

THE POSTAGE DUE STAMPS OF AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE



1890-1961



PRICE
50c

AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE

The POSTAGE DUE
Stamps of Australia
1890-1961

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 1901 to 1912-13.

Foreword

The subject matter of this booklet appeared previously in serial form in the *Australian Post Office Philatelic Bulletin*, commencing in the issue of February 1964 (Vol. 11, no. 4) and concluding in the issue of April 1965 (Vol. 12, no. 5).

It is reissued in booklet form to permit of easier reference and, as an appendix, information has been added concerning a 1916 proposal to provide a series of newspaper stamps, postage due stamps being used as models.

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Introduction

Prior to Federation, regulations of the Australian Colonial postal administrations provided that double the deficiency of postage on unpaid or insufficiently prepaid postal articles was to be collected upon delivery. Payment was made by the recipients either in cash or by means of unused postage stamps.

So that better supervision of such articles could be maintained and also to provide a form of receipt or voucher to indicate payment of the deficient postage, both the New South Wales and Victorian postal administrations decided in 1890 to issue separate series of postage due stamps. The Victorian series was introduced late in 1890 and the New South Wales series early in the following year. However, this innovation was not adopted by the other four colonies.

Shortly after Federation, when the Colonial postal administrations had become amalgamated into the Commonwealth Postmaster-General's Department, it was decided that postage due stamps should be used throughout Australia. The stamp series then introduced was made by slight modification of the several values of the New South Wales postage due series, which then ceased to be issued. The new postage due series was employed in all States except Victoria, the latter retaining its separate series. Subsequently, a new uniform series based on the Victorian design was adopted for Commonwealth-wide usage.

The Colonial postage due stamps were the progenitors of the Commonwealth postage due series, not only from the viewpoint of purpose, but also in design, and accordingly, are embraced in this article, which is therefore concerned in broad outline with all Australian postage due stamps.

The Victorian Series

The Victorian Postmaster-General decided, early in 1890, that postage due stamps should be introduced into use and regulations for the use of postage due stamps in lieu of dockets were approved on 24 March 1890. (Fig. 6.)

The general design for the first and subsequent issues is illustrated at Fig. 1. This design was evolved at the Victorian Government Printing Office which from 1885 had become responsible for the printing of all Victorian postage stamps.

The Postmaster-General had also decided that the stamps should be provided in a common design and printed in two colors so that they would be distinctively different from ordinary postage stamps. For the latter reason, it was necessary to make separate dies and plates for each value tablet although only one die was required for the frame design, the latter being common to all values. The dies for the ten value tablets were engraved by Arthur Williams and the frame die by John McWilliams, both of Melbourne.

The plates were arranged in undivided units of 120 (12 x 10), and the printing was carried out by the letterpress process at the Victorian Government Printing Office, Melbourne. The first series appeared in November 1890, the centre portion, the value tablet, being printed in dull blue color and the frame in brown-lake color. Considerable shade variations occurred in some printings, particularly of the ½d, 1d, 2d and 4d in which the brown-lake color tended towards brownish red and claret shades. Following the introduction of the stamps into use on 1 November 1890, notices drawing the attention of the public to the new requirements were exhibited at post offices. References also appeared in the press of the day.

First Series

1 November 1890. Type as Fig. 1. Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 2. Perf. 12 x 12½. Shades of dull blue (centre) and brown-lake (frame).

½d, 1d, 2d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 10d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-

Fig. 2

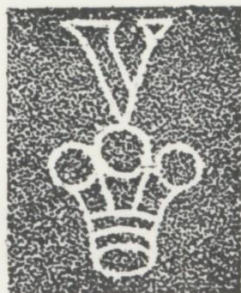


Fig. 1



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Second Series

During 1894, it was decided that the color presentation could be improved and as from 17 January 1895, the several values of the series began to appear with the centres printed in rosine color and with frames in bluish-green. Variations of shades occurred from the outset and the 2/- and 5/- stamps, when issued, were found to have centres in red color and frames in a distinctly different yellowish-green color. This difference is attributed to the fact that they were not printed at the same time as the eight lower denominations. These two stamps were not brought into use until March 1895.

Subsequently, from 1896, a new combination of shades, scarlet instead of rosine, and yellowish-green in lieu of the earlier bluish-green, was employed for the five lowest denominations of the group. About this time also it was decided to discontinue the 10d denomination.

Second Series

Type as Fig. 1. Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 2. Perf. 12 x 12½.

1895 (a) Centre : rosine. Frame : bluish-green. ½d, 1d, 2d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 10d, 1/-

(b) Centre : red. Frame : yellowish-green. 2/-, 5/-

1896 Centre : scarlet. Frame : yellow-green. ½d, 1d, 2d, 4d, 5d

Third Series

The main characteristic of the third series was that the stamps were printed on a new supply of paper in which the watermark device differed somewhat as regards detail, the form being shown at Fig. 3.

REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF POSTAGE DUE STAMPS IN LIEU OF DOCKETS.

Approved by the Governor in Council, 24th March, 1890.

