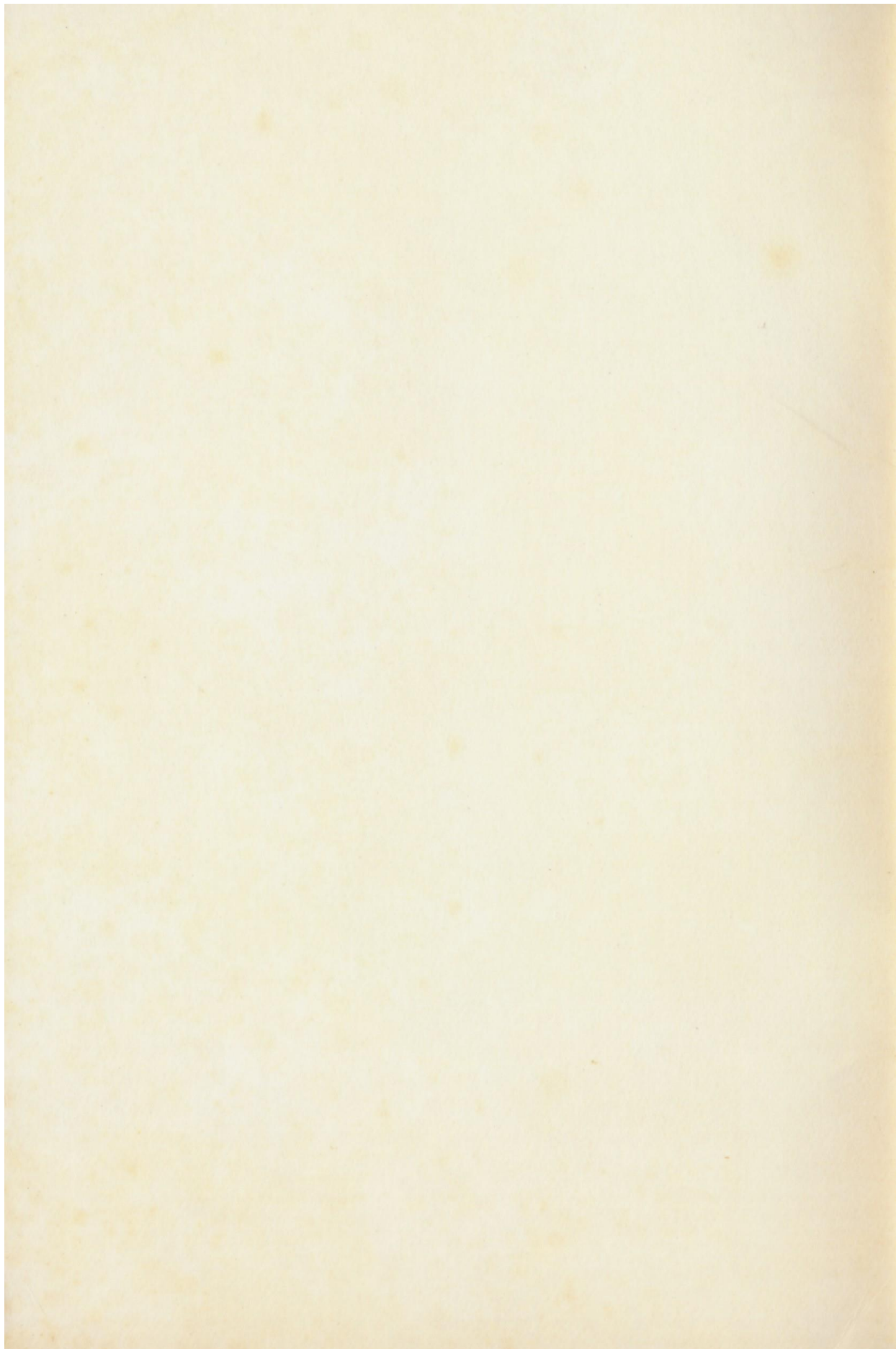


AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE STAMPS

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



AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE: PRICE FIFTY CENTS

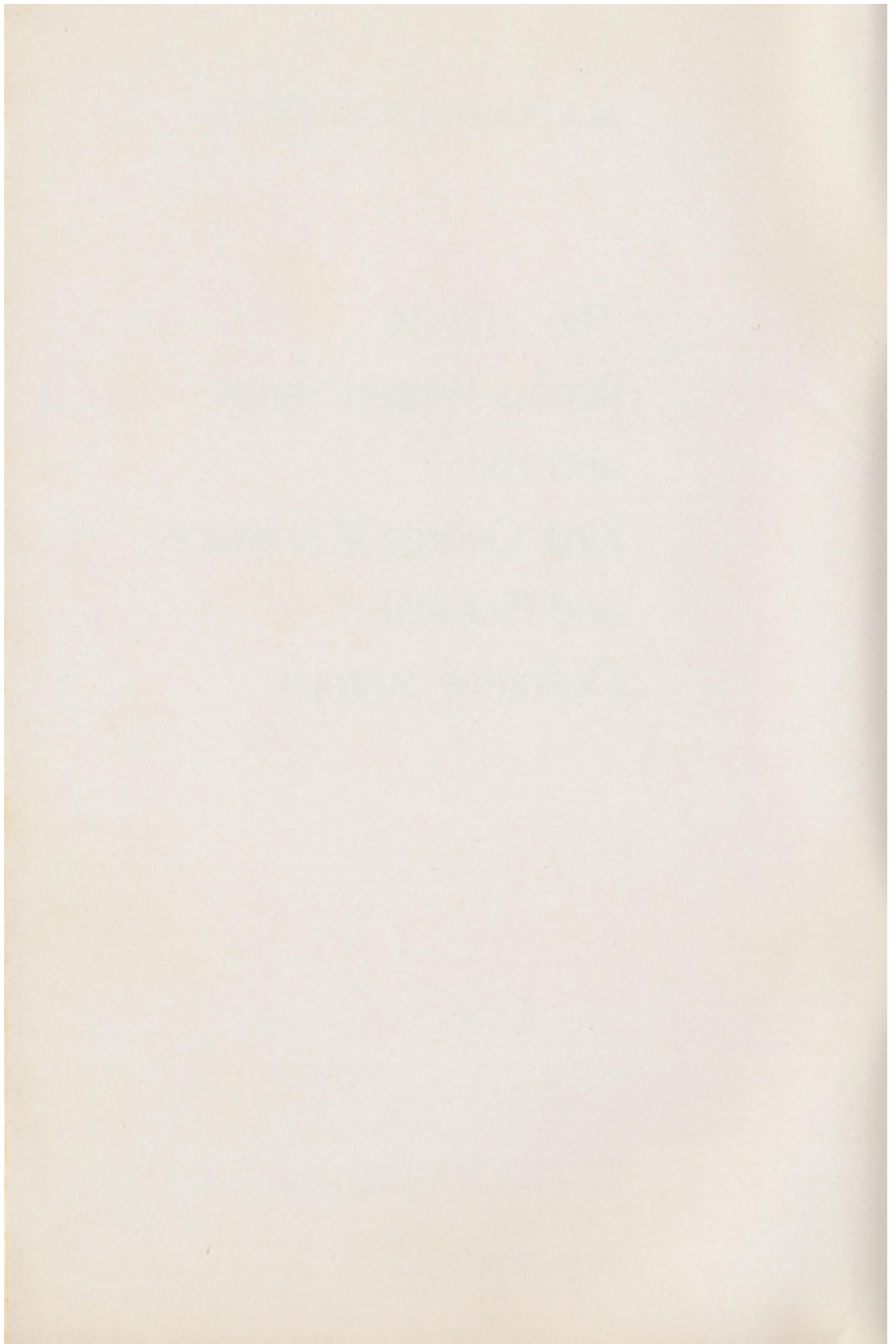


AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE

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

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

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Contents

Page	4	Chapter One: The Recess-printed Series, 1913-14
	7	Chapter Two: The 6d Kookaburra Stamp and the Unissued Stamps
	11	Chapter Three: The Development of the King George V Letterpress Series
	14	Chapter Four: The Dies and Plates of the First Series
	18	Chapter Five: The Second and Subsequent Series
	22	Chapter Six: The Introduction of Multiple Crown A Paper and the Final Series
	25	Chapter Seven: The Definitive Pictorial Stamps, 1932-34

CHAPTER ONE

The Recess-Printed Series, 1913-14

The Recess-Printed Series, 1913-14

As related in another booklet, the Australian Post Office conducted a competition in 1911 with the purpose of securing a design suitable for a uniform series of Australian Commonwealth postage stamps then being contemplated to replace the separate series, bearing the names of the several States, which had been continued since Federation.

The winner of the competition was Mr Herman Altmann of St Kilda, Victoria, who had submitted several designs. The winning design took the form shown at Fig. 1 and, as will be



Fig. 1

seen, portrayed His Majesty King George V within an oval and flanked at left and at right by a kangaroo and emu respectively. Above were the badges of the six States.

This design was not accepted by the Postmaster-General of the day (Mr C. E. Frazer) who required a design more significantly Australian in character. As has been related in 'The Early Commonwealth Period and the Kangaroo and Map Series', a further design depicting a kangaroo within an outline map of Australia was eventually evolved and adopted for the uniform stamp series, the issue of which was commenced in January 1913.

Following a change of government later in that year, the Hon. C. E. Frazer was replaced as Postmaster-General by Hon. Agar Wynne, the latter assuming office on 24 June 1913.

One of the early moves of the new Postmaster-General was to revive the winning design of the 1911 competition. He instructed his Department, on 1 July 1913, to make the necessary arrangements for a new issue of stamps, utilizing the Altmann

