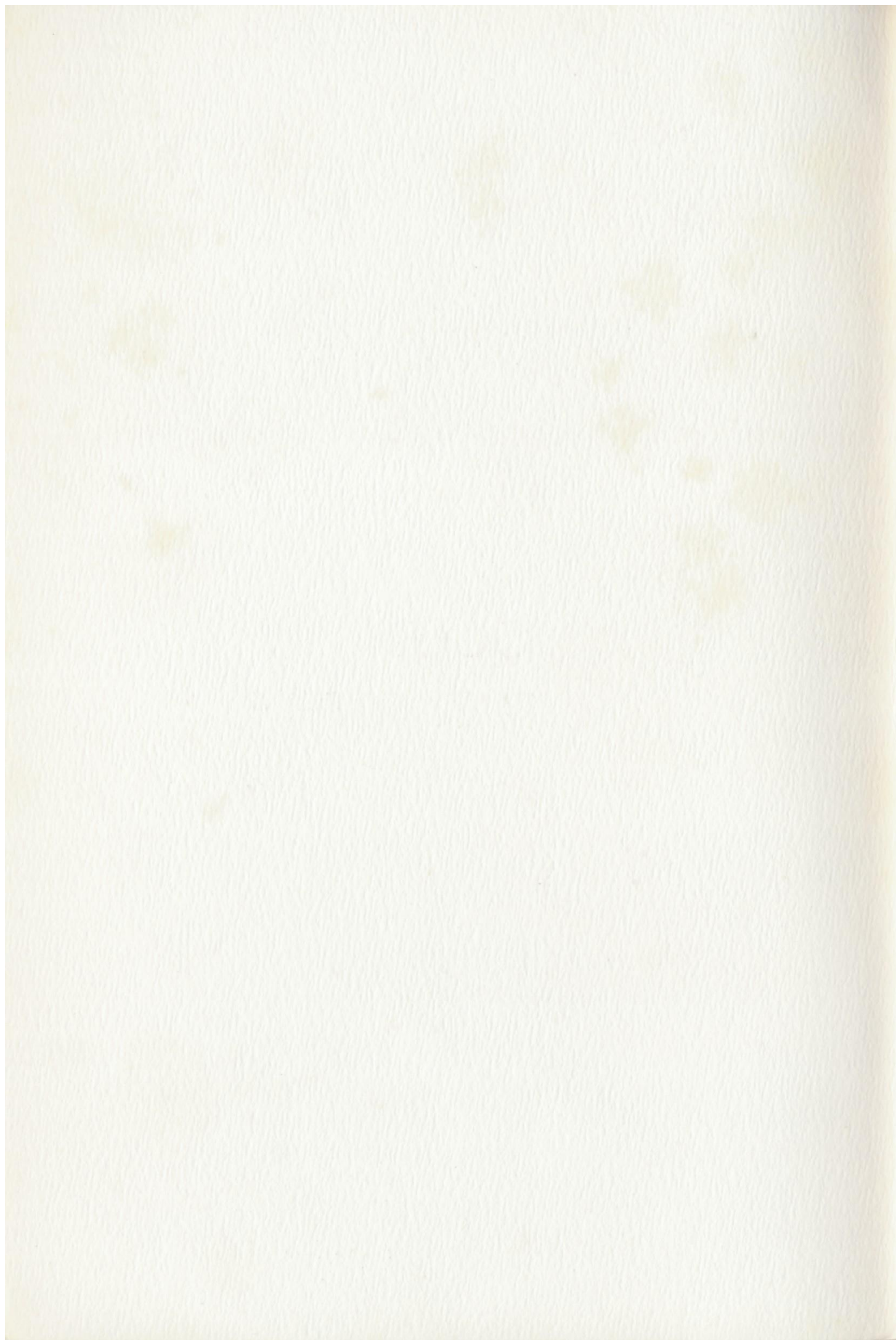


AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE STAMPS



THE
COMMEMORATIVE
STAMPS
OF THE REIGN
OF
QUEEN
ELIZABETH II,
1952 TO 1959

AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE
PRICE FIFTY CENTS



AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE

THE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS OF THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 1952 TO 1959

*This volume is one of a series
descriptive of Australian postage stamps*

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Other booklets in this series:

The Early Commonwealth Period and the Kangaroo and Map Series.

The 1913-14 Recess-Printed Series and the King George V Sideface and Pictorial Definitive Stamps.

The Early Federal Period 1910 to 1912-13.

The Postage Due Stamps of Australia 1890-1961.

Australian Commemorative and Air Mail Stamps 1927 to 1951.

The Definitive Stamps of the Reign of King George VI.

The Definitive Stamps of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952-65.

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to continue the account of commemorative stamps which was commenced in the earlier booklet "Australian Commemorative and Air Mail Stamps, 1927 to 1951". The present booklet is concerned with the period 1952 to 1959, and embraces the regular commemorative stamps as well as the small number which might be more properly defined as publicity issues but which, for convenience, are normally grouped and collected with commemorative stamps.

The reader will not find reference in the text to the 7d Royal Flying Doctor Service stamp (1957) and to the two types of the 5½d Australian War Memorial stamps (1958). While these are indicated in some catalogues as commemoratives they were, in fact, part of the definitive series of the time. Accordingly, they are described in the Post Office booklet: "The Definitive Stamps of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952-65".

An unusual feature of the group of stamps with which the present work is concerned is the number of "firsts" which came about. While the Food Production series (1952) was the second Australian Commonwealth commemorative to be printed by the letterpress process, it was the first series to contain three different designs in the sheet and the first to appear in sheets of 100 content.

The Young Farmers' Club stamp (1953) was the first Australian commemorative bicoloured recess-printed stamp and the first of this nature with a sheet content of 100. The Australian Red Cross Society stamp (1954) was the first commemorative to be produced by a main recess-printing and a secondary letterpress printing.

A significant feature of all the stamps mentioned in this booklet is that with one exception, the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree stamp (1952), all were printed on unwatermarked paper. This practice came about by reason of a Post Office decision in 1948 that commemorative stamps of any denomination might be printed on either watermarked or unwatermarked paper according to requirements at the time. A major reason for the adoption of unwatermarked paper was that the appearance of stamp designs was greatly enhanced.

The period embraced by the booklet saw standardization in stamp size to an advanced degree. In turn, this brought about a regular pattern for perforation. All the small stamps, with an overall size of 20.25 mm x 24.05 mm, were issued in sheets of 160 with perforation gauging $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$ or $14 \times 14\frac{3}{4}$ according to format. There were only three of this group, the Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree (1952) and the two $3\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps of the series commemorative of the 150th Anniversary of Settlement in Tasmania (1953).

Some one-third of the commemoratives described were of the medium size, measuring 22.5 mm x 28.5 mm. These were normally issued in sheets of 120, with perforations of $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{3}{4}$ (or $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$). Exceptions were the Food Production and Young Farmers' Clubs stamps which, as mentioned, were issued in sheets of 100, but they conformed to the perforation pattern.

There were two sizes utilized for the large rectangular commemorative stamps. The first, with an overall size of 40.5 mm x 24.05 mm, applied only to the three stamps of the Coronation series (1953) and the 2/- stamp of the 150th Anniversary of Settlement in Tasmania series. These were issued in sheets of 80, perforated $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$. Thereafter, the size was modified slightly to 37.5 mm x 24.05 mm and all subsequent stamps in the large size were of these dimensions. These were issued in sheets of 80, perforated $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$ or $14\frac{1}{4} \times 14$. The only out-of-course size was that adopted for the Australian Antarctic Research stamp (1954) and, as mentioned in the text, it conformed to the size of stamps of the then current Coat of Arms definitive series (28 mm x 30.5 mm). And, like those stamps, it was issued in sheets of 60, perforated $14\frac{1}{4} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.

The above considerations did not, of course, apply to the two Olympic Games commemorative stamps printed abroad. With those exceptions, all the stamps described in this booklet were printed at the Note Printing Branch, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Melbourne. From January, 1960, the Note Printing Branch became attached to the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Finally, as being of relevant interest, a selection of various unadopted designs and photographs showing stages of design development are illustrated in the accompanying Appendix.

PAN-PACIFIC SCOUT JAMBOREE, 1952

This, the second Jamboree of its kind, was held over the period 30 December 1952 to 9 January 1953, the selected venue being at Greystanes, near Sydney. Some 15,000 scouts from all parts of Australia, and from many overseas countries, attended.

