



IV. 35ER.

Between Jan. 1917 and Aug. 1918 the upper right corner of the electro appears as if retouched and printings showed signs of general wear lesser in degree than that of No. 34 electro and particular wear to the crown top which eventually disappeared with slight wearing of upper edge of top frame in parts and slight rounding of frame at lower left corner (IV, 35 ER).

The particulars for IV, 34 RS (first sentence) apply also to this unit. The colour shading lines generally are only very slightly thinner than normal, the left frame behind the 'Roo is thicker than normal and the upper curved portion of the



white border at left by the wattles is abnormally wide. The unit is slightly out of alignment in the pane—June 1928 to Final (IV, 35 RS).



IV. 40R.



IV. 35RS.



IV. 40RS.

- 40 Thin GE of POSTAGE, thin white inner oval line above these two letters, and heavier ends to coloured shading lines between King's neck and thinned section of oval line. Retouch on plate from commencement, July 1914 to June 1928, but no printings from plate after Aug. 1918 until June 1928 (IV, 40 R).

In June 1928 when this plate was brought into use again, and at the same time as the inserted copper electro units Nos. 34 and 35 were removed from the plate, this original steel unit was also cut out of the plate and a new steel patch dovetailed into the plate and the unit rolled in upon it in Die I. This unit when thus renewed was slightly out of alignment in the pane, the straight sections of the left and right frames thinner than normal (particularly that at the right), and white border at either side from the level of the top of the lowest wattle downwards is wider than normal with this abnormality more pronounced at the right—June 1928 to Final (IV, 40 RS).

*Note.*—The June 1928 renewals in steel of units Nos. 34, 35, and 40 were effected by dovetailing one piece of metal for the three units into the plate as the first two were adjoining horizontally and No. 40 was immediately below No. 34.

- 44 Top frame shaved off slightly at left corner—about 1917 to Final, very faint in 1931 and 1937 printings (IV, 44).  
 48 Small almost vertical white tick in solid green band outside oval by final A of AUSTRALIA—Flaw 1928 to Final (IV, 48).  
 49 Right to left sloping break in left frame  $9\frac{1}{4}$  mm. from the top—One CRC OF A watermark paper printing; believed 1931 to Final; ink clogging hides the break in most printings (IV, 49).

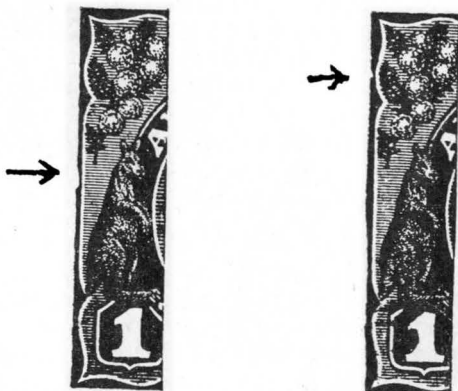
*Summary*—10 flaws, 3 retouchings and 3 renewed steel re-entries, totalling 16 varieties affecting 10 units.

**Upper Right Plate****Left Pane****(Pane V)**

- 1 Blunt notch in left frame  $11\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top—late 1915 to late 1935 (V, 1).

Retouched, leaving left frame somewhat heavy—late 1935 to mid-1936 (V, 1 R), when frame began to wear again and became thinned in the centre and thus to Final. The 1936 to Final thinning wear caused widening of corresponding white border at left (V, 1 R (a)).

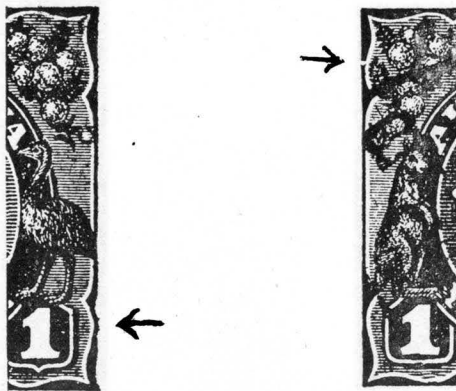
- 7 Angular notch in left frame  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top—Jan. 1915 to Final (V, 7).



V. 1.

V. 7.

- 8 Right to left downwards hairline in lowest three colour lines below left value tablet, ending in notch to lower frame  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from left corner—Flaw 1935 to Final (V, 8).
- 10 Top right corner of crown top blunted for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m.—Nov. 1914 to Final (V, 10).
- 12 Crown top sloping downwards from left to right—1916 to Final; in the later 1936 and 1937 printings the top frame became somewhat irregular at right and also the right frame generally (V, 12).
- 21 White flaw in shading at right of right curve of right value tablet—1917 to Final; less pronounced in 1935 and 1936 printings (V, 21).
- 25 Left frame somewhat heavy and bulging outwards slightly  $17\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top—(believed) late 1914 to Final (V, 25).
- 26 Small V-notch in top frame  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner—May 1915 to Final (V, 26).
- 30 Right frame irregular for  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm. upwards from lower corner, the uppermost portion of this forming a 1 mm. length curved dent in outer edge of frame—July 1917 to late 1935 (V, 30).



V. 30.

V. 31.

Retouched late 1935 causing thickening of right frame generally and abnormal thinning of white border to right of right value tablet—and thus to Final (V, 30 R).

- 31 Break in left frame  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top—July 1917 to late 1935 (V, 31).

Retouched, late 1935, causing slight thickening where break corrected, and thus to Final printing which shows wear commencing at correction point (V, 31 R).