1. These Regulations shall be in lieu of clauses 77 and 93 of the "General Regulations for the Conduct and Guidance of Postmasters," which are hereby cancelled.

2. Every letter, packet, or newspaper liable to a charge for collection on delivery will be stamped T on the address side, and the amount of the tax expressed in figures. All old "more to pay" stamps to be returned to the Stores Branch.

3. Special Postage Due stamps are to be used for the collection of unpaid or insufficiently paid postage on all classes of correspondence.

4. Postage Due stamps shall in no case be sold by any Postmaster nor received by him in payment of postage.

5. An advance of Postage Due stamps of various denominations will be made to every Postmaster, who will be required to sign a receipt for the same and who will be held accountable at any time for the full amount thereof. A sufficient quantity of Postage Due stamps must be kept on hand by every Postmaster to meet public requirements.

6. Postmasters will requisition, when necessary, on the Head Office for further supplies of Postage Due stamps, and forward cash in the same manner that they do for ordinary Postage or Duty stamps.

7. No mail matter is to be delivered until the postage due thereon has been paid.

8. Postmasters, before delivering taxed correspondence, must affix or cause to be affixed and cancelled, as ordinary stamps are cancelled, one or more Postage Due stamps equivalent in value to the amount of postage due.

9. Any Postmaster or other person engaged in the postal service who shall collect and fail to account for the postage due upon any article of mail matter which he may deliver, without having previously affixed and cancelled the special Postage Due stamp, shall be deemed guilty of a breach of duty, and be liable to a penalty not exceeding One hundred pounds, in accordance with section 16 of *The Post Office Act 1833*.

10. *At Post Offices where delivery of letters, &c., is not effected by letter carrier, Postage Due stamps are not to be affixed until delivery has been requested; and they are not to be affixed to matter forwarded by request of addressees, returned to writer, or sent to the Dead Letter Office.*

11. At Post Offices where there is delivery by letter carrier, Postage Due stamps are to be affixed on all taxed correspondence as soon as received, unless an order has been received for re-direction, in which case it should be forwarded without affixing the stamps.

12. If matter should arrive at a Post Office with postage due thereon, and the Postmaster has no Postage Due stamps on hand, he will collect the amount due, and as soon as he shall obtain Postage Due stamps, affix the amount in such stamp to a sheet of paper, cancel, and forward the same to the Accountant with a statement of the facts.

13. When Postage Due stamps have been affixed to refused, unclaimed, or other undelivered matter, credit must be obtained therefor, by means of a claim on the Accountant through the Dead Letter Office, for Postage Due stamps on undelivered mail matter. The amount to be refunded to the Postmaster will then be settled by the Accountant.

14. When Postage Due stamps have been affixed to correspondence subsequently re-delivered, a claim stating amount due and name of person from whom it is to be collected must be attached to and sent with the letter. The Postmaster receiving the same must detach the claim and return it by next mail, with amount of uncanceled Postage Due stamps enclosed, to the Postmaster making the claim who, in case of failure to get a return of the stamps, must report the circumstance to the Accountant.

15. When a Postmaster at an office where delivery by letter carrier does not exist receives matter to which Postage Due stamps have been affixed, and which proves undeliverable, he should send the same to the Dead Letter Office with special claim for credit for Postage Due stamps refunded by him attached thereto.

General Post Office,
Melbourne.

By Authority: ROBT. S. BRAIN, Government Printer, Melbourne.

This series, printed in scarlet and yellow-green color, and comprising only the five lowest denominations, first appeared in 1897. However, in printings made two years later, further distinct color shades occurred in respect of the 1d, 2d and 4d stamps and are separately listed below. During this period also, two different perforation gauges were employed. The 6d denomination made its last appearance in this series, being subsequently discontinued.

Third Series

Type as Fig. 1. Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 3. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ or $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

1897 Centre : scarlet. Frame : yellow-green. $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 4d, 5d, 6d

1899 Centre : dull red. Frame : bluish-green. 1d, 2d, 4d

Fourth Series

Apart from shade variations which continued to be a feature of the postage due series, the distinguishing characteristic of the fourth series, through its several shade graduations, was the use of paper in which the watermark device (Fig. 4) again differed in detail from that of the papers of earlier years. This class of paper was maintained from 1900 to 1905.

Fourth Series

Type as Fig. 1. Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 4. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ or $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

1900 Centre : rose-red. Frame : pale green. $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 4d

1901 Centre : pale red. Frame : pale green. $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 4d

1902 Centre : scarlet. Frame : deep green. $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 4d, 5d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-

1904 Centre : rosine. Frame : green. $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 4d

Fifth Series

During 1905 a new type of watermarked paper with the letter "A" significant of Australia in lieu of "V" for Victoria was introduced for the printing of all Victorian type postage stamps. The first postage due stamps on this paper made their appearance in 1906. The form of watermark is illustrated at Fig. 5. However, as considerable supplies of the 5d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/- denominations on the earlier paper were held, the issues on the new Crown and "A" paper were limited to $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d and 4d denom-

inations. A 5d stamp was actually printed on the Crown over "A" paper but was not issued. The official collection contains a large block of this particular item. Within the group issued, because of new printings color shades were again manifest and in addition a further perforation variety (subsequently noted) occurred. The separate Victorian postage due series was discontinued in July 1909 following the introduction of a uniform postage due series for the Commonwealth.