design. He also sought information concerning the likely cost of production and the length of time which would elapse before the issue was made.

The Postmaster-General's original intention was that there be 1d and 2d stamps, both printed from steel plates. However, printing of this nature could not be handled at the Stamp Printing Branch of the Treasury, as the whole of its equipment and production processes were identified with letterpress-printing. It was then necessary to arrange for the production of the stamps to be entrusted to the Note Printing Branch of the Treasury, which possessed adequate facilities. This latter Branch had been established in 1912, and Mr T. S. Harrison had come from the security printing firm of Waterlow Bros & Layton, London, to occupy the position of general manager.

Following subsequent consultations between the Postmaster-General and Mr Harrison, it was agreed to produce several stamps by the recess-printed method. The designs were to be prepared at the Note Printing Branch and the Altmann design was to be adopted, with modifications, for the 1d stamp, which was to be put in hand first. Mr Harrison, a skilled engraver, agreed to cut the dies personally.

As the printing process required dampening of the paper, it was not practicable to use the gummed, watermarked paper currently used at the Stamp Printing Branch and supplies of ungummed, unwatermarked paper for the printing were then purchased locally.



Fig. 2

Late in July 1913 the Postmaster-General released to the press two photographs of the proposed new 1d and 2d designs (Fig. 2 and 3). That shown in Fig. 2 was, in fact, one of the other designs submitted by H. Altmann in the 1911 competition and that in Fig. 3 a new version of the winning Altmann design. The latter had been prepared by Mr R. A. Harrison, son of Mr T. S. Harrison, who was also employed at the Note Printing Branch.



Fig. 3

The first design (Fig. 2) was ultimately discarded. The second design was unsuitable technically and was then completely re-cast and re-drawn by Mr R. A. Harrison and in its new form incorporated a contemporary profile head of His Majesty in the conventional style then being utilized for British and British Colonial stamps. The Postmaster-General approved this design, subject to its further modification for a 1d stamp, early in August 1913, after which cutting of the die was commenced.