- 38 Crown top notched at top right corner—believed 1915 to Final (V, 38).
- 41 Top left corner of frame blunted—June 1915 to Final (V, 41).
- 43 Minute white flaw in left frame  $15\frac{1}{4}$  mm. from top—1937 (V, 43).
- 48 Right frame by lowest three wattles with jagged outer edge—1935 to Final (V, 48).
- 49 Left frame irregular for 5 mm. at top; appears to curve inward immediately below the corner, and bulge outwards abnormally level with centre of second marginal wattle leaf—1915 to Final (V, 49).
- 56 Blunted at lower corners of frame—1916 to Final (V, 56).
- 57 Centre part of lower frame with ragged outer edge with two uneven notches, one below NE and the other below NN of ONE PENNY—1935 to Final (V, 57).
- 59 Small dent in right frame at top—1917 to Final (V, 59).

*Summary*—19 flaws and 3 retouchings, totalling 22 varieties affecting 18 units.

**Upper Right Plate      Right Pane      (Pane VI)**

- 4 Top frame wearing slightly at right—1937 (VI, 4).
- 6 Minute notch in top frame  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner—1937 (VI, 6).



VI. 12.

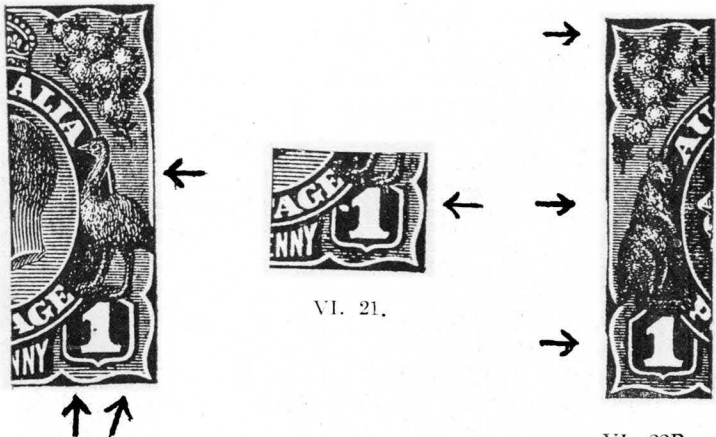
VI. 13.

VI. 14.

- 12 Left frame somewhat thickened by second marginal wattle leaf and small section above curved inward slightly with the affected portion wearing thinner in the printings on Crown C OF A watermark paper—Nov. 1915 to Final (VI, 12).
- 13 1 mm. length left to right sloping white flaw in shading above L of AUSTRALIA with the lower end of flaw cutting into outer margin of green oval band—1925 to Final (VI, 13).
- 14 Left frame overhanging outward for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. at top—about May 1915 to Final (VI, 14).

*Note.*—Distinguishable in single stamps from No. 12 foregoing by the abnormal section not curving inward at any part, and from No. 24 following by the projecting part of the frame being thicker at the junction of the abnormal section with the normal. Also, on badly centred single Crown A watermark paper printings, by Nos. 12 and 24 often showing marginal watermark line at the right.

- 20 Retouch to right frame (slight)—July 1914; this has been reported in the Commonwealth but in all blocks, and pairs with No. 21 variety following, and complete sheets which the writer has now or has had the opportunity of examining he has failed to trace any sign of retouching to this unit or any subsequent wearing of the right frame (VI, 20 R).
- 21 About  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. white flaw in right value tablet to the left of and almost level with the lower edge of the serif of the numeral 1—July 1914 to end Feb. 1928 (VI, 21).



VI. 21R.

VI. 21.

VI. 22R.

Retouched March 1928 causing slight thinning of the letters GE of POSTAGE, more pronounced white spaces between coloured shading lines below right value tablet, and thinning of part of right frame downwards from opposite the wattle stem to junction with Emu's tail, consequently leaving the corresponding section of the white border abnormally wide; also the white border line of the right value tablet is widened at the right—thus to Final (VI, 21 R).

- 22 Retouched left frame resulting in slight curving inwards at the top for 1 mm., the next 11 mm. practically normal, then thinned frame for 5 mm., almost normal for 3 mm. when a blunt notch occurs, and below this notch the remainder of this frame is very slightly thinner than normal—July 1914 to Final (VI, 22 R).

In the Commonwealth this variety has been reported as a flaw which developed rapidly early in the use of the plate. It is more probable that it was due to retouching having regard to the resulting outline of the frame and to this abnormality having remained almost unchanged in degree for twenty-three years of the plate's use. Also it would seem unlikely that a frame "flaw" of this type which "developed rapidly" would cease to increase in the many succeeding years, though it is possible accidental denting of the surface design metal caused this deformity, thus constituting unintentional retouching.

- 24 Left frame thinned for 6 mm. from the top—Nov. 1914 to Final (VI, 24).
- 25 Top of right frame bluntly notched for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm.—about late 1916 to May 1924 (VI, 25); presumed retouched as not found after the violet printings (VI, 25 R).
- 27 Re-entry affecting at top and to right, causing abnormally wide white border at top for 14 mm. from the right, thinning and slight doubling of shading lines immediately to the right of the right top three pearls of the crown, and similar thinning and doubling of the top two lines above the second and third wattles at right. This variety has been described as a retouch but its general features appear more consistent with re-entry. The previous flaw does not appear to be known—about mid-1926 to Final (VI, 27 Re).