Fifth Series

Type as Fig. 1. Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 5.

I. Perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ or $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$

- (a) 1906 $\frac{1}{2}$ d rosine and pale green
1d rosine and green
- (b) 1906 $\frac{1}{2}$ d scarlet and pale yellow-green
1d scarlet and pale yellow-green
- (c) 1906 1d scarlet and deep yellow-green
2d scarlet and deep yellow-green
- (d) 1907-8 Centre: dull scarlet. Frame: pea green. $\frac{1}{2}$ d,
1d, 2d, 4d

II. Perf. compound $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ with 11

1907-8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d dull scarlet and pea green

The New South Wales Series

When the New South Wales postal administration decided in 1890 to introduce postage due stamps, it not only adapted for local application the rules of the United States Post Office regarding the employment of such stamps but also based the New South Wales postage due stamp design upon the contemporary United States postage due stamp.

It will be seen when comparison is made between the United States stamp (Fig. 7) and the New South Wales design (Fig. 8) that the letters "U" and "S" in shields at the side in the former were replaced by small drawings of a kangaroo and emu respectively, and the words "penny", "pence", "shilling" or "shillings" as appropriate appeared in lieu of the value expressed in words in cents. Room was also made for the letters "N.S.W." at the base of the revised design.

Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



It was initially decided that there should be nine values, ranging from 1d to 10/- and the relevant dies, engraved in wood, were prepared by A. Collingridge of Sydney for the New South Wales Government Printing Office, where all stamps for the Colony were being currently produced. Following consideration of proofs it was decided to print the series in a uniform green color, the denominations to be 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 1/-, 5/- and 10/-. At this stage, the proposed 1/- denomination was omitted; subsequently the series was expanded by the addition of ½d and 20/- values.

The impending issue of the initial series was announced on 13 December 1890, and 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 8d stamps became available for use on 1 January 1891. The 10/- and 20/- stamps were issued shortly afterwards. Approval for the inclusion of a ½d stamp in the series was given late in 1891 and this stamp first became available on 21 January 1892. A feature of the series was that a number of different perforating machines were used, thus creating many sub-varieties. A chalk-surfaced paper was introduced for several of the denominations in 1900 and this brought about apparent shade variations.

The stamps were printed from electroplates prepared from the original wood engravings and they were issued in sheets of 120, arranged in two vertical panes of 60 (6 x 10).

Postage Due Series (Fig. 8)

1891-92 Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 9. Shades of green.

- (a) Perf. 10 : ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 5/-, 10/-, 20/-
- (b) Perf. 11 : 1d, 2d, 4d, 5/-
- (c) Perf. 12 : 1d, 2d, 20/-
- (d) Perf. 10 x 11 : 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d
- (e) Perf. 10 x 12 : 1d, 2d, 10/-, 20/-
- (f) Perf. 11 x 12 : 1d, 2d, 5/-

1900 Letterpress-printed on chalk-surfaced paper watermarked as Fig. 9. Shades of emerald green.

- (a) Perf. 11 : ½d, 1d, 2d, 4d
- (b) Perf. 12 : 1d, 2d
- (c) Perf. 11 x 12 : 1d, 2d, 3d

Introduction of the Commonwealth Series

The amalgamation of the several Colonial posts and telegraphs departments into the Commonwealth Postmaster-General's Department became effective on 1 March 1901, and thereafter the control and issue of postage stamps became a responsibility of the new authority. While the circumstances of the time prevented the issue of a uniform postage stamp series, no obstacle was seen to the extension of use of the postage due stamp series to all States and this course was quickly adopted.

Arrangements were made through the Sydney office of the Department for the New South Wales Government Printing Office to produce a modified version of the current N.S.W. postage due stamps by omission of the letters "N.S.W." from the base of the design. This was actually effected by hand on the relevant plates. However, because of the time factor it was decided not to touch the 10/- and 20/- plates and consequently stamps of these denominations were not included in the new series. In some instances, the letters were not completely removed and traces of portions of the letters may be found on some stamps of all issued denominations.

While preparations for the stamps were in course, regulations regarding the use of postage due stamps were promulgated in the Commonwealth Government Gazette of 5 June 1902. These regulations, which became operative from 30 June 1902, were adapted from the similar regulations then in force in the United States Post Office.

The stamps were printed on the same paper being employed up to that time for the N.S.W. postage due series. When issued, supplies were distributed to all States except Victoria, as it had been decided to retain the Victorian type of postage due stamps for the time being in use in that State, because large quantities were still in stock. Some minor shade variations occurred but the most remarkable feature, considering the short period of usage of the series, was the variety of perforations.



Fig. 10

First Series (Fig. 10)

July 1902. Letterpress-printed on chalk-surfaced paper watermarked as Fig. 9. Stamps in emerald green color.