Representations for the issue of a commemorative stamp were made in May 1952 by the New South Wales Branch of the Australian Boy Scouts' Association. This organization quoted, as a precedent, the issue of such a stamp for the earlier Pan-Pacific Scout Jamboree held at Wonga Park, Victoria, in 1948-49*. Because of the limited time then available, the projected issue date being in the following November, the Post Office found that there was insufficient time to follow the usual procedure of having preliminary designs prepared and a selected design subsequently developed.



Fig. 1

For that reason, the request was met only on the basis that the design of the 1948 stamp would be used, with appropriate inscriptional changes. In practice, it was found expedient to work directly from the die of the earlier stamp, rather than cut an entirely new die, the only alterations required being the new dates and different denomination. It was also decided that the issued stamp should be in a shade of red dissimilar to that of the 1948 stamp.

3½d maroon (Fig. 1); issued: 19 November 1952.

Designed and engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on paper watermarked multiple small crown over C of A (sideways) (Fig. 2) and issued in sheets of 160, perf. 14 x 14¾.

Quantity: 98,772,000.



Fig. 2

*Described in the Post Office booklet "Australian Commemorative and Air Mail Stamps 1927 to 1951".

FOOD PRODUCTION, 1953



Fig. 3

Fig. 4

Fig. 5

During 1952, a campaign was in course in Australia to increase food production to meet overseas requirements and a proposal was advanced in May of that year that special stamps should be issued to assist the campaign.

The suggestion was accepted by the Post Office which then arranged for several preliminary designs to be prepared by Departmental artists. One of these initial designs is shown at Fig. 49.

By July 1952, the project had been developed to the extent that three specific subjects had been selected: Butter, Wheat and Beef, a Dried Fruits motif being dropped. At this time also it was decided that because of the length of time which would be required to hand-engrave separate dies, the stamps would be letterpress-printed. The decision also envisaged that the three subjects would appear on separate stamps in both 3d and 3½d denominations, and side by side in the respective sheets.

Several of the preliminary design subjects were then utilized by a Note Printing Branch artist to develop the selected themes in the forms shown at Figs 50 to 52. From these, through several stages, the final designs were evolved. They gained approval in October 1952.

The final Butter and Beef designs were not based on particular locales, although various photographs had been used to ensure accuracy of detail. The wheat-harvesting scene, likewise, was not intended to represent a particular



Fig. 6

Fig. 7

Fig. 8

wheat-growing district although the photograph used for the design was taken on a property in Victoria, the harvesting machine shown being a 12-foot No. 2 Sunshine header, hauled by an H. V. McKay-Massey Harris Model 25 tractor.

Until this time, the only Australian letterpress-printed commemorative stamp had been the 2d Sydney Harbour Bridge stamp of 1932, although an engraved version had been issued at the same time. While the circumstances dictated that the stamps of the Food Production series should be letterpress-printed, the process was not subsequently utilized for any later commemorative or definitive stamps.

The sheet arrangement adopted in this instance for both 3d and 3½d values was unusual at that period in that sheets comprised 100 subjects. The sheets were divided into two panes, each of 50. In each pane the three designs occurred in the sequence of Butter, Wheat and Beef, the first two appearing 17 times each and the latter 16 times. Thus in the sheet of 100 there were 34 each of the Butter and Wheat designs and 32 of the Beef design.

To make the printing plates, the black and white drawings which comprised the final designs were reduced photographically to stamp size and duplicated to the extent necessary to lay down sets of 50 of each denomination. Line process-engraved copper blocks were then made and used to make up the required number of printing plates.

3d green (Figs. 3 to 5); 3½d red (Figs. 6 to 8); issued: 11 February 1953.

Final designs by G. Lissenden.

Letterpress-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 100, perf. 14½ x 14¾.

Quantities: 3d: 57,499,500 (Butter and Wheat each 19,549,830; Beef: 18,399,840).

3½d: 96,379,000 (Butter and Wheat each 32,768,860; Beef: 30,841,280).

CORONATION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 1953

Immediately following the accession of Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 1952, the Australian Post Office moved to obtain approved photographs of Her Majesty to enable stamp designs to be prepared. These, taken by the Royal photographer, Dorothy Wilding Ltd., were received from London early in April 1952 and, as related in the Post Office booklet "The Definitive Stamps of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952-65", were utilized for the preparation of designs of a new definitive series.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

Simultaneously, the Note Printing Branch had in hand, utilizing the same group of photographs, preliminary designs for a series which would specifically commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty, arranged to take place at Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953.

Three of the preliminary designs prepared at the Note Printing Branch are illustrated at Figs. 53 to 55. The first two shown were proposed to be side by side in the sheet. Following consideration of the designs, it was decided that a common design would be used for the three intended values, 3½d, 7½d and 2/-. One of the preliminary designs was also selected for further development and a number of alternative forms, based thereon, were prepared, two of these being illustrated at Figs. 56 and 57.

As will be seen from the illustrations of the issued stamps, the commemorative inscription is superimposed on an outline of St. Edward's Crown, this form of crown being that adopted by Her Majesty following her accession.

3½d scarlet, 7½d violet, 2/- slate green (Figs. 9 to 11); issued: 25 May 1953.

Designed and engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14¾ x 14.

Quantities: 3½d, 78,090,000; 7½d, 2,339,600; 2/-, 4,196,640.

25th ANNIVERSARY OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS, 1953

A proposal that a special stamp be issued in 1953 to mark the 25th anniversary of Young Farmers' Clubs or Junior Farmers' Clubs movements in Australia was advanced by the Junior Farmers Clubs' Council of New South Wales in April 1952, and was adopted by the Post Office.

While Young Farmers' Clubs, variously named, had been in existence considerably more than 25 years earlier, they had not been organized on a State basis until 1928. The organization was modelled, to some extent, on similar clubs in Great Britain, Canada and U.S.A., practical training being given in many facets of farming practice. The first State organization (N.S.W.) was established



Fig. 12

on 25 July 1928 and in other States shortly afterwards. In the year that the request for the special stamp was made, 1952, the several State bodies became associated in an Australian Council of Young Farmers.

Various preliminary designs for a stamp were prepared by Post Office artists and that shown at Fig. 58, depicting a Jersey calf and children, was selected for further development. This task was entrusted to the Note Printing Branch and the revised drawings shown at Figs. 59 and 60, led to the final acceptable form.

The issued stamp is of particular technical interest as it was the first Australian bicoloured stamp to be recess-printed at the Note Printing Branch. It happened also that it was the first bicoloured Australian commemorative stamp.

3½d red-brown and deep green (Fig. 12); issued: 3 September 1953.

Original design by a Post Office artist; final design by P. E. Morris; engraved by E. R. M. Jones.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 100, perf.

14¾ x 14½.

Quantity: 27,279,300.

150th ANNIVERSARY OF SETTLEMENT IN TASMANIA, 1953

To Abel Tasman, a Dutch sea captain, goes the credit of discovering Tasmania, which he called "Van Diemen's Land", in 1642. However, it was not colonized until September 1803 when a small party, sent by Governor King of New South Wales, landed at Risdon. At that time, Van Diemen's Land was regarded as part of New South Wales and the establishment of a settlement was seen as a deterrent to possible occupation by other nations.

Lieutenant-Governor David Collins arrived in February 1804 with 330 convicts and the colony formally came into being on the site which Collins selected, now the city of Hobart.

After active service in the Royal Marines, Collins had been appointed Judge-Advocate of New South Wales in 1786 and, following his arrival in the following year, he was also Colonial Secretary. He had returned to England in 1796 and

accepted the new appointment in 1803. Collins experienced many difficulties before the settlement was successfully established. He died in 1810 while Hobart was still very young.

The Governor of New South Wales decided also to locate a second settlement in northern Tasmania and Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson, with the title of Lieutenant-Governor, was appointed to form this settlement, first established at Port Dalrymple in November 1804 and moved to the present site of Launceston in 1806.

Paterson had first arrived in New South Wales in 1781 and for some time served in the New South Wales Corps. After establishing the new settlement, Paterson returned to Sydney, where he was Acting Governor for some 12 months. Coincidentally, he also died in 1810.

A proposal that postage stamps be issued in 1953 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of settlement in Tasmania was advanced by the Premier of that State in May 1952. Later, in October, he conveyed a suggestion by the Tasmanian Sesquicentenary Committee that there should be three stamps of different denominations, one being a large pictorial of high denomination showing the settlement at Sullivan Cove and the two other stamps with portraits depicting respectively Lieutenant-Governors Collins and Paterson.