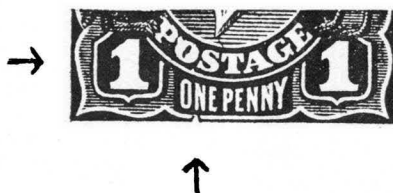
VI. 27Re.

- 30 Left frame notched for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. by lower corner—about Feb. 1915 to Final (VI, 30).
- 36 Left frame dented slightly  $3\frac{3}{4}$  mm. from lower corner—about 1915 to Final; this section wearing to thin frame from about 1928 onwards (VI, 36).

- 40 Angular notch in frame at top left corner—late 1914 to Final (VI, 40).
- 41 White tick  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. sloping downwards right to left through colour shading lines to right of crown and above fourth pearl—1937 (VI, 41).
- 45 Crown top sloping downwards from right to left—March 1915 to Final (VI, 45).
- 55 White flaw in right frame at level with Emu's foot—Sept. 1916 to late 1935 (VI, 55) when retouched to normal and thus to Final (VI, 55 R).
- 57 Frame blunted at lower left corner—1915 to Final (VI, 57).
- 58 Notches in lower frame below NE of ONE and right value tablet—1936 to Final (VI, 58).
- 60 Right frame curved inwards at top for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm.—about 1916 to Final (VI, 60).
- Summary*—17 flaws, 5 retouchings and 1 re-entry, totalling 23 varieties affecting 20 units.

**Lower Right Plate      Left Pane      (Pane VII)**

- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. break in lower frame under left vertical of N of ONE, causing the severed portions of the frame line to be turned upwards and connect with the coloured words of value tablet; the O of POSTAGE has an external projection at the upper left and an internal projection in the same direction at the lower right; also the loop of the P is dented inward by the upper projection of the O—Jan. 1915 to end Feb. 1928 (VII, 1).



VII. 1.

This has been termed "Secret Mark Variety" in the Commonwealth where it has been suggested that Cooke deliberately cut the lower frame as a mark to identify his own printings from the plate. There has not been any authentic confirmation of the "secret mark" suggestion and practical consideration of all the features and circumstances would appear to warrant the suggestion being termed fantastic. Some of the grounds for such criticism are (a) There is nothing secret about the frame break. (b) The break in relation to the distortion of PO has all the appearance of accidental damage by either knocking the plate's surface in handling it or dropping a metal tool upon it etc. (c) No "secret mark" has been referred to in connection with the other three plates and this plate unquestionably is admitted to be of London make. (d) No hint has been given

of the contemplated appointment of a second printer in 1915 to share the use of any of the plates and Cooke continued as Official Printer and sole user of them for three years and five months after this variety first occurred. (e) No secret identifying mark has been reported on the other K.G.V. values—and no such mark was provided for upon the Harrison prepared 1d. Die III plate from which Cooke was the sole printer from June to August 1918 when the Die III plate was discarded.

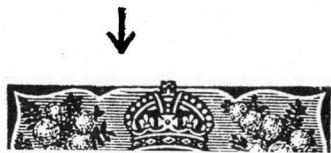
This variety, like many others recorded, it appears may rightly be attributed to accidental damage.

Retouched almost to normal in late Feb. 1928 and thus to Final (VII, 1 R). An excellent correction which wore well for nine years odd—the letters ON of ONE being very slightly shorter than normal and the retouched state being very difficult, if not impossible, to recognise with certainty other than in positioned marginal block.

- 3 Right frame notched inward for  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mm. at top, and top left frame corner abnormally pointed—Dec. 1914 to Final (VII, 3).
- 4 Uneven colour spot distant about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm. above and to the right of the right corner of crown top—Dec. 1914 to Final (VII, 4).
- 7 Break in top frame 2 mm. to left of crown top, and fourth pearl at left of crown runs downwards into setting line, and top frame faintly notched 1 mm. from right corner—earliest dated copy seen by the writer Feb. 1916; but it appears most probable that this variety occurred at the same time as the damage to No. 1 unit above it (it was corrected partly at the same time as No. 1)—believed Jan. 1915 to end Feb. 1928 (VII, 7).



VII. 7.

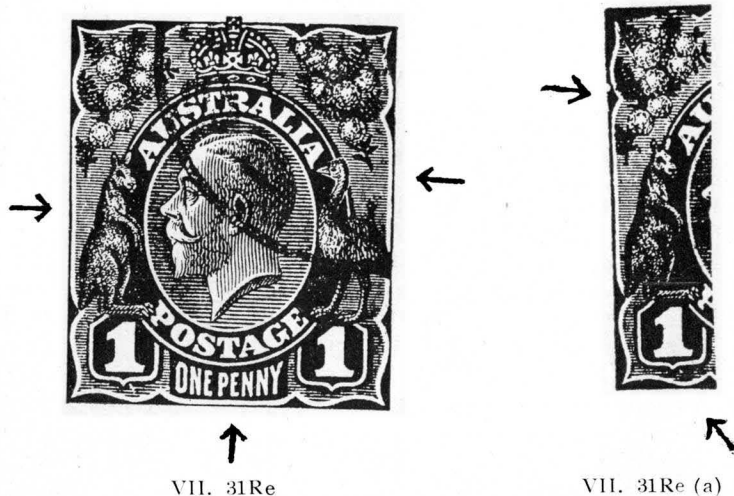


VII. 7R.

Retouched late Feb. 1928 slightly increasing the small top notch at right, and leaving the top two coloured shading lines at left of crown turned upwards somewhat at left ends—and thus to Final (VII, 7 R).