- (a) Perf. 11 : 1d
- (b) Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$: $\frac{1}{2}$ d
- (c) Perf. 12 : $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d
- (d) Perf. $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$: 1d, 2d, 6d, 5/-
- (e) Perf. $11 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$: $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d, 5/-

Second Series

Simultaneously with the production of the provisional series, the New South Wales Government Printing Office was engaged in the making of new plates from modifications of the original wood engravings so that the blank white space caused by the removal of the letters "N.S.W." from the stamps would be filled by completion of the ornamental design, matching that shown at the top. The order for this series required provision to be made for the 10/- and 20/- stamps, earlier omitted, and for four new denominations: 5d, 10d, 1/- and 2/-. The issue of stamps of this series commenced immediately after the comparatively small supplies of the provisional series in their several denominations became exhausted, although complete distribution of all denominations was not effected until late in 1903. As before, a bewildering number of perforation variations occurred over the comparatively short period in which the series remained current. While the color is generally to be described as emerald green, a number of minor shades occurred.

Second Series 1902 (Fig. 11)

Letterpress-printed on chalk-surfaced paper watermarked as Fig. 9. Stamps in emerald green color.

- (a) Perf. 11 : $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 1/-, 5/-, 10/-, 20/-
- (b) Perf. $11\frac{1}{2}$: 1d
- (c) Perf. 12 : 2d, 3d, 1/-, 2/-
- (d) Perf. $11 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$: $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 4d
- (e) Perf. 11×12 : $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 4d
- (f) Perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 11$: 4d, 5d, 8d, 2/-
- (g) Perf. $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12$: 5d
- (h) Perf. 12×11 : $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 10d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-
- (i) Perf. $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$: 5d, 10d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-



Fig. 11

In July 1903, following the appearance of the series in the modified New South Wales type, Mr J. B. Cooke, then Commonwealth Stamp Printer at the G.P.O., Adelaide, submitted a proposal that a new uniform postage due series should be issued in the design shown at Fig. 12. While consideration was given to this suggestion, it was not adopted.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14

Third Series

A new type of paper in which the watermark device comprised a crown over the letter "A" (Fig. 13) was introduced for use in New South Wales in 1905 and supplies of the lower values of the postage due series printed on this paper appeared first in 1906. However, because of large stocks of other values in earlier printings being on hand, the extent of this series was limited to stamps of the ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d and 6d denominations. Some shade variations occurred, and also differing perforation arrangements.

Third Series 1906 (Fig. 11)

Letterpress-printed on chalk-surfaced paper watermarked as Fig. 13. Stamps in emerald green color.

- (a) Perf. 11 : 1d, 4d
- (b) Perf. 11 x 11½ : 2d
- (c) Perf. 11½ x 11 : ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d
- (d) Perf. 12 x 11 : ½d, 1d, 2d, 4d

Fourth Series

Due to a shortage of stamp paper about 1906, it was necessary for the N.S.W. Government Printer to obtain a supply of the Victorian type of paper (Fig. 5), and this was used for printings of six values of the postage due series, this group being issued in 1907. As the paper was ungummed, local gumming after printing was necessary.

Fourth Series 1907 (Fig. 11)

Letterpress-printed on chalk-surfaced paper watermarked as Fig. 5. Stamps in emerald green color.

Perf. 11½ x 11 : ½d, 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d

Fifth Series

Because all values of the postage due series were printed in the same colour confusion sometimes arose between pence and shillings denominations, and it was decided on 31 March 1908, to make a greater distinction by the insertion of a stroke and bar in the design of the shilling group. New plates were made and the issue of these stamps commenced later in the same year, although complete distribution of the series was not effected until early in 1909.

Fifth Series 1908-09 (Fig. 14)

Letterpress-printed on chalk-surfaced paper watermarked as Fig. 13. Stamps in green color.

- (a) Perf. 11½ x 11 : 1/-, 5/-
- (b) Perf. 11 : 2/-, 10/-, 20/-

Adoption of The Victorian Designs

The Government appointed a Board of Experts in 1907 to consider and report on the best methods to be adopted to ensure a suitable issue of uniform postage stamps for Australia.

One of the recommendations of the Board was that the two different series of postage due stamps then currently in use should be replaced by a single uniform series. This recommendation was approved but because a Royal Commission was appointed about this time to examine the operations of the Post Office, implementation of action regarding postage due stamps was deferred. A contributing factor to further delay was the decision to remove the Stamp Printing Branch of the Postmaster-General's Department from Adelaide where for many years it had printed the postage stamps for use in South Australia.

The removal was completed late in 1908 and early in 1909 it was re-established in Melbourne as the Stamp Printing Branch of the Commonwealth Treasury, with Mr J. B. Cooke, formerly in charge in Adelaide, as the new officer in charge. In its new situation, the Branch not only continued to print stamps for use in South Australia but took over from the Victorian State Government Printer the responsibility of printing the several stamp series for use in Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania.