The Postmaster-General indicated, early in September 1913, that he desired the Stamp Printer to continue as usual with the production of the 1d Kangaroo and Map stamps. He also made it clear that the new 1d stamp was to be limited in quantity

and would be on issue concurrently with the Kangaroo and Map stamp.

A factor which influenced this decision was the impracticability of diverting the machines at the Note Printing Branch from their primary function of note printing, for more than brief periods. Additionally, the cost of producing the recess-printed stamps was assessed at about twice the cost of those being letterpress-printed at the Stamp Printing Branch. In the circumstances, it was decided at that time to limit the printing of the new 1d stamp to one million copies.

The above factors also led to the development of a policy that certain other stamps would initially be printed by the recess-printing method and subsequently by letterpress-printing, and for which dies and printing plates would be made abroad. In the longer view, it was planned that eventually the denominations in greatest use would be letterpress-printed and all others recess-printed. This programme did not develop to the extent planned, although some aspects were to be realized. These aspects, with notes on the unfulfilled parts of the plan, are referred to subsequently.

The 1d stamp die was completed in September 1913, and the manufacture of the four plates, each of 120 impressions, used for printing the stamps was commenced on 1 October and completed on 13 November 1913. Printing began on 17 November. After printing, the sheets had to be dried and then gummed and perforated. The gumming was carried out at the Note Printing Branch, 'Korgodan' gum arabic being employed. Perforating was also effected in the Note Printing Branch. It was practicable to commence distribution of the stamps on 1 December 1913, when supplies were sent to Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania. Supplies for the other States went forward on 4 December. The Deputy Postmasters-General in each State were advised by telegram early on 9 December 1913, to issue the stamps that day and they were placed on sale at General Post Offices in capital cities about noon. This was the official date of issue, although it is known that they were actually on sale at some points on 8 December. The stamp is illustrated at Fig. 4.



Fig. 4

The ordinary letter rate in 1913 was 1d and as some 8 million stamps of this denomination were then used every week throughout Australia supplies of the new 1d engraved stamps were consequently quickly exhausted. It was decided, on 6 February 1914, that a further million should be printed. Distribution of this second printing was commenced on 19 March 1914. Subsequently a final issue was made of the balance of usable stamps of both the first and second printings still held at the Note Printing Branch. The final figures of stamps issued were as follows: first printing 1,180,320; second printing 1,115,130. Some differences of shade occurred during the

printings and also differences in the appearance of the gum, although gumming operations for both printings were carried out in the Note Printing Branch. The stamp was not punctured 'OS' for official use.

An interesting aspect of the stamp die was that it was also used, within a special engraved plate, for the printing of 660 Christmas and New Year greeting cards, for 1913-14, in the name of the Postmaster-General and Staff of the Department.

*9 Dec. 1913. Engraved and recess-printed on unwatermarked paper at the Note Printing Branch, Commonwealth Treasury, Melbourne. Perf. 11.
1d carmine.*

CHAPTER TWO

The 6d Kookaburra Stamp and the Unissued Stamps

The 6d Kookaburra Stamp and the Unissued Stamps

The only other stamp actually issued in this recess-printed series was the 6d Kookaburra. The design was prepared by Mr R. A. Harrison, submitted on 30 January 1914, and approved by the Postmaster-General. Mr T. S. Harrison then cut the die and provided a series of eight colour proofs on 5 March. The Postmaster-General selected and approved a claret colour on 10 March, 1914. The actual proof is illustrated at Fig. 5. In the announcement which was forwarded to the press later in March it was stated that the kookaburra 'was copied from an exhibit sent in by Mr Blamire Young'.

The Note Printer was asked to make the plates on 17 March and, as was the case with the 1d stamp, there were four plates with 120 impressions on each. Work on the plates commenced on 3 April and was completed on 7 July, 1914.

It had been agreed that, as before, unwatermarked paper should be used, and that after printing the stamps were to be handed to the Stamp Printer for gumming, perforating and distribution. The quantity authorised to be printed was one million.

The initial distribution of the stamps was commenced on 24 August 1914, when 500 sheets were sent to Brisbane where they were issued on 26 August 1914. A uniform date of issue for this stamp was not determined and it was first placed on sale in other States at different times.

The number of stamps handed over to the Stamp Printer was 984,000, some losses having occurred during printing. Further