- 11 Break in top frame  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. to right of crown top—one reddish violet printing about 1923; believed immediately corrected and does not occur in the green printings (VII, 11).
- 13 Top left corner blunted—1926 to Final (VII, 13).
- 15 Right frame thinned for 3 mm. opposite lowest wattle leaf—violet printings to Final (VII, 15).
- 16 Lower frame notched upward below Y of PENNY—1932 to Final (VII, 16).
- 18 Slight curved notch in lower frame 3 mm. from right corner, becoming faint in later printings—1922 to Final (VII, 18).

- 19 Slightly curved inward notch in right frame 2 mm. from top—1916 to Final (VII, 19).
- 25 Upward diagonal fine notch in left frame 9 mm. from lower corner—Nov. 1917 to Final (VII, 25).
- 26 Wear flaws (minor) in right value tablet—1937 (VII, 26).
- 31 Diagonal white flaw line commencing in right frame 1 mm. from top and passing through wattles, etc., into second diamond from right in crown band, and small notch in left frame 5¼ mm. from top—Sept. 1915 to Sept. 1927 (VII, 31).



In several of the red group 1918 printings on both surfaced and unsurfaced paper the flaw line does not show but the left frame notch is clear. This also occurs in some Single Crown A watermark green printings and these may well have resulted from "make ready" efforts (VII, 31 MR).

In Sept. 1927 the re-entry of Unit No. 37 (immediately below No. 31) caused a further flaw on this unit consisting of small diagonal white tick in the colour band at right under the left value tablet and joining the third white line of shading from the bottom, giving the latter the effect of having been bent upwards at the left end into the colour band—second state Sept. 1927 to end Feb. 1928 (VII, 31 (a)).



Re-entered late Feb. 1928, correcting the flaws excepting the colour band flaw, and leaving the frame line thinned behind the 'Roo, behind the Emu and below the words of value, with corresponding slight widening of the white border by those thinned sections—third state late Feb. 1928 to late 1935 (VII, 31 Re).

Late in 1935 the notch  $5\frac{1}{4}$  mm. down in the left frame appeared again and this flaw increased with wear rapidly from this time onward until in the final printing it became about twice the 1915 size, developing into a  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. curved notch with the inner margin of frame notch dented into the white border—fourth state late 1935 to Final (VII, 31 Re (a)).

- 32 Blunt notch in left frame commencing about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm. from the top and ending about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from the top. This appears to be a continuation of the damage which caused white flaw in unit No. 31—Sept. 1915 to 1932 (VII, 32).



VII. 32.

Retouched to normal in 1932 and thus to Final (VII, 32 R).

- 36 Notch in top frame  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. from right corner, and a right to left downwards diagonal white flaw on Emu's right leg. The frame notch is very narrow and slopes from left downwards to right for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. The Emu flaw practically severs the leg. Unsurfaced paper printings and heavy inkings on surfaced papers gave results which in some instances make the notch almost invisible and considerably reduce the appearance of the leg flaw—about mid-1917 to Final (VII, 36).



VII. 36.



VII. 37.

37 Small white flaw immediately at right of 'Roo's legs about level with point of King's beard, and breaks in the 9th, 8th, and 7th colour shading lines from the base of the oval and above A of POSTAGE, giving the appearance of an uneven shaped white flaw about central below the curved base of the King's neck. The breaks are in the ninth shading line about  $\frac{1}{6}$  mm., in the eighth about  $\frac{3}{8}$  mm., and in the seventh about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. in length. Heavy inking, etc., often appeared to affect or eliminate the flaw by 'Roo's legs—Dec. 1916 to March 1927 (VII, 37).

Retouched by Mullett in March 1927, leaving the flaw by 'Roo's legs almost unaltered, repairing the break in ninth colour line and leaving a minute notch in that line at the repair point, very slightly reducing the break in seventh line to about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. length. In effecting the above reduction the lowest twelve colour shading lines at the right inside the oval were thickened, the letters GE of POSTAGE were thinned pronouncedly, and the white borders of the oval were thinned above and below those two letters; also the left frame appears to have been thickened slightly behind the 'Roo. The total abnormality of the unit was thus increased by this retouch—second state March to Sept. 1927 (VII, 37 R).



VII. 37R.

Re-entered by Ash in Sept. 1927 removing the flaws tick by 'Roo's legs and below King's neck, also the abnormality of the letters GE and oval and borders, etc., but resulting in an additional dotted colour line along the bridge of the King's nose, and shortening and rounding off the nose at tip, thickening and slightly distorting the bases of NE and PE of ONE PENNY and pronounced doubling of shading lines below right value tablet and slight blurring or doubling of shading lines at left ends behind the 'Roo. The T of AUSTRALIA appears somewhat blurred and enlarged in some printings in this and the following state—third state Sept. 1927 to Feb. 1928 (VII, 37 Re).

A further marked change occurred consisting of: Disappearance of the King's nose bridge line, slight alteration of nose tip rounding but not attaining normality, disappearance of doubling of shading lines below right value tablet, letters NE and PE becoming practically normal, and additionally a slight doubling of top frame between crown top and right corner.



VII. 37Re.

Late in Feb. 1928 the plate metal was knocked up preparatory to re-entering unit No. 31 immediately above this unit, and it has been suggested that this caused the above change in No. 37. Also it has been put forward in Australia that when No. 31 was re-entered a further re-entry of this unit was effected. Having regard to the characteristics of the alteration in No. 37 as noted above, it would seem that the latter alternative is more probably the correct explanation—fourth state Feb. 1928 to Final (VII, Re (a)).