When it was decided, on 28 April 1909, that a uniform series of postage due stamps should be issued, it was also agreed to adopt the design of the Victorian series as a basis. The reason for this course was that the production of a new series on the Victorian model would represent a much easier task than would the preparation of a series in an entirely new design. Apart from considerations of denomination, the conversion of the Victorian series required merely the provision of one or more frame plates with "AUSTRALIA" in lieu of "VICTORIA". The appropriate instructions were conveyed to the Commonwealth Stamp Printer late in May 1909 and he was able to advise, very quickly, that the series would be ready about the end of June 1909.

Unissued Stamps



It had been decided that the range of values in the uniform series should comprise the following:

$\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1

As 3d, 10/- and £1 stamps had not previously been included in any of the Victorian postage due series, it was necessary to prepare the further new dies and centre plates for these three stamps.

The production of the stamps followed the method previously employed for the Victorian series. The current type of ungummed paper, watermarked double-lined A, was employed and the sheets were then gummed on the premises following printing. Apart from some variations in the color of the gum, the several printings resulted in some color shades. Additionally, different perforation heads were employed. The issue of stamps of this series was commenced in July 1909 and was completed in respect of all denominations by the end of the year.

It is of interest that when the range of values was being determined in 1909, it was decided not to include 5d and 10d stamps, although these had been in earlier series. The question of providing 5d and 10d stamps was again considered in September 1909 when it was confirmed that there would be little or no use for such denominations. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth Stamp Printer had gained the impression that 5d and 10d stamps were to be provided and in February 1910 made printings of each. The stamps were never issued. The whole of the printings were held in store for ten years and were finally destroyed in 1920, except for one sheet of each, included in the official collection. The plates were destroyed in January 1922.



Fig. 15

Sixth Series 1909-11 (Fig. 15)

Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 5. Rose carmine (centre) and yellow-green (frame).

(a) Perf. 11 : 6d

(b) Perf. 12 x 12½ : $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/-, £1

(c) Perf. 12½ : 1d, 2d, 4d

Important major varieties of the 1d and 2d stamps of the 1909 series came about in 1911, when new centre printing plates were brought into use. Prior to making the new plates, the original 1d die was slightly modified and an apparently new 2d die provided.

With regard to the 1d, the most marked difference is that in the original (Die 1), the outer red frameline of the tablet is continuous while in the modified form a break of about $\frac{3}{4}$ mm occurs at the top of the vertical frame at the left. The main feature of the modified 2d die is that the tail of the figure "2" cuts into the solid color behind the figure. This effect is absent in Die 1.

The new 1d and 2d plates entirely supplanted the earlier plates and were to continue in use for many years. Printings were initially in the same colors as before and on the same paper, gummed after printing with a heavy yellowish gum. The 1d is known with three different perforations: (a) 11, (b) $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ and (c) $12\frac{1}{2}$. The 2d occurred perforated $12 \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ only.

Seventh Series

During 1911, it was decided that new supplies of paper should be imported ready gummed, thus reducing considerably the amount of work at the Stamp Printing Branch, which hitherto had to hand-gum the sheets after printing. This paper came to be used extensively for the printing of the various postage stamp series and was first introduced for postage due stamps in 1912. The new paper was of thinner texture than that used previously, and was supplied with a smooth white gum very different in appearance to that applied locally to earlier printings. The form of watermark of this paper remained as before. An unusual feature was that the paper was continued in use beyond the introduction of the uniform postage stamps for the Commonwealth. Distinctively different watermarked papers were introduced for the Kangaroo and Map and King George V side face issues but the postage due stamps continued to appear on the earlier paper, so characteristic of the period before the uniform stamp series, until after the end of the first World War, by which time supplies had become exhausted. This long usage was due to the fact that the annual consumption of postage due stamps was very small, as compared with postage stamps. During and immediately after the first World War period ink supplies differed considerably, resulting in marked shade variations occurring in different printings. The major forms of these have been grouped in the subsequent list, although it is to be noted that the names adopted do not necessarily accord with those shown in some catalogue lists.

The introduction of new perforation gauges in connection with the uniform postage stamp series was also reflected in the postage dues. Late in 1918, the undivided plate arrangement of 120 subjects (12×10) was modified to produce sheets of stamps in two vertical panes each

6 x 10. While this new form was at first limited to a few values, it was subsequently extended to embrace all stamps of the series.

Due to unequal usage of printed stocks, stamps of the several groups of this series, distinguishable by shade and perforation variations, sometimes came into use years after they had actually been printed.

Seventh Series 1912-23 (Fig. 15)

Letterpress-printed on thin ready-gummed paper water-marked as Fig. 5.

- (i) 1912 perf. 12½ : ½d scarlet and pale yellow-green
- (ii) 1913-5 perf. 11 : ½d rose carmine and apple-green
perf. 11 : 1d rose carmine and apple-green
- (iii) 1915-23 perf. 14: scarlet and pale yellow-green 1d, 2d, 1/-, 10/-, £1
- (iv) 1916 perf. 14 : ½d rose carmine and apple-green
- (v) 1918-21 perf. 14 : ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d
carmine and apple-green

The 1921-1937 Period

Early in 1920, the Postmaster-General's Department reviewed the postage due series. Consideration was then given to re-issue of the various denominations in new color combinations and for this purpose a series of color trials was prepared at the Note and Stamp Printing Branch and submitted to the Department on 21 February 1920. In these color trials all centres were brown and the frames shown in varying colors as follow:

½d blue-green, 1d brownish red, 2d grey, 3d olive-green, 4d orange, 5d red-brown, 6d blue, 10d bright green, 1/- turquoise blue, 2/- deep brown, 5/- yellow, 10/- red violet and £1 dull blue.