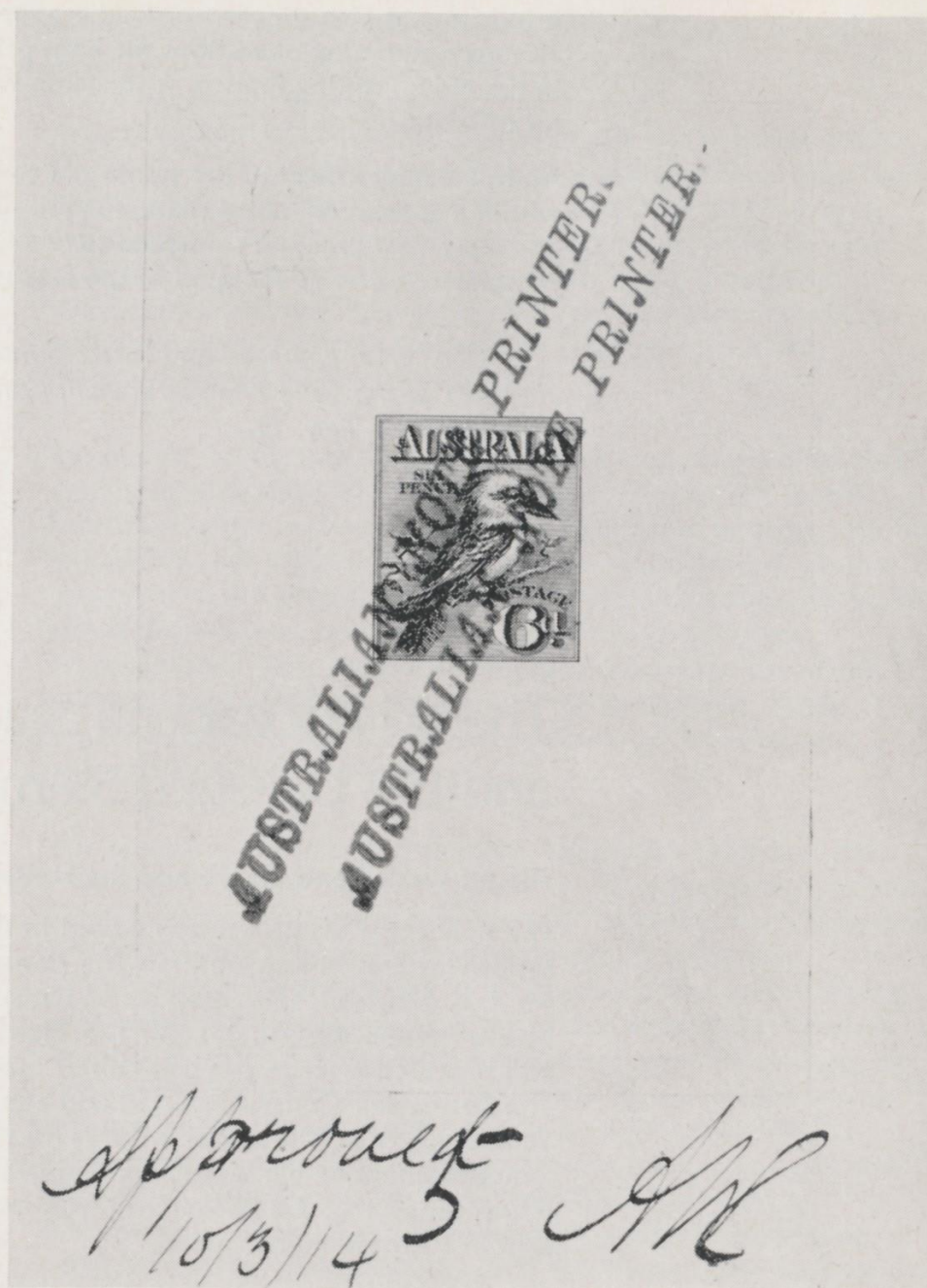


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

spoilages came about during gumming and perforating operations at the Stamp Printing Branch, reducing the quantity available and issued to post offices to 975,000 stamps. The stamp is illustrated at Fig. 6. It was not punctured 'OS' for official use.

*Aug. 1914. Engraved and recess-printed on unwatermarked paper at the Note Printing Branch, Commonwealth Treasury, Melbourne. Perf. 11.
6d claret.*

Other projected stamps

In accordance with the programme determined by the Postmaster-General, the Note Printer continued his preparation for further stamp issues. As early as 30 January 1914, designs for

2½d and 2/- stamps were submitted, the former depicting the Royal head in a size larger than that appearing on the 1d. The second design featured the black swan. These designs, prepared by Mr R. A. Harrison, were viewed by the Postmaster-General on 10 March 1914, and were approved, subject to the 2½d expression being altered to 2d and the 2/- to 1/-. The programme was then further developed to envisage a definitive series of 15 denominations, six of which were to be letterpress-printed and the balance to be engraved. The scheme had the support of the Treasurer and the Postmaster-General and, after being modified on several occasions, finally emerged on 22 April 1914, in the following form:

Value	Subject	Method of Printing	Colour
½d	King's Head, Emu and Kangaroo	Letterpress	Green
1d	" " " " "	"	Carmine
2d	Large King's Head	Steel plate	Dark blue
2½d	King's Head, Emu and Kangaroo	Letterpress	Ultramarine
3d	" " " " "	"	Olive green
4d	" " " " "	"	Orange
5d	" " " " "	"	Light sienna
6d	Kookaburra	Steel plate	Deep chestnut red
9d	Kangaroo (new)	" "	Deep mauve
1/-	Black Swan	" "	Deep ochre
2/-	Large King's Head	" "	Black
5/-	King's Head, Emu and Kangaroo	" "	Yellow grey
10/-	" " " " "	" "	Deep magenta
£1	Large King's Head	" "	Vermilion
£2	" " "	" "	Dark green

By that time, the cutting of the letterpress dies for the ½d, 1d, 2½d, 3d, 4d and 5d stamps, as related in a subsequent chapter, had almost been completed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. in England and the Note Printer had in mind making his own engraved dies and plates for other denominations of the series. The programme then underwent further examination and, after considering the greatly increased overall costs which would result, the Treasurer and the Postmaster-General agreed in May 1914, to its revision to the extent that for the time being only 2d, 6d and 1/- stamps would be recess-printed at the Note Printing Branch and all others were to be printed by letterpress



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9



Fig. 10

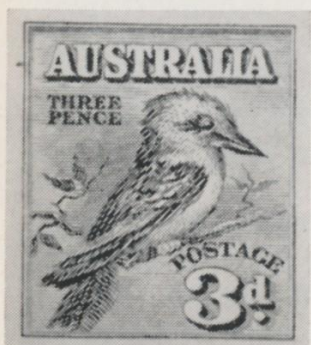


Fig. 11

at the Stamp Printing Branch. As noted earlier, the 6d stamp was issued in August 1914. At this time also an order was placed for a special supply of ungummed watermarked paper suitable for use in steel-plate printing.