Fig. 13

Fig. 14

The Post Office, in adopting the proposal, considered that equal weight would be given to the two portrait stamps by their appearing side by side in the same sheet. The portrait of Collins was copied from the frontispiece of a book he had published in 1804: "An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales". The Paterson representation was copied from a portrait by William Owen, R.A., in the Dixon Collection in the Public Library of New South Wales. The heraldic lion to be seen on both portrait stamps is the State emblem of Tasmania. Both these stamps were of 3½d denomination.

The value for the pictorial stamp was determined as 2/-. The scene shows the "Ocean", 481 tons, at anchor in the cove off Hunter's Island with Collins' camp at Sullivan Cove, Hobart, February 1804, in the background. The design closely followed Beattie's photograph of an original sketch, entitled "The First Days of Hobart", held in the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

All the stamp designs were prepared at the Note Printing Branch and in their final forms had the approval of the Tasmanian authorities. The photographs shown at Figs. 61 to 64 are illustrative of stages of design development.



Fig. 15

$3\frac{1}{2}$ d maroon (Collins), $3\frac{1}{2}$ d maroon (Paterson), 2/- emerald green (Figs. 13 to 15); issued: 23 September 1953.

$3\frac{1}{2}$ d (both types) designed by E. R. M. Jones and engraved by D. Cameron; 2/- designed and engraved by G. Lissenden.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper, perf. $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$: (a) $3\frac{1}{2}$ d (Collins) and $3\frac{1}{2}$ d (Paterson) in alternate vertical rows in the sheet; issued in sheets of 160; (b) 2/- issued in sheets of 80.

Quantities: $3\frac{1}{2}$ d, 18,979,200 of each design; 2/-, 2,312,000.

CENTENARY OF FIRST TASMANIAN POSTAGE STAMP, 1953

Tasmania, then known as Van Diemen's Land, was the third Australian colony to issue postage stamps, these appearing in 1853, three years after the first stamps of New South Wales and Victoria.

The Post Office had issued commemorative stamps in 1950 to mark the centenaries of the first New South Wales and Victorian stamps and because of this precedent accepted a suggestion from Tasmanian philatelic societies that a similar stamp should be issued for the new occasion.

The first Tasmanian stamps comprised 1d and 4d values in different designs but as only one commemorative stamp could be issued it was decided in March 1953 that the design should comprise a representation of the original 4d, this being considered more suitable aesthetically than the 1d.



Fig. 16

The intended date of issue was early in November 1953 and because at that time the 3½d stamps of the series commemorative of the 150th Anniversary of Settlement in Tasmania would still be on current sale at post offices, the denomination of 3d was determined for the new stamps.

During April and May 1953 various suggested designs — three being illustrated at Figs. 65 to 67 — were prepared at the Note Printing Branch. None of these met with acceptance and Mr. R. L. Beck was then engaged to prepare a new design which embodied some of the features of the preliminary designs. As approved, the Beck design had frame lines on all sides. However, after proofs from the engraved die had been viewed it was decided that the frame lines should be eliminated and consequently they did not appear in the issued stamp.

3d vieux-rose (Fig. 16); issued 11 November 1953.

Designed by R. L. Beck and engraved by G. Lissenden.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 120, perf.

14½ x 14¾.

Quantity: 23,404,680.

ROYAL VISIT, 1954



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

Following the announcement, early in 1953, that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh would visit Australia, during the course of an extended tour, from February 1954, the Australian Government decided that a special series of stamps would be issued to mark this important occasion, the first upon which a reigning sovereign was to visit Australia.

The Post Office quickly took steps to secure from London a number of new photographs of the Queen and the Duke. These, the work of the Royal photographer, Dorothy Wilding Ltd., were received in June 1953.

The Note Printing Branch was then asked to prepare preliminary designs based on the photographs. When these were considered early in July 1953 the design shown at Fig. 68 was selected for development while that at Fig. 69 was dropped



Fig. 19

and a new design requested. Some aspects of the further stages are shown in the illustrations at Figs. 70 and 71. The design for the 3½d stamp was also intended for the 2/-.

Both tentative designs underwent further slight modifications, including the re-designing, by Mr. Ralph Warner, of the border and lettering for the 7½d, before they received Royal approval in September 1953.

3½d rose scarlet, 7½d purple, 2/- deep green (Figs. 17 to 19); issued: 2 February 1954.

3½d and 2/- designed and engraved by F. D. Manley. 7½d: overall design and engraving by F. D. Manley; border and lettering designed by R. M. Warner. Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf. 14½ x 14 (3½d and 2/-) and 14 x 14½ (7½d).

Quantities: 3½d: 79,877,280; 7½d: 1,908,640; 2/-: 4,611,280.

CENTENARY OF THE TELEGRAPH IN AUSTRALIA, 1954

Australia's first telegraph line, connecting Melbourne and Williamstown, Victoria, a distance of 11¾ miles, was opened in March 1854. This historic achievement came only 10 years after successful telegraph communication had come into being in the United States of America.



Fig. 20

Following the initial line in Victoria, other telegraph lines were erected in South Australia (1856), Tasmania (1857), New South Wales (1858), Queensland (1861) and Western Australia (1869). The systems quickly expanded within the separate colonies and by July 1858 Melbourne and Adelaide were linked and in October of the same year Melbourne and Sydney. A submarine telegraph cable between Victoria and Tasmania was in operation in 1859 and the inter-colonial linkage was completed when Sydney and Brisbane were joined in 1861 and Perth and Adelaide in 1877. Earlier, in 1872, the overland telegraph between Adelaide and Port Darwin had been put into operation.

The proposal that a commemorative postage stamp be issued originated within the Telegraph Branch of the Post Office in April 1953 and in view of the importance of the occasion was readily adopted.

Initial sketches were then prepared by Post Office artists and passed to the Note Printing Branch for development. While that Branch subsequently prepared a number of designs — two of these are illustrated at Figs. 72 and 73 — none of them proved acceptable. It was then decided that Mr. Ralph Warner should be asked to prepare a design of symbolic nature.

Mr. Warner's first rough sketch was considered to provide a satisfactory basis and the artist, using photographs of telegraph poles and a morse key, advanced the design in two stages to final acceptance. The first two versions of the Warner design are shown at Figs. 74 and 75.

3½d dark crimson (Fig. 20); issued: 7 April 1954.

Designed by R. M. Warner and engraved by P. E. Morriss.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14 x 14¼.

Quantity: 39,994,320.

40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, 1954

As early as 1950 the Australian Red Cross Society was seeking the issue of a stamp to signify the work of the Red Cross. While this and further requests were not met on the basis originally proposed, it was agreed in 1953 that a special stamp would be issued during the following year to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Society.

The Red Cross in Australia commenced operations on 13 August 1914, as a branch of the British Red Cross Society, to succour the wounded in World War I. The Australian Red Cross became recognized as an autonomous body in 1927 and in 1941 was incorporated by Royal Charter.

Apart from being the 40th year of the Australian Society, 1954 was also celebrated throughout the world as the 90th Anniversary of the first Geneva

Convention of 1864 when the Red Cross came into being as an international force dedicated to the care of the sick and wounded in times of war.

The first group of designs to be considered by the Post Office was submitted by the Australian Red Cross Society, two of these being shown at Figs. 76 and 77. A further group was subsequently prepared by Post Office artists, two of these appearing at Figs. 78 and 79. However, none of the designs proved acceptable and the Note Printing Branch was then asked to prepare designs on particular lines — the presentation of a globe, with the Australian continent prominent in the foreground and with a cross in red. The whole design was intended to symbolize the importance of the Red Cross to Australia and its territories.



Fig. 21

Quite a number of modifications of this theme were made before a final design could be accepted. A difficulty encountered related to the presentation of the Australian continent on the globe and this was overcome only by having an actual globe photographed and the prints utilized to achieve accuracy of perspective. Some aspects of the development of the design are shown by the illustrations at Figs. 80 and 81.

An important aspect in the production of this bicoloured stamp was that rather than use recess-printing for both colours, it was found more convenient to recess-print the main part of the stamp and to apply the red cross in a second printing, using the letterpress process.

3½d ultramarine and red (Fig. 21); issued 9 June 1954.