However, the Department, after viewing the trial sheets and taking into account the additional printing costs which might be involved, decided that no color changes should be made.

In further reviewing the series it was decided, in May 1920, that because of the small current demand, the issue of postage due stamps of denominations above 1/- would be discontinued when existing stocks were exhausted. These high value stamps had, in fact, been in little

demand from the time that they were first issued and considerable stocks were held.

Efforts were then made to increase the usage of the higher postage due values but with little success. In 1925, for instance, only two sheets of the £1 stamp were issued for the whole of Australia. Finally it was decided, in June 1927, that all supplies of 2/-, 5/-, 10/- and £1 postage due stamps should be recalled from post offices. This course was followed and the total accumulation of these stocks was destroyed later in the same year.

The type of watermarked paper earlier described, which had been in use for some time, became exhausted late in 1921. Thereafter, new printings of postage due stamps in denominations ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to 6d were made on the Crown over A paper as used for the Kangaroo and Map postage stamp series (Fig. 16).

Due to large stocks of the earlier 1/- postage due stamp being on hand, no printings of this denomination on this class of paper were made. As the arrangement and spacing of the watermark device on this paper was designed for the narrower Kangaroo and Map stamps, it was not adjustable to the different size of the postage due stamp and, as a consequence, watermarks were rarely well centred. The initial group in this series comprised $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d and 6d stamps.

In November 1924, a need was expressed for a postage due stamp of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d denomination to meet unpaid postage surcharges found imposed on mail articles when received from overseas. The Stamp Printer was requested, on 24 November 1924, to prepare the stamp, according with the design pattern of the series. The stamp was introduced into use in March 1925.

Because of new postal rates which had been introduced into use from 1 October 1923, there was little or no subsequent need for a 4d postage due stamp and on 30 April 1925, the Note Printing Branch was instructed to cease the printing of that denomination. At the time considerable stocks of the stamps were held and their destruction was authorized on 10 June 1925. Throughout the currency of the series, from 1921 to 1931, all stamps, with but one exception, mentioned subsequently, were perforated 14 x 14.

A further postal rates change, effective on 4 August 1930, brought about a new requirement for a 4d postage due stamp and when this was introduced, late in August 1930, it was perforated 11 x 11.

Eighth Series 1921-30 (Fig. 15)

Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 16. Shades of rose carmine and yellow-green.

(a) Perf. 14 x 14 : $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d

(b) Perf. 11 x 11 : 4d

Ninth Series

During 1930, the Department decided to vary the specification for stamp paper by including the expression "C of A" beneath a crown as the watermark device, this to appear in an overall pattern.

This type of paper was first brought into use for contemporary postage stamps issued in 1931. Until the exhaustion of stocks, printings of postage due stamps were continued on the single Crown A paper earlier mentioned.

The first printings of postage due stamps on the new paper were made later in 1931, of 1d and 2d denominations only. Because of the stock position, subsequent printings of other denominations extended over several years and the series was not actually completed until 1936. Stamps of the initial 1d and 2d printings were perforated 14 x 14 but later printings of these, and all printings of the other values, were perforated 11 x 11.

Ninth Series 1932-37 (Fig. 15)

Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 17. Shades of carmine and yellow-green and green.

(a) Perf. 14 x 14 : 1d, 2d

(b) Perf. 11 x 11 : $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-

The 1938-1957 Period

The introduction, in 1937 and 1938, of the various denominations of a new definitive postage stamp series, rotary-printed from recess plates, marked the beginning of a new era in Australian postage stamp production.

The adoption of the new technique had an almost immediate effect upon the postage due series. It was decided that the name or frame plate should be printed by the recess process but because the stamps were bicolours it was found to be more convenient for the second printing to be continued by the letterpress method.

Fig. 16

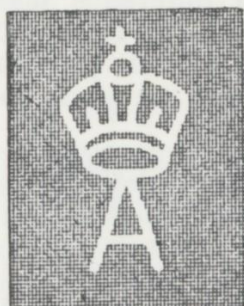
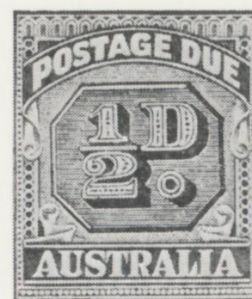


Fig. 17



Fig. 18



At that time it was noted, and placed on record, that the letterpress dies and plates were considerably worn and would need replacement in the near future.

To create the recess frame plate, it was first necessary to engrave a new die. The frame presentation followed the same general pattern as before but differed markedly in detail.

It will be noticed (Fig. 18) that the formation of the letters varied considerably when compared with stamps of the immediately prior series and that over the whole frame design pattern other slight differences occurred. No alterations were made at that time to the duty plates and the same denominational range as before was maintained.