Preparations for the issue of the 2d and 1/- stamps continued, the dies being engraved by T. S. Harrison, but authority had been given for the printing of only one million of each. Colour proofs from the 1/- die were approved in June 1914, and from the 2d die during the following month. One plate each for the 2d and 1/- stamps, respectively, were made in July 1914, and, as before, each contained 120 impressions.

Following a further review in August 1914, and taking into account that the steel plate printings were to be limited, it was decided that all further stamps should be letterpress-printed and quotations for the cutting of 2d, 6d and 1/- letterpress dies, in the engraved designs, and one working plate for each value, were then sought from Perkins, Bacon & Co. However, before any orders were placed a change of government occurred and a new Postmaster-General, Hon. W. G. Spence, assumed office on 17 September 1914. Because World War I was then in progress, the question of having the further dies and plates made in England was deferred and finally abandoned.

Somewhat earlier and before the political change occurred, the Note Printing Branch had taken off a few proof sheets in various colours from the 2d and 1/- steel plates for the consideration of the Postmaster-General (Hon. Agar Wynne). An initial printing of the 1/- stamp was made but none were issued. Proof sheets of each of the 2d and 6d stamps are contained in the Royal collection and a few single stamps are known to be in the possession of collectors. These unissued stamps are illustrated at Figs. 7 and 8.

The outbreak of the war had brought about a very heavy demand for paper currency and, as a consequence, the Note Printing Branch became so fully occupied with note production that the question of printing stamps from the 2d and 1/- steel plates remained in abeyance. From time to time proposals to use the plates were considered by successive Postmasters-General, but no positive action resulted.

With appropriate modification, the design of the 2d stamp was subsequently utilised for a 6d war savings stamp (Fig. 9) which had no postal validity. This stamp was actually printed on the special watermarked stamp paper intended for steel plate printing earlier referred to but which had not hitherto been used, the watermark device being as shown at Fig. 19.

The 1/- Swan design was not used, although during 1927 it was seriously considered for issue in connection with an international

philatelic exhibition then being planned to take place in Melbourne in 1928. The proposed model took the form shown at Fig. 10. The stamp which was eventually issued for the occasion was, in fact, an adaption of the 1914 6d Kookaburra stamp with the value expressed as 3d (Fig. 11). While this latter stamp, being a commemorative, is not within the scope of the present volume, it is noted here because its appearance represented, in effect, the final sequel to the 1913-14 recess-printed series.

CHAPTER THREE

The Development of the King George V Letterpress Series

The Development of the King George V Letterpress Series

As indicated earlier, the new policy provided that certain dies and plates for letterpress printing should be made abroad. In pursuance of this plan, two proofs in black of the 1d recess-printed stamps were obtained from the Note Printer on 21 October 1913, with the purpose of sending them to London for letterpress dies in a similar design to be made.

When supplying the proofs, the Note Printer suggested that one master die be prepared 'on which the denominations, both in figures and words, will not appear, i.e., they will be left blank'. Continuing, the Note Printer wrote:

'From this original or master die, other similar dies can be duplicated, on which duplicates or working dies the several denominations can be engraved, in words and figures.

'I would mention that the present design does not lend itself satisfactorily to any interchange of values, etc., which is a very bad idea, introduced into the production of the present "Kangaroo" issue.

'In my opinion, the working dies should be hardened by the Treasury, as it may be found necessary to retouch them. The dies should be fitted into a circular steel collar, and the method of reproduction will be by means of lead matrices made from the steel die.

'The size of the stamp, i.e., middle of perforation, will be $1\frac{1}{8}$ in x $1\frac{5}{16}$ in.'

Appropriate instructions were sent to the Official Secretary of the Commonwealth of Australia in London on the following day. The memorandum instructed the Official Secretary to arrange with a named firm for the preparation of a master die for stamp production by the letterpress method. It was required that the approved design, exemplified by the 1d King George V engraved proofs furnished, should be adhered to as far as possible, and only altered so far as was absolutely necessary for printing by the letterpress process. The instruction stipulated that one complete die for the penny stamp with the values engraved thereon be furnished, as well as three working dies with the spaces for denominations both in figures and words left blank for finishing, as required, in Australia. These dies were not to be hardened. Arrangements were also to be made for the provision of a circular steel collar, which would be used for other denominations as required, and into which the die would be fitted when lead matrices were being made. The size of the stamp ($1\frac{1}{8}$ " x $1\frac{5}{16}$ ") was also stipulated.

The Stamp Printer, who concurred in the form of the instruction, indicated that new stamp paper would be required because of the different stamp size, and received authority to place the necessary order.

The Official Secretary in London was not able to make satisfactory arrangements with the security printing firm originally named and in explaining the matter in a cablegram of 27 November 1913, asked for further instructions. He was advised by cablegram on 10 December 1913, to approach the firm of Miller and Motley, and also to consult the British Post Office.

The Official Secretary ascertained that the firm of Miller and Motley was defunct and that A. H. Motley, Jnr, was in business in the name of the Printex Company. One of the proofs which had been sent to the Official Secretary from Australia was left with that company which subsequently made, as illustrative of its work, a small sample plate of four impressions, from which proofs were taken off in red and blue colours and forwarded to the Official Secretary. One such proof is illustrated at Fig. 12.

The British Post Office proved helpful and arranged for the Official Secretary to discuss the matter with Mr S. J. Bennett, then Inspector of Stamping at Somerset House, London. Mr Bennett was an expert in stamp printing methods and supply procurement, and he agreed to report on the Printex method, and then to make suitable recommendations.

Meanwhile in Australia anxiety was felt at the apparent lack of progress and serious consideration was then given to the practicability of having the die cut in Australia. The Stamp Printer suggested that an offer by Mr Samuel Reading, who had cut the dies for the Kangaroo series, be accepted, but as the



Fig. 12

Note Printer did not think that Mr Reading's work would be good enough, he proposed that he, himself, would cut the die and have one plate of 120 impressions ready within two months.