Designed by B. Stewart and engraved by P. E. Morriss.

Recess-printed (with red cross letterpress-printed) on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 120, perf. $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$.

Quantity: 36,878,040.

CENTENARY OF THE FIRST WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE STAMP, 1954

Philatelic societies in Western Australia proposed to the Post Office early in 1953 that a special stamp be issued in the following year to mark the centenary of the first Western Australian stamp, this having appeared on 1 August 1854.

In view of established precedent, the proposal was adopted and, quite early, consideration was given to several unsolicited designs submitted by Mr. J. L.



Fig. 22

C'Zelenski of Western Australia, one of these being illustrated at Fig. 82. However, none of the designs found acceptance.

Mr. Richard Beck was then commissioned to prepare a preliminary design which was to incorporate a representation of the first stamp, the main feature of which was a black swan, the emblem of the colony.

This design was accepted in principle but it was then decided that it was preferable that the swan be shown in darker tone and that the stamp be also printed in black, as was the original stamp. The preliminary and revised designs are shown at Figs. 83 and 84. Some further slight modifications of the latter were made before final approval was given.

3 1/2d black (Fig. 22); issued: 2 August 1954.

Designed by R. L. Beck and engraved by G. Lissenden.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 120, perf.

14 3/4 x 14 1/2.

Quantity: 38,253,480.

CENTENARY OF RAILWAYS IN AUSTRALIA, 1954

The first steam railway in Australia, between Melbourne and Sandridge (now Port Melbourne), a distance of 2 miles 64 chains, was opened for public traffic on 13 September 1854. From this small beginning grew the network of railways which gradually spread in each of the colonies.

In New South Wales, the first steam railway ran from Sydney to Grantville (then known as Parramatta) and opened on 26 September 1855. The Adelaide to Port



Fig. 23

Adelaide steam railway in South Australia opened on 21 April 1856 and in Queensland the railway from Ipswich to Biggs Camp (now known as Grandchester) commenced on 31 July 1865. Tasmania's first line, from Launceston to Deloraine, operated from 10 February 1871 and in Western Australia the first line, from Geraldton to Northampton, commenced on 26 July 1879.

During 1953, Commonwealth and State railway departments suggested to the Post Office that the centenary of the steam railway in Australia should be marked in 1954 by the issue of a special series of postage stamps. However, as the policy at the time dictated a single stamp for such an occasion, the proposal was adopted on that basis only.

It was considered that the subject might best be expressed by the contrast of old and new forms of locomotives on the one stamp but some difficulty was experienced at the outset in achieving this objective.

Initial designs considered had been suggested by the South Australian Railways (Fig. 85), Victorian Railways (Fig. 86) and the Note Printing Branch (Fig. 87). It was then decided that Mr. Ralph Warner should be commissioned to prepare preliminary designs which would be expressive of the subject and from two of these (Figs. 88 and 89) was developed a suitable concept for the presentation of both early and modern engines on the single stamp.

The form of the early steam railway locomotive shown on the issued stamp was based on a drawing supplied to the Post Office by the Victorian Railways and generally represented the original type used in Victoria in 1854. The modern diesel-electric engine depicted, while not that of any particular system, was generally typical of those running on Commonwealth and State railway systems at the time.

3½d red-brown (Fig. 23); issued: 13 September 1954.

Designed by R. M. Warner and engraved by G. Lissenden.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14½ x 14.

Quantity: 37,514,640.

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC RESEARCH, 1954

Australia's political interest in the Antarctic continent had its official beginning in 1933 when it accepted from Great Britain the sector now known as Australian Antarctic Territory.

For many years earlier, however, Australians had been concerned with explorations of large areas of Antarctica as members of various important expeditions. Sir Douglas Mawson's Australian Antarctic Expedition of 1911-13 established bases on the Antarctic continent and made major contributions to the knowledge of the adjacent areas.



Fig. 24

Shortly after the end of World War II, the first Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition was organized and stations were set up in sub-Antarctica in 1947-48, at Heard Island and Macquarie Island. The first continuing station on the Antarctic mainland was established in 1954, being named Mawson.

A proposal that a postage stamp be issued in 1953 to mark Australia's long interest in the Antarctic, and the intended establishment of the first mainland station, was advanced in the second half of 1953 but it was not then practicable, because of the limited time available, to accede to the request.

However, it was agreed, early in 1954, to issue a stamp later in that year to commemorate Australian Antarctic research generally. A preliminary sketch prepared by a Post Office artist (Fig. 90) was not deemed suitable and it was then decided that an appropriate design subject would be the badge or emblem of the Antarctic Division, then attached to the Department of External Affairs.

The badge itself had been designed some time earlier by Mrs. G. Law, wife of the then Director of the Antarctic Division. In the centre was a map of the Antarctic continent with the Australian Antarctic Territory shown. The locations of Macquarie and Heard Islands were also indicated. Contained within the outer circular frame were small drawings illustrative of some of the fauna and flora to be found in sub-Antarctic and Antarctic regions. So that the design could be readily accommodated, a size not previously used for commemorative stamps was adopted, this coinciding with that of the then current high value Coat of Arms definitive stamps.

The first Note Printing Branch design is illustrated at Fig. 91. At Fig. 92 is shown a photograph of a proof taken from the engraving of the approved design. Following close examination of this, it was decided that the site of Mawson should be indicated closer to the coast and that the island adjacent to the Antarctic mainland, facing the tip of South America, should be shown, in accordance with latest discoveries, as part of the Antarctic continent. The die was altered accordingly so that those minor changes were reflected in the issued stamp.

3½d blue-black (Fig. 24); issued: 17 November 1954.

Designed by F. D. Manley and engraved by G. Lissenden.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 60, perf.

14¼ x 13¾.

Quantity: 64,635,960.

OLYMPIC GAMES PUBLICITY, 1954



Fig. 25

Melbourne, Victoria, was selected as the venue of the XVIth Olympiad 1956 well in advance so that the lengthy preparations necessary to stage the Olympic Games could be put in train.

As the occasion was to be one which would attract many visitors, very extensive publicity was undertaken by the Olympic Games Organizing Committee and, as part of this effort, a competition for a suitable poster design was held. The winner of the competition was Mr. Richard L. Beck of Victoria.

When the Post Office accepted, early in 1954, the proposal of the Organizing Committee that a special stamp be issued later that year to serve as a further means of advance publicity for the Games, it was recognized that an adaptation of the prize-winning poster design would prove suitable for the stamp design.

The Note Printing Branch was asked to prepare a preliminary design accordingly. Following consideration of this, it was decided that it would be more appropriate for the artist responsible for the poster, Mr. Beck, to prepare the final stamp design also and he was thereupon commissioned to that effect.

The illustrations at Figs 93 and 94 show respectively the preliminary Note Printing Branch design and the first version of Mr. Beck's design. With slight modifications, this latter became the approved design.

2/- deep blue (Fig. 25); issued: 1 December 1954.

Designed by R. L. Beck and engraved by P. E. Morriss.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14 x 14¼.

Quantity: 3,204,320.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL, 1955

The first Rotary Club was founded in Chicago, U.S.A., in February 1905. Fifty years later, in the final week of February 1955, Rotarians through the world celebrated the golden jubilee of the organization.

Rotary Clubs in Australia were first established in 1921, in Sydney and Melbourne, and similar clubs subsequently came into being in cities and towns throughout the continent. Rotarians are active in various forms of service to the general community, particularly in the fields of local advancement and improvement, assistance to handicapped children and in aid of the Boy Scout movement. Especially, Rotarians seek to further better international understanding and goodwill.

A proposal was advanced early in 1954 by the Rotary movement in Australia that a stamp be issued in February of the following year to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Rotary International.



Fig. 26

Following Post Office adoption of the proposal, several preliminary designs were prepared at the Note Printing Branch, two being illustrated at Figs. 95 and 96. One of the group was then selected for further development, with alternative forms of presentation, two progress stages being shown at Figs. 97 and 98.

The final design depicted the Rotary badge, superimposed on a globe upon which parts of the Australian and American continents were indicated. The flags in the background were intended to represent the international character of the movement.

3½d claret (Fig. 26); issued: 23 February 1955.

Designed and engraved by D. Cameron.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14 x 14¼.

Quantity: 36,358,000.