The first values in the new series to be distributed were the 1d and 2d, on 7 May 1938. Other printings quickly followed and by July the complete series had been introduced into use.

Tenth Series 1938-46 (Fig. 18)

Frames recess-printed and centres letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 17. Shades of carmine and green.

Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$: $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-

Eleventh Series

The earlier decision to replace the several letterpress plates of the postage due series was not implemented at the time originally intended because of the outbreak of World War II and ensuing staff and material shortages at the Note Printing Branch.

However, the task was taken in hand late in 1945 and it was then found necessary to prepare a completely new set of dies and letterpress plates for each current denomination. In the development of the new dies, various small changes of detail came about, although the general form of presentation remained the same.

So far as the pence values were concerned, an easily discernible point of difference was the shape of the colored portion inside the letter "D". This was in the form of a segment of a circle (Fig. 19). Previously, it had appeared as an upright rectangle rounded on the outer corners.

The new form of the denominational expression in the 1/- stamp may also be readily distinguished from the earlier form by the fact that it had three lines of shading, instead of six as previously. There were also numerous other small differences and color shades occurred to some extent. It should be noted that the frame design accorded with that of the tenth series.

Distribution of the series was commenced on 14 May 1946, and by the following year the 1d, 2d, 3d, 6d and 1/- values had appeared. Because of the small demand, and the existence of substantial stocks of the earlier printings, the 4d denomination was not issued until late in 1951 or early in 1952 and the ½d did not appear until 1956. These values completed the basic range as had been expressed in the 1938 series but it may be noted that the 1½d stamp of the eighth series (1921-30) was still maintained in stock at many post offices.

During 1948, a need was felt for a 5d postage due stamp and its provision was authorized on 15 May, 1948. The Note Printing Branch was suitably advised and was in a position to commence printing late in October. The initial distribution took place on 10 December 1948.

Eleventh Series 1946-56 (Fig. 19)

Frames recess-printed and centres letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 17. Shades of carmine and green.

Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$: ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 1/-



Fig. 19

Twelfth Series

Following a review of the postage due series, it was decided early in 1953 to provide also 7d, 2/- and 5/- denominations. The 7d stamp was required because of the 1951 postal rate changes and the other two denominations because of operational requirements. It was decided at this time to discontinue the 1½d stamp, which had been first issued in 1925 and continued to be held in stock.

The Note Printing Branch was requested on 8 April 1953, to prepare the necessary designs and was asked, so far as the two new high value stamps were concerned, to ensure that these would be sufficiently distinctive to obviate confusion with 2d and 5d stamps.

The new designs were approved on 22 June 1953, and the three new stamps introduced into use on 26 August, 1953.

Fig. 20



Fig. 21



Fig. 22



Fig. 23



So that the 1/- postage due stamp would conform in appearance with the new 2/- and 5/- stamps, the values being expressed on a white ground in each instance, a new design was prepared for this value also. The design was approved on 11 September 1953, and the stamp introduced into use on 17 February 1954.

A further change in postal rates, from 1 October 1956, brought about the requirement for an 8d stamp. The design, which followed the pattern established in the eleventh series, was approved on 6 February 1957, and the stamp issued on 24 April 1957.

It was decided, at the time the 8d stamp was authorized, to cease printing the 2d, 3d and 6d values, thus establishing the revised range of denominations as ½d, 1d, 4d, 5d, 7d, 8d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/-.

Twelfth Series 1953-57 (Figs. 20 to 23)

Frames recess-printed and centres letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 17. Shades of carmine and green.

Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$: 7d, 8d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-

The Unwatermarked Series 1958-1961

It was decided on 17 January 1957, that postage due stamps of denominations below 5/- should be printed on unwatermarked paper. This was in line with the practice then followed in regard to the printing of postage stamps. At the time, considerable quantities of finished and

partly finished stocks of the several denominations were on hand and it was not practicable to put the decision into effect for approximately twelve months.

Early in 1958 distribution was commenced of some values of the series on unwatermarked paper but specific dates of issue were not arranged as earlier stocks held at post offices had first to be exhausted. Initial supplies of the 1d and 8d stamps were first sent out from the Note Printing Branch on 25 February 1958, and of the ½d, 4d and 5d two days later. The first supplies of 1/- stamps were distributed on 6 May 1958.

In view of the subsequent change of sheet format, as explained later, it may be noted here that the above stamps were issued in sheets of 120 divided into two panes each of 60 stamps (10 rows of 6). This sheet arrangement had been maintained since 1918. It may also be observed that the 7d and 2/- stamps were not printed on unwatermarked paper at this time because substantial stocks on watermarked paper were still held.

Thirteenth Series 1958 (Figs. 20 to 23)

Frames recess-printed and centres letterpress-printed. Unwatermarked paper. Shades of carmine and green. Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$: ½d, 1d, 4d, 5d, 8d, 1/-

Revised Sheet Format

After the Note Printing Branch had commenced the printing of postage due stamps on unwatermarked paper, it was found that some paper wastage was occurring because of the shape of the printed stamp sheets in relation to that of the paper being used.