This latter offer would have been accepted had the enquiries then being pursued in London not proved satisfactory. Mr Bennett was unable to recommend the adoption of the Printex method but, as a result of his helpful co-operation, the Official Secretary was able to report to Australia by cablegram late in December 1913, that through Mr Bennett satisfactory arrangements could be made for Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co. to prepare letterpress dies and plates.

In its letter of advice, dated 19 December 1913, to Mr Bennett, Perkins, Bacon & Co. had indicated that the engraving of the original die would take a month. The price at which it would supply three working dies (unhardened) with values blank, was stated with the intimation that the necessary printing plates could also be furnished.

A firm order was given by the Treasury on 30 December 1913, when the Official Secretary was asked by cablegram to order from Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co., one master die and four hardened steel plates, 120 up. Instructions were also given that the copy and line of the new stamp (i.e. the 1d engraved of 1913) was to be followed as far as practicable for letterpress printing and that sizes and positions to fit the paper then on order (also through the Australian High Commissioner's Office in London) were to be taken into account. A proof of the die was to be submitted before the printing plates were made.

This order was communicated to Perkins, Bacon & Co. by the Official Secretary in a letter dated 8 January 1914, with which was forwarded the plan and specifications for the paper, then in course of manufacture. In its acknowledgement of the following day, Perkins, Bacon & Co. mentioned, *inter alia*:

'We presume that a die engraved on a cylinder is also required for use with a collar, and this die should have value blank, as the original flat die that we shall engrave cannot be used in the hydraulic press, for the lead process'.

The firm also pointed out certain inaccuracies in the plan for the paper.

On 16 January 1914, the Official Secretary was notified by cablegram not to send the proof to Australia, as had been requested previously, but to consult experts in London and, when satisfied, to have the plates made.

The Official Secretary had advised the Treasury in Australia on 30th December 1913, that Somerset House (i.e. Mr Bennett) recommended adoption of the portrait of His Majesty King George V as shown on the then current 6d British stamp.

However, the Australian Postmaster-General did not agree to this suggestion and the Official Secretary was so informed by cablegram.

Perkins, Bacon & Co. was told of the Postmaster-General's decision on 12 January 1914, when opportunity was also taken to remind the firm that the design of the specimen stamp was to be adhered to in all respects. He also asked that the proof be sent to him but this instruction was subsequently varied, and Perkins, Bacon & Co. advised to submit the proof direct to Mr Bennett at Somerset House, Mr Bennett having agreed to undertake its examination.



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15

CHAPTER FOUR

The Dies and Plates of the First Series

The Dies and Plates of the First Series

Perkins, Bacon & Co. completed the first version of the 1d die by 13 February 1914, on which date Mr J. D. Heath, the company's managing director, left a proof with Mr Bennett, as had been arranged. However, Mr Bennett was unable to pass this proof as it did not sufficiently maintain the characteristics of the original. The two major aspects were the 'surround' of the head, which was shown in solid colour, and the narrowness of the white spaces in the wattle, the kangaroo and the emu. This state of the die is illustrated at Fig. 13. The first aspect was at variance with the 'open' type of head surround in the original stamp (Fig. 4) but the second was technical, Mr Bennett contending that unless the spaces were opened out somewhat they would probably fill up during printing. Mr Bennett did comment, however, that the engraving of the wattle, kangaroo and emu represented a vast improvement over the similar features in the line-engraved stamp.

Perkins, Bacon & Co. submitted proofs from an improved die to Mr Bennett on 19 February 1914, these having the appearance shown in Fig. 14. While this second state of the die incorporated the changes required Mr Bennett indicated that further slight modifications were still necessary. The fine white lines in the 'surround' above and in front of the head required to be stronger and deeper while the line of the nose required adjustment as it lacked straightness, differing markedly from the approved nose shown in King George V British stamps. The engraver made an effort to correct these deficiencies and further proofs from what might be termed state 3 of the die (Fig. 15) reached Mr Bennett



Fig. 16

on 24 February 1914. Mr Bennett still expressed himself as dissatisfied with the fine white lines in front of the head itself, and as a result further work was put into the die, and proofs therefrom were finally approved early in March 1914. This fourth and final state of the die is illustrated at Fig. 16.

The Official Secretary had expected that the proof of 19 February 1914, would have been satisfactory and had advised the Australian Postmaster-General on 20 February 1914, that 'the die for the new Australian stamp is completed, and that the plates for printing will be ready in about three weeks'. He further wrote:

'The design of the new stamps which have already been printed in Australia, has not commended itself to some of the experts here, but I think that when the work from the die which has just been finished by Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co. is seen, the general appearance of the stamp from the point of view of workmanship will be found to be greatly improved.'

The Official Secretary was able to advise Australia early in March 1914, that the stamp die was in fact passed and that the plates would be ready in three weeks. However, manufacture of the plates took longer than was anticipated and the Official Secretary was unable to forward a satisfactory report until 21 April 1914, when he advised that the dies and working plates should reach Australia by the end of May 1914, but that the associated supplies of stamp paper were not expected to come to hand until July 1914. Actually, the first supply was received late in June.

Due to amendments of the original order, Perkins, Bacon & Co. made a total of six dies, one being complete for the 1d stamp and five with value indications left blank. Additionally, the firm made the four 1d printing plates, a cylinder bearing the impression of the 1d stamp, and the circular steel collar earlier mentioned. In April 1914, it had been intended that the blank dies be utilized for ½d, 2½d, 3d, 4d and 5d stamps, but this range was subsequently modified.



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

All dies and other printing instruments were completed by May 1914, and were shipped to Australia in two consignments from London later in the same month.

While the arrival of the new 1d plates and paper supplies enabled printing of the 1d stamps to proceed without further delay, the preparation of additional denominations necessitated the insertion of denominations in the blank dies provided, and of the manufacture of the respective plates. This work was carried out locally and over the whole life of the series all further new dies and the plates required for the various denominations were made at the Stamp Printing Branch and later at the Note Printing Branch.