Fig. 27

AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP, 1955

Proposals for a postage stamp significant of Australian-American co-operation had been advanced as early as 1949 and had become linked with other proposals for stamps to commemorate the memorable Coral Sea Battle of 1942. It was also suggested in 1949 that a projected monument to the United States Forces in Australia, intended to be erected in Canberra, might prove a suitable design subject within the overall theme of Australian-American friendship.

The general proposal was accordingly kept in mind and while the Post Office was unable to agree that such a stamp might specifically mark the unveiling of the monument in February 1953, it was considered appropriate that the monument itself should appear on a stamp to be issued in the following year to signify Australian-American collaboration during and since World War II.

The monument had been first proposed by the Australian-American Association in 1946 and as a result of funds for its erection being raised by public subscription in 1950, it became possible to commence construction shortly afterwards. The tall slender tower, surmounted by a sphere and eagle, is a Canberra landmark, visited by thousands of tourists annually. The commemorative plaque at its base was unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 16 February 1954.

Because of the height of the monument, it was considered that only the upper portion might adequately be shown on the stamp, although some of the preliminary designs prepared at the Note Printing Branch (Figs. 99 and 100) essayed other presentations.

Mr. R. Beck was also commissioned and his first draft design is shown at Fig. 101. This became modified by the insertion, at the Note Printing Branch, of a new head presentation of Her Majesty, based on a bas-relief by W. L. Bowles. Subsequently, some slight modifications of lettering were effected.

3½d bright violet blue (Fig. 27); issued: 4 May 1955.

Overall design by R. L. Beck; head of Queen by F. D. Manley. Engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14 x 14¼.

Quantity: 35,968,160.

PIONEERS OF COACHING ERA IN AUSTRALIA, 1955

The decision to issue stamps in tribute to the early coaching pioneers stemmed from suggestions made to the Post Office in 1952-53, in which it had been proposed that there should be stamps commemorative of the centenary of the famous coaching firm of Cobb and Co. While the specific proposal was not adopted, the Post Office did decide that it would be appropriate to honor coaching pioneers generally by means of a commemorative stamp.

Cobb and Co. was outstandingly prominent in the development of coaching services in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, although there were many other firms and individuals actively engaged in coaching. Some of these also used the name of "Cobb and Co." The original firm of that name had its beginning in Melbourne in the second half of 1853, at a time when the gold discoveries attracted large inflows of people. The operations of the firm were at peak in the early 1870s when its coaches were travelling more than 28,000 miles each week and it was receiving nearly £100,000 per annum for the carriage of mails. The gradual decline which followed was brought about by the steady extension of railway services.

It was decided that the stamp design should be a representation of an etching by Sir Lionel Lindsay, entitled "Cobb and Co." (Fig. 102). The sketch of horses and coach was made by Sir Lionel in the early 1890s on the Western Australian goldfields, the driver at the time being Jim Wilkinson, one of the finest "whips" in Australia. Due to other commitments, it was not practicable to issue the stamp until 1955, when it appeared in two denominations, 3½d and 2/-.



Fig. 28



Fig. 29

Preliminary designs were prepared at the Note Printing Branch and in subsequent development the coach was presented in as large a form as practicable. Slight modifications were also made following advice from Sir Lionel. An advanced stage of the development is shown at Fig. 103.

3d sepia, 2/- warm brown (Figs. 28 and 29); issued 6 July 1955.

Etching by Sir Lionel Lindsay; design adaptations and engraving by F. D. Manley. Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14½ x 14.

Quantities: 3½d: 33,981,120; 2/-, 2,295,600.



Fig 30

WORLD CENTENARY OF Y.M.C.A., 1955

The Young Men's Christian Association is recorded as having its origin in Scotland in 1824, Switzerland in 1825, and in other countries in following years. It was first established in London in 1844. The movement had as its aim the Christian development of young men and boys, and the furthering of better understanding between individuals, peoples and countries of the world. Avowedly both national and international in outlook, it attracted firm support from the young and the movement spread rapidly. At the first world conference of Young Men's Christian Associations, held in Paris in 1855, eight countries were represented by 99 delegates.

The first Australian association came into being in 1852, near Adelaide, and companion associations were established soon afterwards in the other Australian colonies.

Following representations by the National Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations in Australia early in 1954, the Post Office agreed to issue a special stamp in 1955 which would recognize the work, over more than 100 years, of the Y.M.C.A. in Australia, and at the same time commemorate the World Centennial, intended to be celebrated in 1955. This occasion was to mark the centenary of the founding of the world alliance of Y.M.C.A.s and not that of the initial origin of the movement.

Mr. Eric Thake of Melbourne was commissioned to prepare preliminary stamp designs, two being illustrated at Figs. 104 and 105. After consideration of these, Mr. Thake was asked to prepare a new sketch (Fig. 106) to meet Post Office requirements. From this, the final design was evolved.

As will be seen from the illustration of the issued stamp, its main feature is a map of the world in a modified sinusoidal projection, with the familiar Y.M.C.A. red triangle appearing at the lower left. The triangle was applied in a second letterpress printing.

3½d grey-green and red (Fig. 30); issued: 10 August 1955.

Designed by E. Thake and engraved by P. E. Morriss.

Recess-printed (with red triangle letterpress-printed) on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf. 14¼ x 14.

Quantity: 32,558,400.

NURSING PROFESSION AND CENTENARY OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE IN CRIMEA, 1955

An amalgamation of several proposals made to the Post Office in 1954 led to the decision to issue in the following year a special stamp which would pay tribute to the nursing profession generally, recognize the centenary of Florence Nightingale in the Crimea and signify the importance of maintaining health standards in Australia. The design of the issued stamp reflected the threefold intention by portraying a modern nurse with the figure of Florence Nightingale in the background.

Although Florence Nightingale never visited Australia, a small group of her own trained nurses came to Sydney Hospital in 1868. Subsequently, in 1874, she gave advice on necessary reforms in a long letter to the chairman of a Royal Commission set up to enquire into the state of the hospital.

Florence Nightingale (1820-1910) first gained recognition by reason of her work during the Crimea War where she and her band of nurses succeeded in establishing reasonable hospital standards in the face of great difficulties. The value of her work captured the imagination of the British public. It also impressed the home authorities and enabled her to bring about, in later years, many reforms in hospital practice and administration in England.



Fig. 31

Initially, the Post Office considered a number of designs submitted by the Royal Victorian College of Nursing and the Australian Nursing Federation, one such being illustrated at Fig. 107. As none of these suggestions proved acceptable, a series of preliminary designs was prepared at the Note Printing Branch, two being shown at Figs. 108 and 109. From this group final designs were developed, one of the early stages being illustrated at Fig. 110.

The figure of Florence Nightingale was taken from a publication of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. The lantern shown, of concertina pattern, was copied from a photograph of the original lamp used by Florence Nightingale. The modern nurse shown was not a portrayal of any particular person but typified the nursing profession in Australia.

3½d reddish violet (Fig. 31); issued: 21 September 1955.

Designed and engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14 x 14¼.

Quantity: 33,476,800.

CENTENARY OF FIRST SOUTH AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE STAMPS, 1955



Fig. 32

South Australia was the fifth Australian colony to issue postage stamps. A stamp of 2d denomination appeared on 1 January 1855 and was followed by 1d and 6d stamps in October of the same year.

Following the acceptance of a proposal by the South Australian Government that a centenary commemorative stamp be issued in 1955, the Post Office considered various unsolicited and commissioned designs but none of these was thought to be entirely adequate. Three of this group of designs are shown at Figs. 111 to 113. The Note Printing Branch was then asked to prepare new designs on indicated lines and one of these, with minor modifications, was subsequently adopted.

The commemorative stamp design incorporated the head of Queen Victoria, as it appeared on the first South Australian stamp, and other features of the original stamp design.

3½d bright green (Fig. 32); issued: 17 October 1955.

Designed and engraved by D. Cameron.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 120, perf.

14½ x 14¾.

Quantity: 34,188,000.

OLYMPIC GAMES PUBLICITY, 1955

As earlier described, the Post Office had issued on 1 December 1954 a special stamp intended to serve as a form of publicity for the XVIth Olympiad, planned to be held in Melbourne in 1956.

The success of this stamp, as a means of drawing attention to the venue, was such that in 1955 the Olympic Games Organizing Committee approached the Post Office with a view of having a further such stamp issued later in that year. While the Post Office was unable to consider the production of an entirely new stamp, because of time and other factors, it agreed to re-issue the 1954 stamp so that overseas interest in Australia and the Olympic Games could be maintained. A distinctly different colour was selected so that the two issues could not be subsequently confused.