VII. 37Re (a)

- 42 Small notch in top frame  $2\frac{3}{4}$  mm. left of crown top—Jan. 1917 to Final (VII, 42).
- 43 Right frame shaved slightly at the top and irregular above and below junction with Emu's tail, right border abnormally wide

at right by lowest wattle down to level of Emu's foot ; the left frame overhangs outward (slightly) about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. above tip of 'Roo's tail, and the white border at left from lowest wattle level to 'Roo's tail is wider than normal. The slight overhang of left frame appears to date from the " Red " printings' period, whilst the other abnormalities resulted from preparing the plate metal for re-entry of No. 37 immediately above this unit in Sept. 1927—Sept. 1927 to Final (VII, 43).



VII. 43.

*Note.*—In single stamps this variety may easily be confused with unit No. 40 (thin GE) of lower left plate, right pane after metal renewal (IV, 40 RS).

- 49 Circular white flaw in lower frame left scroll—1928 to Final (VII, 49).
- 52 Small notch in lower right corner of frame. Faint in 1926 to 1936 printings, but more pronounced in 1937—Flaw May 1915 to Final (VII, 52).
- 54 Fine hairline in the shading  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mm. to right of right wattle stem, commencing in third line above stem base and curving downwards slightly to the left through the next six shading lines below. This hairline was so thin that heavy inking or ink clogging often caused joining up of breaks in some or all of the seven colour lines in many printings, but in well-inked clear printings it appears distinctly. Uneven breaks also occurred in four colour shading lines below and slightly to the left of the left curve of the right value tablet white border, giving somewhat the appearance of a fern leaf—first state, Flaw Dec. 1915 to about Feb. 1922 (VII, 54).

" Make ready " correction, partially successful only, found during 1919 red group printing by Harrison on Multiple Large Crown A watermark paper (VII, 54 MR).

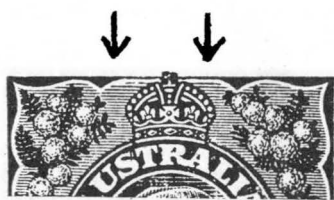
During the early violet group printings a further flaw occurred, probably due to wear or slight damage to the plate, consisting of a slight vertical break in the lower right frame

4½ mm. from the right corner. Heavy inking or clogging sealed this frame break in some of the subsequent printings—second state, about Feb. 1922 to Dec. 1928 (VII, 54 (a)).

Re-entry corrected the “fern leaf” and frame break flaws but not the “hairline”. Otherwise the unit was left almost normal and very difficult to distinguish in a single stamp—third state, about Dec. 1928 to Final (VII, 54 Re).

- 56 In 1937 white flaws appear to have developed inside the right value tablet chiefly to the left of the serif of I and to the right of that numeral’s base (VII, 56).
- 60 RA of AUSTRALIA somewhat blurred and heavy and joined at foot, the top colour shading line at left of crown usually thinned and shortened at the left end, and in many printings the crown top appears worn at the top right—first state, Sept. 1915 to March 1927 (VII, 60).

“Make ready” method partial correction only, found among Harrison’s red group printing of 1919 on Multiple Large Crown A watermark paper. Two of the writer’s Harrison Single Crown A watermark imprint pieces of 1924–26 in green have the blurred outline almost eliminated, the colour area in the loop of R increased to nearly normal, and a thin right to left downwards colour line severing the tail of R from the left foot of A; in No. 54 of these pieces the fern leaf flaw is also reduced considerably by dotted colour lines along two of the four break spaces which form the leaf-like flaw. These conditions seem the result of attempted “make ready” temporary correction (VII, 60 MR).



VII. 60.



VII. 60R.

RA joined retouched, lessening the white outline of these letters noticeably and consequently increasing the solid colour areas within those letters, eliminating all previous blurring and clearly severing the junction at foot. The T preceding them also appears to have been very slightly reduced in outline by this retouch. No attempt made to correct the shading line at top left by crown and the crown top defects—second state, March 1927 to Final (VII, 60 R).

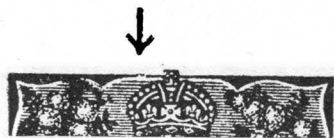
*Summary*—26 flaws, 5 retouchings and 4 re-entries, totalling 35 varieties affecting 23 units.

**Lower Right Plate****Right Pane****(Pane VIII)**

- 9 Right frame irregular by right value tablet. The principal feature of this variety is a slightly curved shallow notch for 1 mm. commencing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. up from lower right corner and probably caused by accidental chipping of a portion of the raised frame metal—May 1915 to Final (VIII, 9).
- 10 Circular colour dot about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm. above and to the right of the right corner of crown top—July 1915 to Final (VIII, 10).
- 11 Small white flaw on 'Roo's rump—1916 to Final (VIII, 11).
- 12 Small white flaw  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. to the left of and below the right wattle stem caused by a break in each of the first and second colour shading lines under the end of the stem—1932 to Final (VIII, 12).
- 13 White line through the lower left corner of frame—Reported as occurring in one of the red group printings; but the writer has not seen a copy and cannot find this flaw or any trace of its correction in many subsequent printings in the three colours (VIII, 13).
- 14 Retouched words ONE PENNY resulting in thinning the outlines of the letters generally, and leaving the diagonals of the three letters N markedly irregular and prone to blurring of those letters—retouched before first printing, July 1914 to Final (VIII, 14 R).