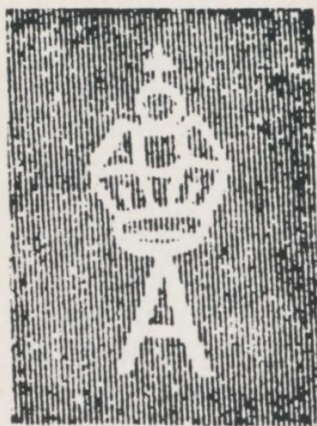


Fig. 19

An interesting feature of the 1d stamp, and first evident in initial printings from the original plates, was a small variation in some stamps which philatelists termed 'Die II'. Its distinguishing characteristic was a small spur in the left-hand value tablet (see Fig. 17 and 18). This flaw, for it was nothing more, actually originated in the impression in the roller die supplied by Perkins, Bacon & Co. and referred to earlier. The re-occurrence of this 'Die II' variety in subsequent penny issues, and in postal stationery printings, was due to the repetitious processes employed.

It may be noted here that shortly after the Stamp Printer, Mr J. B. Cooke, retired in June 1918, the Stamp Printing Branch was absorbed by the Note Printing Branch, with Mr T. S. Harrison in charge. The Note Printing Branch was administered by the Treasury until 1926, when it was transferred to the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.



Fig. 20

Printing of the new 1d stamps from the Perkins Bacon plates was commenced early in July 1914, on the new paper, this containing the Crown over A motif, as shown in Fig 19, and which differed considerably from that appearing in the paper being used contemporaneously for the printing of the Kangaroo series.



Fig. 21

The first group of stamps in the new Georgian design, and letterpress-printed, comprised ½d, 1d, 4d and 5d denominations. It may be noted here that while the dies for the four stamps were superficially the same, except for the expressions of denomination, and not taking into account the 1d Die II variation already described, they actually differed in slight detail. In the 1d the oval band surrounding the head had a white line above 'AUSTRALIA' and another below 'POSTAGE' (Fig. 20). In the 4d and 5d further white lines had been added on either side between 'AUSTRALIA' and 'POSTAGE' (Fig. 21). The ½d die was similar to the 4d and 5d except that the line below 'POSTAGE' was extended above the kangaroo's paws (Fig. 22).



Fig. 22

Distribution of the 1d stamp was commenced on 14 July 1914, and it was issued in the several States later in the same month. No specific dates of issue were fixed for this stamp or for the other three denominations. The 4d stamp was issued in January 1915, and the ½d and 5d in the following month. When issued, these stamps completely supplanted those of similar denominations in the Kangaroo series. As was the practice, all stamps were punctured with the letters 'OS' for official use. During the period of the first World War, and subsequently, shortages of various kinds brought about a multitude of colour shades, particularly of the 1d stamp and, additionally, almost every consignment of the current water-marked paper differed somewhat as regards quality, thickness, texture, shade and surface. On one occasion, in 1916, the paper

was supplied unsurfaced and ungummed, and local gumming was necessary.

Again, in 1916, when paper was in short supply, the Stamp Printer sought and obtained authority in August 1916, to utilize a special supply of ungummed watermarked paper which had been obtained for use for recess-printing and which had also been used for printing war savings stamps (see Chapter 2). Because of the shape of the paper, it was necessary to make a new 1d plate with impressions arranged 10 x 12 instead of 12 x 10 as previously. Opportunity was taken at this time to strengthen and re-work an original die and this was subsequently utilized in the preparation of the plate.

Stamps from this plate, therefore, have characteristic design as well as paper differences, three of the most distinctive differences being indicated below. Stamps printed from this new plate have been distinguished in philatelic circles as 'Die III' types. (See Figs. 23 and 24.)



Fig. 23



Fig. 24

Original 1d (Die I)

- (a) Shading around head is uneven.
- (b) Shading on King's neck is unbroken.
- (c) Letters of 'ONE PENNY' are thick and even.

1d (Die III)

- (a) Shading around head is even.
 - (b) A horizontal break across four lines of shading occurs on neck near face.
 - (c) Letters of 'ONE PENNY' are thick and uneven.
-

Stamps from this printing were not issued until 1918.

As a result of the circumstances of the times, and the printing processes employed, many minor variations of the printed stamps came about through the life of the several series (1914-37) but this smaller detail is not within the compass of the present work.



Fig. 25



Fig. 26

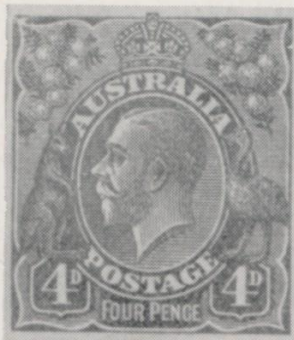


Fig. 27



Fig. 28

1914-15. First Georgian series. (Fig. 25 to 28).

Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 19. Perf. 14.
1/2 d green, 1d red, 4d orange, 5d brown.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Second and Subsequent Series

The Second and Subsequent Series

Because of the continuing difficulties associated with paper supply, the Postmaster-General's Department agreed, on 11 May 1916, that to save time and labour, the paper contractors should be asked to omit pinning for registration of watermark so that an overall watermark pattern would result. It was also envisaged that the same paper could be used for both the Kangaroo and Georgian stamp series.



Fig. 29

Paper showing the new pattern (Fig. 29) was received in 1917 and 1918 and was used for subsequent printings of 1/2d, 1d and 1 1/2d stamps. Unfortunately, this paper was of poor quality, reflective of the times and the difficulties of the paper-makers, and after a somewhat large initial use, it was then employed somewhat sparingly, and only when other papers were temporarily unavailable. Following exhaustion of the 1917 and 1918 consignments, no further supplies were ordered.