2/- deep bluish green (Fig. 25); issued: 30 November 1955.

Designed by R. L. Beck and engraved by P. E. Morriss.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Quantity: 3,936,000.

CENTENARY OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA AND TASMANIA, 1956

The move to responsible government in Australia, from the autocracy of the early Governors of New South Wales to the first representative parliaments, was a gradual process which reached maturity in 1855 and 1856.

From 1842, the existing Legislative Council in New South Wales, hitherto with a membership entirely nominated by the Governor, was liberalized to the extent that 24 of the 36 members were elected by the colonists. The same principle was followed in Victoria when it achieved separation in 1851 and had also been adopted in Tasmania, separated some years earlier.

Further development was facilitated by the passage through the Imperial



Fig. 33

Parliament of the Australian Colonies Government Act 1850 which enabled the colonies to draw up constitutions for the consideration of the home authorities. As a consequence, responsible government came into being in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

In New South Wales, the existing Legislative Council was replaced by a parliament of two houses, an elected Assembly and a Council nominated by the Crown. The first parliament under responsible government was opened on 22 May 1856.

In Victoria, the bicameral system of government, with membership of the Council and Assembly both elective, came into force late in 1855 and the first parliament opened on 21 November 1856.

The Tasmanian parliament followed generally the Victorian pattern of two elected Houses. It was first opened on 2 December 1856. From 1855, the colony was officially known as "Tasmania" instead of "Van Diemen's Land", although the new name had been in general use some years earlier.

The proposal for the special stamp was advanced by the Government of New South Wales and was specifically approved by the Prime Minister.

Various preliminary designs prepared by Post Office artists A. Quinn and L. Coles (Figs. 114 to 116) enabled a basic presentation to be evolved, this showing the badges of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, flanked at left and right respectively by the heads of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II. Final designs along intended lines were prepared at the Note Printing Branch.

The Queen Victoria head as presented was a reversal of the head as it appeared on Queensland and South Australian stamps. The head of Queen Elizabeth II accorded with that appearing on the contemporary 3½d stamp.

3½d lake (Fig. 33); issued: 26 September 1956.

Designed and engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14½ x 14.

Quantity: 32,950,000.

XVth OLYMPIAD, MELBOURNE, 1956

The Olympic Games, held in Melbourne from 22 November to 8 December 1956, was to that time Australia's greatest occasion. It was the first time the Games had taken place in Australia or, indeed, in the Southern Hemisphere. The original Games are said to have begun at Olympia in Greece in 776 B.C. and to have continued until 394 A.D. They were revived in 1896 at Athens and, except for the periods of the two world wars, have been held ever since in various cities throughout the world at four-yearly intervals.



Fig. 34



Fig. 35

The Post Office had decided early in 1954 that special efforts would be made to provide a series of commemorative stamps which would be in keeping with the importance of the Games and the selection of an Australian city as the venue. It was announced early in 1955 that the series would comprise three stamps, of 3½d, 7½d and 2/- denominations respectively, although the design subjects were not then indicated. At that time the 3½d was intended to show the Olympic torch and an athlete, the 7½d an aerial view of the main stadium and the 2/- a variant of the design used for the Olympic Games publicity stamps of 1954 and 1955. Three of the Note Printing Branch designs prepared at this time are illustrated at Figs. 117 to 119.

After a comprehensive review of the preliminary designs, and of various other designs which had been submitted, the Post Office plan was radically changed. It was decided that the 3½d stamp should show the Arms of the City of Melbourne, the host city, and the 7½d the Olympic Games medallion. A 1/- stamp was to be added to the series, this to show a view of Collins Street, or another city scene, and the 2/- a view of the city from across the Yarra River. The plan also provided that while the 3½d and 7½d stamps would be produced at the Note Printing Branch, the 1/- and 2/- stamps would be printed abroad by the multi-colour photogravure process.

The 3½d design passed through several developmental stages before gaining final approval (Figs. 120 and 123). The die was cut and proofs approved by April 1956. It was intended that the stamp be issued in special booklets as well as in the usual sheet form. The booklets, to the quantity of two million, were to contain information in the three languages of the Olympic Games Federation — French, Spanish and English.

The plates were made and some supplies of the stamps had been printed when, suddenly, the plan had to be changed. A postage rates increase was determined by the government, this to become effective before the Olympic Games stamp series was due for issue. A 4d stamp became an urgent necessity and the 3½d would not be required. The other values of the series were not affected.

The 3½d die was quickly altered to express the new value of 4d and new printing plates were hastened to completion. In view of the very limited time then avail-

able, the earlier intention to have booklets containing the low-value stamp had to be abandoned. Except for the specimens contained in the official Post Office collection, all printed supplies of the unissued 3½d stamp were subsequently destroyed.

The plan to show the Olympic medallion on the 7½d met with unexpected difficulties and early in 1955 it was decided to adopt as the design theme for that denomination the Olympic torch and rings, and the Southern Cross, earlier contemplated for the 3½d stamp, with some modification of inscriptions.



Fig. 36



Fig. 37

The designs of the 1/- and 2/- stamps, intended to be printed by the photogravure process, were generally based on colour transparencies. Earlier, several designs derived from photographs had been prepared by the Note Printing Branch, so that an appreciation could be made. Two of the several variants are shown at Figs. 124 and 125.

The decision to have the two higher-value stamps printed abroad resulted in the production of the 1/- being entrusted to Harrison and Sons Ltd., London. The designs subsequently prepared by that firm, for consideration by the Post Office, were based on colour photographs taken by Mr. M. Murphy, a Post Office photographer, and on visual colour sketches by Mr. L. Coles, a Post Office artist. The illustrations at Fig. 126 to 128 show respectively two preliminary rough drawings and a proof of the selected design.

Courvoisier S.A., La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, printed the 2/- stamp, the basic colour photographs used for the design in this instance being also the work of Mr. M. Murphy. The first design provided by the firm required very little modification to prove acceptable. Apart from the aspect of design, both firms necessarily furnished a wide variety of colour proofs so that final colour combinations could be determined.

4d carmine, 7½d bright blue, 1/- brown, blue, green and yellow, 2/- light blue, yellow, greyish violet and rose (Figs. 34 to 37); issued: 31 October 1956.

4d: designed by P. E. Morriss and engraved by F. D. Manley.

7½d: designed and engraved by F. D. Manley.

1/-: designed by Harrison and Sons Ltd. (based on photographs and sketches earlier noted).

2/-: designed by Courvoisier S.A. (based on photographs earlier noted).

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper at the Note Printing Branch, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Melbourne.

(a) 4d: sheets of 120, perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{3}{4}$.

(b) $7\frac{1}{2}$ d: sheets of 80, perf. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{4}$.

Photogravure-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80.

(c) 1/- (Harrison and Sons Ltd.) perf. $14\frac{1}{4} \times 14\frac{1}{2}$.

(d) 2/- (Courvoisier S.A.) perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$.

Quantities: 4d, 119,309,880; $7\frac{1}{2}$ d, 4,602,000; 1/-, 7,500,000; 2/-, 7,500,000.

CENTENARY OF RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1957



Fig. 38

In 1842 the colony of South Australia was granted a nominated Legislative Council consisting of the Governor and seven other members. Following the passing of the Australian Colonies Government Act by the British Parliament in 1850, the Council membership was broadened, on the New South Wales model, to comprise eight nominated and 16 elected members.

A draft constitution framed in the early 1850s which provided for an elected Assembly and a nominated Council was not approved by the British authorities because of protests from within the colony. Subsequent amendments, providing for members of both Council and Assembly to be elected, brought Imperial approval in 1856 and the first Parliament met on 22 April 1857.

In November 1956 the Government of South Australia asked the Post Office to issue, in the following year, a stamp to commemorate its centenary of self-government.

The request was accepted and the Note Printing Branch was asked to prepare a design which would incorporate a representation of the Coat of Arms of South Australia. The design (Fig. 129), without any further modification, was approved.

4d red-brown (Fig. 38); issued: 17 April 1957.

Designed and engraved by P. E. Morriss.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 120, perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{3}{4}$.

Quantity: 31,246,440.

CHRISTMAS, 1957

From about 1952 the Post Office had given consideration from time to time to various proposals which sought the issue of stamps intended to be significant, in varying degree, of Christian and moral values, and of religious occasions, anniversaries and organisations. Many different events were suggested as subjects, as well as representations of works of religious art.