VIII. 14.



VIII. 15.

- 15 Slight denting upward for about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mm. length of the top frame commencing  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. from the left of the crown top; later wearing appears to have caused slight notching in the top shading line below the frame denting—about 1918 to Final (VIII, 15).
- 16 Diagonal hairline in shading at right from white border to Emu's back. The line begins at the border level with the tip of the lowest wattle leaf at right and ends at the Emu's back about 1 mm. to the right of the outer white oval line. Inking conditions affect the clarity of appearance or otherwise of the hairline—Oct. 1926 to Final (VIII, 16).
- 19 Small angular notch towards the left in lower frame  $2\frac{1}{4}$  mm. from left corner—about 1928 to Final (VIII, 19).
- 25 NY of PENNY joined by a thin horizontal white line  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. above the base of those letters—Sept. 1915 to Final (VIII, 25).



VIII. 25.

- 29 Small pointed projection upward from the top right of second A of AUSTRALIA almost joining with the outer white oval line—1936 to Final (VIII, 29).
- 30 Nearly horizontal white line just above the space between E of ONE and P of PENNY—Flaw 1922 to Final (VIII, 30).
- 32 Hairline through shading at left from the right of the sixth wattle sloping downwards and merging with left border  $12\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from the top of stamp frame. This flaw is faint in heavy inkings and in the paler green printings—about June 1915 to Final (VIII, 32).
- 35 Left to right diagonal break in lower frame 4 mm. from right corner—1936 to Final (VIII, 35).
- 36 Right frame notch 1 mm. from the top—1922 to Final (VIII, 36).
- 38 Almost vertical hairline in shading at right about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm. in from the white border, commencing level with tip of lowest right wattle leaf and ending at Emu's back—1936 to Final (VIII, 38).
- 40 Two diagonal hairlines at right; one from the upper inward pointed border projection through shading and wattle stem and leaf to Emu's neck at level with wattle stem base; the other from base of wattle stem to Emu's back by junction with outer edge of oval colour band—1936 to Final (VIII, 40).
- 42 Small white spur-like outward projection from the left side of the white border line of the right value tablet and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. above the left curve of the border line. This flaw appears very faintly in many of the later printings—about 1915 to Final (VIII, 42).
- 45 Hairline from the centre of the front of King's beard running down to and notching the inner edge of the lower frame  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mm. from the left corner—1936 to Final (VIII, 45).



VIII. 45.

- 49 Short upward projection of the vertical line at right of crown top—about March 1916 to Final (VIII, 49).
- 51 Faint white flaw in left value tablet above and to left of the left base of 1—1936 to Final (VIII, 51).
- 52 Small notch in top frame 2 mm. to left of crown top. This shows as a small break in frame in some printings—Nov. 1915 to Final (VIII, 52).
- 54 White flaw in shading by lower right corner—Nov. 1914 to Final (VIII, 54).
- 56 Short white line in front of and just below 'Roo's mouth giving the appearance of Kangaroo with tongue out—Flaw, Feb. 1916 to end Feb. 1928 (VIII, 56).

“Make ready” temporary correction found in Harrison's 1919 red group printing on Multiple Large Crown A watermark paper (VIII, 56 MR).



VIII. 56.

VIII. 56R.

- Retouched removing the white “tongue” flaw, but causing heavier and uneven shading lines at left of 'Roo, and in front of King's head, also thinning the frame at right with consequent widening of the corresponding white border, similarly affecting the left frame and border for  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm. upward from the lower left corner, as well as the whole of the lower frame and border—second state, end Feb. 1928 to Final (VIII, 56 R).
- 60 White flaw at base of N of ONE running horizontally between and joining the two vertical strokes of that letter and running downward at the centre below the N and merging into the lower white border; also a right to left downward diagonal white tick in right corner of the frame just by the point of the white border. The lower right corner of the frame protrudes, the tick denoting where the frame metal had split. The gap was caused by the corner here having been moved outwards slightly—first state, July 1914 (first printing) to early 1917 (VIII, 60).
- Another small white flaw occurred consisting of a tick in the



outer solid colour band of the right numeral value tablet below and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. to the right of the left curve of the border line—second state, early 1917 to March 1927 (VIII, 60 (a)).



VIII. 60.



VIII. 60 (a).



VIII. 60R.

“ Make ready ”: The writer has two copies on surfaced Single Crown A watermark paper cancelled July 1917, and one copy used Multiple Large Crown A watermark, in each of which the flaw at the base of and below N appears to have been temporarily eliminated by this method; also on unwatermarked paper a green printing in block of four with the N flaw and tablet flaw both almost eliminated (VIII, 60 MR). In several of the violet and green groups’ printings on single watermark paper the N flaw appears much less markedly than on others.

Retouched, slightly thinning the outline of N of ONE, removing the flaw at base and below, but increasing the words-colour-tablet below ONE and thickening the lower frame below ONE P of ONE PENNY, with consequent narrowing of the white border line below ONE P, and leaving both the numeral tablet and corner frame flaws as before—third state, March 1927 to Final (VIII, 60 R).

*Summary*—25 flaws and 3 retouchings, totalling 28 varieties affecting 25 units.

### Unlocated Constant Flaws, etc. :

- U (a) C for O in ONE—occurred in one unit of a 1916 printing on surfaced paper. May have resulted from ink clogging or may have been a plate flaw which was immediately noticed and corrected to normal.
- U (b) Crown top broken at right and small colour flaw above the break—May, March, and Dec. 1915—break without colour flaw above, Aug. 1917.