To avoid this, the Note Printing Branch proposed that in future, the sheet arrangement should be varied so that while the sheets would still contain 120 stamps, as had long been the case, each sheet would be arranged in panes of 60 stamps, in twelve rows of five units.

The change was authorized on 7 May 1958, but as new frame and inner plates for the various denominations had then to be made, it was not practicable to introduce the new sheet format for some time. Stamps in the new format of ½d, 1d, 4d, 5d, 8d and 5/- denominations were first distributed from the Note Printing Branch between 20 June and 8 July 1959. The 5/- stamp was on watermarked paper.



Fig. 24

Shortly after that time, because of anticipated changes in postal rates, the Note Printing Branch was asked to prepare a design for a 10d postage due stamp in the standard pattern (Fig. 24). The design was approved in October 1959, the new rates having become effective at the beginning of that month. The adoption of the new rates led to the decision to discontinue 4d, 5d, 7d and 8d denominations in the postage due series, following the exhaustion of the then-current stocks, and to re-introduce the values of 3d and 6d which had been dropped some years earlier.

The effect of the postal rates change was therefore to bring about a revised denominational range of $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 3d, 6d, 10d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/- stamps, of which all values except the 5/- would be printed on unwatermarked paper. The new 10d stamp was introduced into use on 9 December 1959. Distribution of the 2/- in the new sheet format was commenced on 8 March 1960, and a few weeks later, on 25 May, the 3d and 6d stamps became available, thus completing the series. Because of the postal rates change, the 4d, 5d and 8d stamps in the new sheet format had comparatively short lives.

To achieve the new sheet format, it was first necessary (as mentioned previously) for the Note Printing Branch to make new frame and centre plates. The earlier frame die was used for the preparation of the master plate. For the centre plates showing the respective figures of value, new copper originals were prepared from the earlier centre designs and new electros then prepared.

Inevitably, because of the process followed, minor variations came about in the centre denominational units and were reflected in the issued stamps. Comparison is practicable, of course, only in respect of $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 4d, 5d, 8d and 1/- values on unwatermarked paper and the 5/- on watermarked paper. A point of significance is that the green color of the frame is usually somewhat deeper than previously.

Fourteenth Series 1959-60

Revised sheet format. Frames recess-printed and centres letterpress-printed. Carmine and green.
Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{3}{4}$.

- (a) Unwatermarked paper: $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 10d, 1/-, 2/-.
- (b) Watermarked paper: 5/-.

Discontinuance

Early in 1961, it was decided that following exhaustion of current stocks, the separate series of postage due stamps would be discontinued and ordinary postage stamps used to indicate payment of postal charges due. As an interim move to that end, and because the need for a ½d postage due stamp had disappeared, it was decided to discontinue the ½d stamp separately and it ceased to be available after 31 October 1961.

Subsequently, the basic decision was revised to enable postage due stamps generally to be discontinued as from a fixed date, determined as 31 January 1963. From that time they were not used at post offices but could still be purchased by collectors at the Department's philatelic selling points until 30 June 1963. Subsequently, all residual stocks were destroyed.

Quantities

Generally, it has not been found practicable to ascertain the quantities issued of values of the various postage due series. However, in respect of some values of the late issues, overall figures according to denominations are available, although it is not possible to differentiate between the same values on watermarked or unwatermarked papers or printed in two kinds of sheet format. The figures given below are nett totals after deduction of the stocks destroyed consequent upon the discontinuance of postage due stamps in 1963.

3d (from May 1960)	777,897
5d (from December 1948)	2,594,020
6d (from May 1960)	1,504,152
7d (from August 1953)	843,306
8d (from April 1957)	615,255
10d (from December 1959)	995,637
2/- (from August 1953)	670,757
5/- (from August 1953)	962,598



Appendix: Proposed Newspaper Stamps 1916

As postage due stamps were used as models in 1916 for a proposed series of newspaper stamps, it is appropriate to reproduce here the relevant information, as first published in the *Australian Post Office Philatelic Bulletin* of June 1960 (Vol. 7, No. 6).

Early in 1916, the Postmaster-General's Department was giving consideration to a proposal that special newspaper stamps be provided, with denominations expressed in fractions of a penny. On 13 April 1916, the Treasury was asked to obtain the likely cost of such stamps from the Stamp Printer.

In furnishing this information on 18 April 1916, the Commonwealth Stamp Printer also provided a group of essays for each of the denominations referred to in the earlier correspondence, viz. $\frac{1}{10}$, $\frac{1}{9}$, $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{7}$, $\frac{1}{6}$, $\frac{1}{5}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1d, and 1d.

He advised that the plate used for the outer frames of the current postage due series had been used for the essays and that if the general design was thought to be suitable, the words, "Postage Due", could be removed from the original die, "Newspaper Postage" substituted in lieu, and new plates made.

However, the proposal was not advanced further. The forms of essays, shown in the accompanying illustration, in approximate natural size, are contained in the official collection of the Postmaster-General's Department, and are believed to be the only examples in existence.