While in themselves many of the proposals proved unacceptable, the Post Office was led to adopt as a principle the desirability of issuing, when found practicable, a stamp which would have a spiritual theme. Initially, it was not determined how this might be interpreted and the heavy annual stamp programmes then in course of implementation precluded rapid advance in the project.

Over a period of some years, however, suggestions which appeared to lend themselves to design treatment were translated by Note Printing Branch artists into preliminary designs which were then carefully considered.

By late 1956, when it became possible to include the project in the 1957 programme, the basis of design presentation was determined as the spiritual significance of Christmas. A number of new designs, on indicated lines, were then prepared at the Note Printing Branch. One of these, showing a child at prayer and the Star of Bethlehem, was selected for development and was subsequently adopted.



Fig. 39



Fig. 40

The symbolic figure of the child was taken from a painting "The Child Samuel", by the English artist Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) and aspects of the design development are shown at Figs. 130 to 133. It was decided that the stamp should appear in both 3½d and 4d denominations.

3½d red, 4d purple (Figs. 39 and 40); issued: 6 November 1957.

Designed and engraved by D. Cameron.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14¼ x 14.

Quantities: 3½d, 86,258,000; 4d, 94,333,200.



Fig. 41

INAUGURATION OF QANTAS "ROUND THE WORLD" AIR SERVICE, 1958

Qantas is Australia's oldest airline, and the second oldest in the world. It was registered on 16 November 1920 as Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services Ltd., and its first regular service, Charleville-Cloncurry, commenced two years later. From this modest beginning its operations gradually expanded to embrace wide areas of western Queensland and the Northern Territory.

By 1934, with a change of name to Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., it was well established in the international field, flying the Brisbane-Singapore link on the Australia-England route and rapidly extending further afield.

Qantas played an important role during World War II and in the immediate post-war years was able to grow rapidly, establishing new routes to Japan, Hong Kong, Manila, New Guinea and points in the Pacific. In 1952 came the regular service to South Africa and in 1954 other services to the United States and Canada.

The proposal for the special stamp, advanced by Qantas and accepted by the Post Office, was associated with a further significant milestone. Rights had been obtained to fly beyond San Francisco to New York and London so that Qantas aircraft were able to complete the first Australian "Round the World" air service, a distance of more than 26,000 miles. The inaugural flight commenced from Sydney on 14 January 1958.

The design for the stamp, evolved at the Note Printing Branch, depicted a Super Constellation aircraft, with Qantas markings, over a representation of part of the globe. The descriptive text, in line with the purpose of the stamp, read "Encircling the Earth". Illustrations showing design development appear at Figs. 134 and 135.

2/- deep blue (Fig. 41); issued: 6 January 1958.

Designed and engraved by P. E. Morriss.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

$14\frac{1}{4} \times 14$.

Quantity: 3,606,000.

30th ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST AIR CROSSING OF TASMAN SEA, 1958

The first air crossing of the Tasman Sea, from Richmond, N.S.W., to Christchurch, New Zealand, was accomplished on 10-11 September 1928, by Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith. With him in the "Southern Cross" were Charles Ulm, H. A. Litchfield and T. H. McWilliam.

This historic flight of 14 hours and 25 minutes was one of the many achievements to that time of Australia's greatest aviator and in subsequent years "Smithy" was to establish many more new records in world aviation. The return flight, on 13-14 October 1928, constituted the first air crossing of the Tasman from New Zealand.

During 1957, the New Zealand Post Office proposed to its Australian counterpart that the 30th anniversary of the flight might be commemorated in the following year by the issue of a stamp by each administration, in a common design.

The Australian Post Office agreed and suggested that Mr. James Lyle, an Australian artist then resident in New Zealand, might be commissioned to prepare the stamp design which, it was agreed, might comprise a portrait of Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith and a representation of the "Southern Cross". This course was followed and various photographs of "Smithy" and the "Southern Cross" were supplied by the Australian Post Office for the assistance of the artist.

After various preliminary drawings had been prepared, and modifications made, both administrations approved the final design. It had also been arranged that both the New Zealand and Australian versions of the stamp would be produced at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne. Here, the first die cut was for the New Zealand stamp but as proofs therefrom were not considered entirely satisfactory, a second die had to be engraved. Proofs from this second die were approved and production of the New Zealand stamp, with a denomination of 6d, was then put in hand.



Fig. 42

The second New Zealand die was then used as the basis for the Australian die. The denomination of 8d was selected for the Australian stamp as this was the air mail rate at the time for a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter from Australia to New Zealand.

The illustrations at Figs. 136 to 138 are of photographs of preliminary designs prepared by the artist and at Figs. 139 and 140 of the first and second versions of the New Zealand die. As mentioned, the Australian version of the die was directly derived from the latter.

8d ultramarine (Fig. 42); issued: 27 August 1958.

Designed by J. E. Lyle; engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14 x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$.

Quantity: 2,827,434.

75th ANNIVERSARY OF BROKEN HILL, 1958



Fig. 43

Broken Hill had its beginning in 1883, when a prospector named Charles Rasp discovered an ore deposit in what is now the centre of the main Broken Hill lode. In the belief that he had found tin, Rasp pegged a mining claim and headed a syndicate of 14 members which sought to provide capital to advance the lease he had obtained. The discovery of silver chlorides in the Rasp shaft towards the close of 1884, and other finds nearby shortly afterwards, gave impetus to development. A number of mining companies were formed and active mining of silver-lead ore commenced in 1885. From that time Broken Hill grew rapidly to become a major world supplier of lead and zinc concentrates.

A proposal was advanced in 1957 by the City of Broken Hill that a stamp be issued in the following year to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the city. After acceptance of the suggestion, the Post Office considered various designs submitted by private individuals but no finality was then reached. Early in 1958 the City of Broken Hill, in an effort to secure a suitable design, conducted a local stamp design competition. From the many entries received, five designs were selected and these were then submitted to the Post Office. Two of this particular group of designs are illustrated at Figs. 141 and 142.

One of the final competition designs was the work of Mr. R. H. Evans of Broken Hill and the Post Office considered that this was suitable for development. A new design based thereon, and using photographic references, was then prepared at the Note Printing Branch. The Evans design and a final stage of its development are shown at Figs. 143 and 144 respectively.

4d chocolate (Fig. 43); issued: 10 September 1958.

Original design by R. H. Evans; adapted and engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

$14\frac{1}{4} \times 14$.

Quantity: 38,091,680.

CHRISTMAS, 1958

The favourable public response to the issue of Christmas stamps in 1957 led the Post Office to decide upon similar stamps for 1958.

The Note Printing Branch was accordingly asked to prepare a number of designs with themes which would emphasise the spiritual significance of Christmas. After consideration of these, a design illustrative of a Nativity scene, the visit of the shepherds, was selected and after some modifications was finally approved.



Fig. 44



Fig. 45

The illustrations at Figs. 145 and 146 are of two of the preliminary designs while those at Figs. 147 and 148 show two of the stages of the development of the selected theme.

As previously, it was decided that the stamps would appear in 3½d and 4d denominations.

3½d scarlet, 4d reddish violet (Figs. 44 and 45); issued: 5 November 1958.

Designed by D. Cameron and engraved by P. E. Morriss.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 120, perf.

$14\frac{1}{2} \times 14\frac{3}{4}$.

Quantities: 3½d, 107,228,040; 4d, 107,408,040.



Fig. 46

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE POST OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA, 1959

The Post Office had its beginning in Australia in 1809 when Isaac Nichols, Assistant to the Naval Officer in Sydney, was appointed to board vessels and receive inward mails. Additionally, an office was established at his house to receive all letters and parcels addressed to inhabitants of the Colony of New South Wales. A list of such articles was then to be posted. Upon delivery, recipients were required to pay charges ranging from 1/- for each letter to 5/- for a parcel weighing more than 20 lb. The date of the relevant government order, 25 April 1809, is regarded as the foundation day of the Australian Post Office of today.

In the following year Nichols was appointed an official postmaster and the delivery charges which he was empowered to levy on letters and parcels were greatly reduced.

The proposal that a special stamp be issued to mark the 150th anniversary originated within the Post Office early in 1958. Some years earlier, the Post Office had prepared a number of historical posters and one of the then unused designs, the work of Post Office artist R. Shackel, depicted Isaac Nichols boarding the brig "Experiment", the first vessel to reach Sydney from the United Kingdom after Nichols received his appointment. The ship, of 142 tons, dropped anchor in Sydney Harbour on 26 June 1809. The poster design is illustrated at Fig. 149.