- U (c) White flaw (full stop) after Y of PENNY—in some red printings, also in some green printings single watermark, Multiple Small Crown A watermark, and Multiple Crown over C OF A.
- U (d) Left to right downwards break in right frame about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from lower corner—two copies Multiple Crown over C OF A watermark.
- U (e) Small curved notch in lower frame  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from left corner about Nov. 1917 to Multiple Small Crown A watermark printings.

### B. THE DIE III LOCAL PLATE (Plate B V)

Single pane sheet—unit reference numbers horizontally from top left stamp (Unit 1) along the twelve rows to the lower right corner stamp (Unit 120) :

*Unit*

*Number*

- 10 White flaw in shading lines below Emu's tail caused by damage to the ends of three colour shading lines at right (BV, 10).

Later state shows wear in top frame above the second and third wattle leaves from the left (BV, 10 (a)).

- 15 Break in top frame  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm. to the left of crown top, sloping down slightly from left to right (BV, 15).

- 38 Top frame flaw—(BV, 38).

- 40 US of AUSTRALIA thinned and also thinned white oval above those two letters—first state (BV, 40).

Soon afterwards a somewhat circular white flaw developed above the S and extended from the top of that letter through the colour band of the oval and seven of the shading lines outside upwards towards the wattle leaf above the S—second state (BV, 40 (a)).

This shading, etc., flaw increased in area rapidly to nearly double its original size—third state (BV, 40 (b)).

Retouched fairly late in the printing leaving a small almost vertical white flaw in shading immediately at right of the wattle above the S, and a white oval border line thinned above AU and thickened and irregular over S, with the top of that letter flattened and thinned. The colour band external margin above US was left irregular in outline and colour shading lines by the left of the crown band somewhat heavy and blurred. The right wattles and shading lines around them seem somewhat weakened in definition after this retouch, whilst the letters US remained thinner in outline than normal—fourth state (BV, 40 R).

- 48 Small white flaw just below and slightly to the left of right wattle stem, affecting some three colour shading lines (BV, 48).

- 56 White flaw on S of AUSTRALIA about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. wide joining the top loop at right with the white oval line immediately above (BV, 56).

- 57 Flaw on King's chin (BV, 57).

*Summary*—10 located flaw states and 1 retouching, totalling 11 varieties affecting 7 units.

## Unlocated Flaws :

- (a) Small white flaw on King's head above and slightly to left of ear (BV (a)).
- (b) Small break in one shading line behind King's neck about level with base of ear lobe (BV (b)).
- (c) Small V-notch in left frame  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from top (BV (c)).
- (d) Break in lower frame by right point of white border (BV (d)).

## XVIII. OFFICIALS (a) PUNCTURED

These consisted of letters perforated through the stamps to denote intended official user. Two categories were introduced for this value (a) Stamps issued, already letter punctured, by the Post Office to Federal and States' Departments, and (b) Stamps issued unpunctured by the Federal Post Office, and punctured subsequently by the two States of New South Wales and Tasmania for use by their own Departmental Offices.

It appears that both categories were current from July 1914 to October 1931 in various printings in the red, violet, and green colour groups, but not necessarily in every printing shade of each group.

The punctures were of circular pin holes arranged to form the required letters. For category (a) the letters O S were perforated, the O by twelve pins and the S by eleven pins. These letters were  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height, with maximum widths for the O of 6 mm., and for the S of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm. with 4 mm. spacing between them, giving a total width of  $15\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

This puncture was effected to one horizontal row of stamps at a time and may be found on both Die I and Die II stamps. The writer has not yet discovered it on Die III but has not noted any report to the contrary.

It may be found double, inverted, and sideways in some of the red group printings. Each of these errors is somewhat scarce and the first two exist in Dies I and II.

The Federal Offices of all the six States of the Commonwealth used this value punctured O S as described.

During the currency of the various plate flaws, retouches, and re-entries, etc., of the four London plates, those varieties may be found in stamps which were perforated also with the Federal puncture.

(b) New South Wales and Tasmania punctured officials for their respective States' Departments (as distinct from Federal Offices in those States which used only the Federal O S punctured stamps), the former State adopting the letters O S/N S W in two lines and the latter using the single letter T, both during the July 1914 to October 1931 period.

The status of these two (b) category punctures is somewhat complicated because, although their use was confined to Departmental postal matter, dispatched within the respective States, it was not confined to addressees within those States. The Federal Post Office appears to have accepted the practice and delivered matter thus stamped throughout the Commonwealth, and also passed it

for delivery outside the Commonwealth when so addressed, without demur. This would seem to signify acquiescence and condonation tacitly and so to have regularised these "Officials".

The New South Wales puncture was of circular pinholes, slightly larger than the Federal pinholes, with the letters O S (each twelve holes)  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height, the O 6 mm. wide and the S  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm. wide, and spaced 3 mm. apart, making total width of this line  $15\frac{1}{2}$  mm. ; and with N S W 6 mm. in height with N (ten holes) 5 mm. wide, S (eight holes) 5 mm. wide, and W (eleven holes) 7 mm. wide—total width of the lower line  $19\frac{1}{2}$  mm. The O S was spaced 4 mm. above the N S W and the total height of the puncture was  $18\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

This five-letter puncture was made in one horizontal row of stamps at a time and may be found double occasionally ; also it may be found inverted—in each instance in some of the red group printings of the four London plates.

Die III stamps from the local plate have also been found with a New South Wales departmental puncture.