The theme of the poster design was used as the basis for the preliminary stamp design prepared at the Note Printing Branch. Subsequently, an experimental die was cut although proofs from it were not found acceptable. It was found that various modifications were necessary to ensure historical accuracy in respect of the background, ship details and forms of dress. A photograph of a proof from a preliminary die is shown at Fig. 150.

The design was then carefully redrawn to include the required changes and opportunity was also taken at this time to recast the form of lettering.

4d deep blue (Fig. 46); issued: 22 April 1959.

Designed and engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf.

14½ x 14.

Quantity: 41,661,200.

CENTENARY OF SELF-GOVERNMENT IN QUEENSLAND, 1959

The Letters Patent constituting Queensland as a colony separate from New South Wales were issued in London on 6 June 1859 and the colony was proclaimed in December of that year. From 7 May 1860, when the first Parliament met, the colony had responsible government. Unlike other Australian colonies, it did not pass through a probationary period of government under a Legislative Council.

As early as 1956 the Government of Queensland proposed that a stamp be issued in 1959 to mark the centenary of the attainment of self-government and at that time also submitted three designs for consideration (Figs. 151 to 153). One of these designs showed Parliament House, Brisbane, with jacaranda in bloom, and although this particular design was not adopted its theme was followed for the issued stamp.

The Note Printing Branch was then asked to prepare designs incorporating the selected theme and also showing the State Coat of Arms. One of these, with minor modifications, gained the concurrence of the Queensland government and was adopted. Two of the preliminary stages of the design are illustrated at Figs. 154 and 155.



Fig. 47

An important aspect of the design was the inclusion of the jacaranda blossom which for many years was a feature of the Parliament House scene. It was necessary that this part of the design be accomplished at a second printing by the letterpress process. In this regard particular effort was directed to securing an ink colour which matched as closely as possible the colour of the jacaranda flower.

4d green and jacaranda blue (Fig. 47); issued: 5 June 1959.

Designed and engraved by G. Lissenden.

Recess-printed (with jacaranda blossom letterpress-printed) on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 80, perf. 14 x 14½.

Quantity: 39,606,080.

CHRISTMAS, 1959



Fig. 48

The first group of designs prepared for the Christmas 1959 stamp were of an experimental nature, being based on reproductions of selected works by Duerer and Raphael. All were the work of Note Printing Branch artists and two are illustrated at Figs. 156 and 157.

However, none of this group of designs was sufficiently favoured to gain acceptance and the Note Printing Branch was then asked to prepare a further group significant of the three Magi. One of these, showing a silhouette of the Magi, mounted on camels, with a distant view of Bethlehem at right, was selected for development and in its final form gained approval. Two unadopted designs of the second group are shown at Figs. 158 and 159 and at Figs. 160 and 161 two of the early stages in the development of the selected design are illustrated.

Owing to changes in postage rates which became effective on 1 October 1959, one stamp only, of 5d denomination, was provided.

5d reddish violet (Fig. 48); issued: 4 November 1959.

Designed and engraved by F. D. Manley.

Recess-printed on unwatermarked paper and issued in sheets of 120, perf.

14 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Quantity: 199,809,000.

APPENDIX Unadopted designs and stages of design development.



Fig. 49



Fig. 50

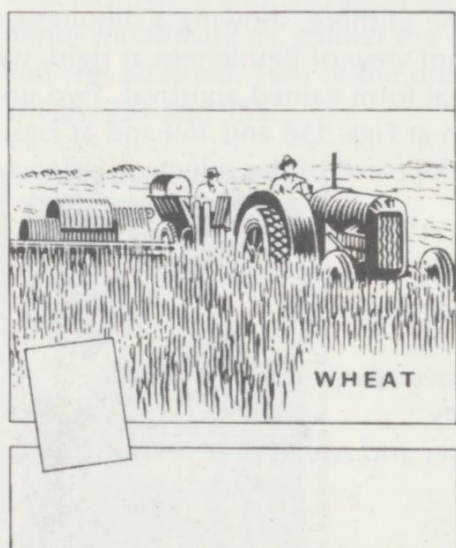


Fig. 51

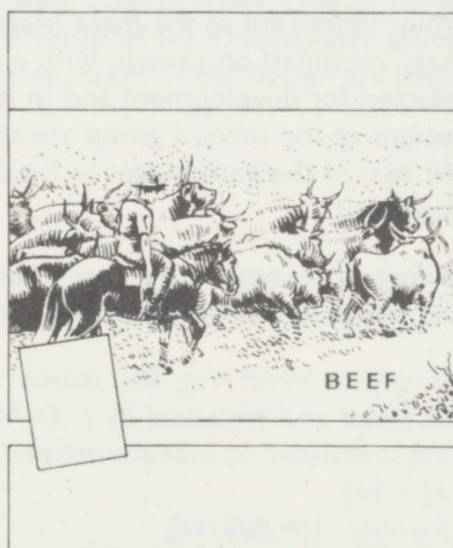


Fig. 52



Fig. 53



Fig. 54



Fig. 55



Fig. 56



Fig. 57



Fig. 58



Fig. 59



Fig. 60



Fig. 61

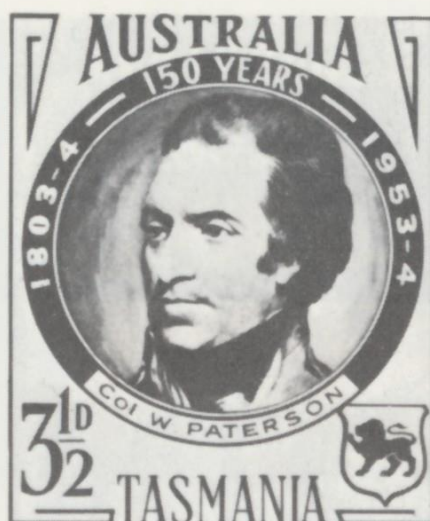


Fig. 62



Fig. 63



Fig. 64



Fig. 65



Fig. 66



Fig. 67



Fig. 68



Fig. 69



Fig. 70



Fig. 71



Fig. 72



Fig. 73



Fig. 74



Fig. 75



Fig. 76



Fig. 77



Fig. 78



Fig. 79



Fig. 80



Fig. 81



Fig. 82



Fig. 83



Fig. 84



Fig. 85



Fig. 86



Fig. 87



Fig. 88



Fig. 89



Fig. 90



Fig. 91



Fig. 92



Fig. 93



Fig. 94



Fig. 95



Fig. 96



Fig. 97



Fig. 98



Fig. 99



Fig. 100



Fig. 101



Fig. 102



Fig. 103



Fig. 104



Fig. 105



Fig. 106



Fig. 107



Fig. 108



Fig. 109



Fig. 110



Fig. 111



Fig. 112



Fig. 113



Fig. 114



Fig. 115



Fig. 116



Fig. 117



Fig. 118



Fig. 119



Fig. 120



Fig. 121



Fig. 122



Fig. 123



Fig. 124



Fig. 125



Fig. 126



Fig. 127



Fig. 128



Fig. 129



Fig. 130



Fig. 131



Fig. 132



Fig. 133



Fig. 134



Fig. 135



Fig. 136



Fig. 137



Fig. 138



Fig. 139



Fig. 140



Fig. 141



Fig. 142



Fig. 143



Fig. 144



Fig. 145



Fig. 146



Fig. 147



Fig. 148



Fig. 149



Fig. 150



Fig. 151



Fig. 152



Fig. 153

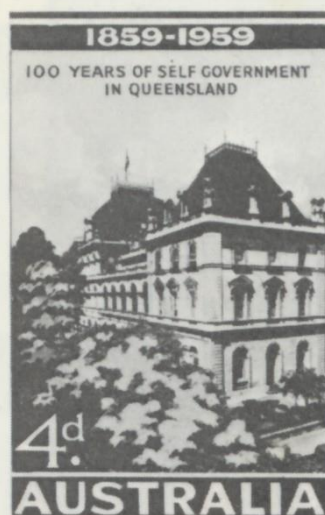


Fig. 154



Fig. 155



Fig. 156



Fig. 157



Fig. 158



Fig. 159



Fig. 160



Fig. 161