The Tasmania puncture T consisted of ten holes, five for the top bar and five for the downstroke, each measuring  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mm. The usual height of the letter was  $9\frac{1}{2}$  or 10 mm. The puncturing appears to have been made in two operations, first a number of stamps perforated with one bar and then a second operation adding the second bar to complete the letter T. It does not seem to have been confined to a horizontal row at a time as stamps may be found in such pairs or rows with differences in each puncture consisting of the downstroke at right or at left instead of central below top bar, or with varying distances between top bar and top hole of the downstroke sometimes with the top hole of the downstroke impinging on and sometimes merged into, and sometimes protruding 1 mm. or more above the top bar. In most instances the holes were rough-edged, or clogged or blind perforations. It appears to have been the most carelessly executed puncture of the Officials.

It does not appear to have been reported double, sideways or inverted or in Die III printings.

Both the O S N S W and the T punctures may be found with stamps having the various plate varieties of the four London plates during the currency of the different varieties.

From 1932 to February 1933 Federally overprinted stamps were used for official purposes and all official punctures of this value in green appear to have ceased during that period save for the using up in some parts of punctured stocks in hand.

In February 1933 official punctures were re-introduced by five of the six states for use in their State Departments only. These were as follows and remained in use at the final printing in 1937 from the four London plates :

*New South Wales.* O S N S W as before for a short time, and then changed to G over N S W. In this latter the punctured letters N S W were as previously described, the G had twelve pinholes and was  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height and 7 mm. in width and was placed centrally above the right vertical of the N with 4 mm. space between them. The total height of this two-line puncture was  $18\frac{1}{2}$  mm.

*Victoria.* V G, the V having nine holes and the G having ten or eleven holes. This difference in number of holes was irregular in occurrence. The first letter 6 mm. width and the second letter 7 mm. width with a total width of 16 mm. The measurements are approximate as the setting of the pins varies and also the height and width. Double punctures have been reported in this value.

*South Australia.* Large O S.

*Tasmania.* T as previously described, including the irregularities in execution.

*Western Australia.* W A in two lines, with eleven holes W, 6 mm. in height and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  mm. width, and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. centrally above the eight holes A  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height and  $6\frac{1}{4}$  mm. width. The total height of puncture 17 mm.

*Queensland.* Does not appear to have used an official puncture after discontinuance of the O S perforation in 1931.

### (b) OVERPRINTED

The first series of official punctures of this stamp appear to have ceased in October 1931 and the remainder in hand then were almost exhausted by the end of that year. In February 1932 the Federal overprint O S was introduced on this stamp in Ash printings. These were used for Federal and States' Department officials until February 1933, when all then in hand are reported to have been withdrawn from issue and the overprinting for official use to have ceased.

These overprinted Id. stamps, it has been stated, were "cancelled to order" during a part of that period and sold to the public on application at many Commonwealth Post Offices. However this may have been, they were also on sale to the public uncanceled over the counters of very many post offices, and several of the writer's correspondents, unconnected with either the Post Office or other official departments, used them on letters to him and still used them thus up to 1940, and in respect of none of these has the user been disallowed or postage due claimed, although these packets, whether arriving by ordinary mail, registered post, air mail or registered air mail, had only stamps totalling the respective face value rates for their class and weight, etc.

For this value (and some other K.G.V. values) an electro was made in two panes of  $6 \times 10$  O S each, to provide the 120 overprints for a sheet. The electro was prepared from moulds taken from a single original with each unit in double-lined letters with solid colour shading and without stops. Units were spaced  $11\frac{1}{2}$  mm. apart horizontally and 23 mm. vertically.

The top of each S was just below the level of the top of the preceding O. Also in some instances the units were very slightly out of alignment with other adjacent units.

The letters were each  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in height, the O 5 mm. wide, the S  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. wide. They were spaced  $2\frac{1}{2}$  mm. apart, with total width overprint 12 mm.

At first a somewhat shiny blue-black ink was used for this overprinting. The overprint shades vary considerably and in many, a

greater proportion of blue in the mixing caused almost blue overprints. In later overprintings black predominated to an extent which often warrants the description "overprinted in black".

The centring varied considerably and the letters O S may be found high, central, and low on the stamps as well as high left, high right, left central, right central, low left, and low right.

As the dates of currency show, this overprint occurred on this value only on Ash printings on Multiple Small Crown over C OF A watermark paper, perforations  $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ , with two-line sheet imprint in plain block capitals.

It occurred on some sheets with inverted watermark, on others with "reversed" watermark, and also on sheets with "reversed inverted" watermark. All three of these are scarce.

The following constant electro overprint varieties have been found :

- Left Pane* : No. 42 Stop after S.  
48 }  
54 } Traces of additional metal around the  
60 } letters.  
*Right Pane* : 17 Solid colour shading in the upper loop  
of S thinned.  
59 Colour dash in lower loop of S.

*Unlocated* : Inner oval colour band of O notched at top right.

The electro for overprinting was used on printings from each of the four London plates and consequently Overprint Left Pane 42 variety is found on Plate Variety III 42 white flaw in shading below pointed section of right value tablet ; and also on Plate Variety VII 42. Small notch in top frame  $2\frac{3}{4}$  mm. left of crown top.

Similarly Overprint Left Pane 60 variety is found on Plate Variety III 60 small notch in lower frame  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from right corner ; and on Plate Variety VII 60 R, RA joined, retouched lessening the white outline of those letters, etc.

Also all the other plate flaws, retouches and re-entries, etc., which were current in the 1932-33 printed sheets have appeared with the O S overprint.