The final usage of this paper took place in 1924 for the printing of about 1,500 sheets of the 1d stamp in sage-green colour. For convenience, this latter stamp is grouped here rather than as a separate item in a later chronological sequence. It was not punctured 'OS'.

This second series also introduced the new denomination of 1 1/2d. As from 4 November 1918, a war tax of 1/2d came to be



Fig. 30

levied on each postal article, a course which necessitated the introduction of a new 1½d stamp to meet the combined postage and tax on ordinary letters. When first issued, the stamp was printed on the single Crown over A watermarked paper and subsequently, early in 1919, appeared on the multiple paper. Originally of black-brown colour, it was subsequently issued a few months later in red-brown on both classes of paper. The issues on the single Crown over A paper are referred to in more detail in subsequent paragraphs. These stamps were also punctured 'OS' for official use. The 1½d die had the characteristics shown in Fig. 20.

Second Georgian Series (as Fig. 25, 26 and 30). Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 29. Perf. 14.

1918-19. ½d green, 1d carmine, 1½d black-brown, 1½d red-brown.

1924. 1d sage-green.

Third Series

The 1½d stamp in black-brown colour was first issued on 9 November 1918, on the earlier single Crown A watermarked paper. It was quickly found that the stamp did not show postmarks clearly and a few months later, in 1919, it was issued in a red-brown colour. In both colours these were considerable graduations of shade, particularly in the latter. The stamps were punctured 'OS' for official use.

1918-19. Third Georgian Series (as Fig. 30). Letterpress printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 19. Perf. 14.

1½d black-brown.

1½d red-brown.

Fourth Series

A further revision of postage rates was made in 1920 and as from 1 October 1920, the ½d war tax imposed in 1918 was removed and the postage rate increased, in the case of the ordinary letter, to 2d per ounce. Another effect of the change was to increase the minimum interstate telegram rate from 1/3d to 1/4d.

To meet the new requirements, it was decided to provide a 2d stamp in the current Georgian design in lieu of the 2d Kangaroo and Map stamp, and also to issue a 1/4d stamp.

In anticipation of the projected change of rates the design for the new 2d stamp was prepared in August 1920, and approved early in the following month. The Note Printer was instructed on 17 September 1920, to proceed with the printing of the stamp in an orange colour and it became available at post offices before the end of the month.



Fig. 31



Fig. 32

Approval for the issue of the 1/4d stamp in the Georgian design was given on 12 October 1920, and colour proofs submitted on 22 October. Instructions to print were issued on 12 November 1920, and the stamp became available in December 1920. The new 2d stamp, being orange in colour, was very similar to the colour of the current 4d stamp in the same design and on 14 October 1920, the Note Printer was asked to submit proofs of the 4d in various new colours. None of these proofs were acceptable and further proofs were sought. Finally, a violet colour was adopted in January 1921. Approval for the printing of the 4d stamp in that colour was given on 14 February 1921, and the stamp was duly issued in June of that year. Colour shades occurred to some extent. The stamps were also punctured 'OS' for official use. It may be noted that the 2d and 1/4d stamps conformed to the oval frame line pattern shown at Fig. 20 and the 4d, as previously, to that shown at Fig. 21.

*1920-21. Fourth Georgian Series (as Fig. 31, 27 and 32).
Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 19. Perf. 14.
2d orange, 4d violet, 1/4d pale blue.*

Fifth Georgian Series

Following the adoption in 1922 of a decision at the Madrid Universal Postal Union Congress of 1920, it was necessary to effect changes in the colours of certain stamps. The new U.P.U. requirement was that the first unit of an international letter was to be franked with a blue stamp, an international postcard by a red stamp and a printed paper with a green stamp. On the basis of the Australian postal rates which had come into force on 1 October 1920, the denominations affected were in the colour order indicated, 4d, 2d and 1½d. By reason of the contemplated colour changes, viz. 4d violet to blue, 2d orange to red and 1½d brown to green, two further consequential changes were also necessary. The ½d, formerly green, became orange and the 1d was changed from red to purple. These new stamps were issued as earlier stocks became exhausted, between February 1922 and November 1923. Some colour shades occurred. Specific dates of issue were not determined. The stamps were also provided punctured 'OS' for official use.

*1922-23. Fifth Georgian Series (as Fig. 25, 26, 30, 31 and 27).
Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 19. Perf. 14.
½d orange, 1d violet, 1½d green, 2d red, 4d blue.*

Sixth Georgian Series

As from 1 October 1923, Australian postal rates were reduced. The ordinary letter rate became 1½d which was also the foreign postcard rate. The foreign letter rate was fixed at 3d per oz and the foreign second class rate at 1d. The U.P.U. stamp colour



Fig. 33

requirement then called for the 1d stamp to be green, the 1½d red and the 3d blue. It was decided that the latter should be in the Georgian design and thus replace the 3d Kangaroo and Map stamp which had been in use since 1913. It was also necessary to alter the colours of the 2d and 4d stamps. Additionally, to meet the combined postage and registration fee it was decided to provide a 4½d postage stamp in the Georgian design and to discontinue the 5d denomination. Arrangements were made for all the new stamps to be issued throughout Australia on 1 May 1924. As previously, some colour shades occurred in the several denominations and as was the practice the stamps were available punctured 'OS' for official use. The general die types for the new denominations of 3d and 4½d accorded with the form shown at Fig. 20. It may be noted at this point that during 1926, after the 3d stamp had been on issue for about two years, the Note Printer intimated that the 3d plate was badly worn and as new plates had to be made he took advantage of the circumstances to improve the working die by making some of the lines thinner and giving more emphasis to the kangaroo and emu. There were in fact many differences between the original and re-worked dies which were reflected in the issued stamps, the most prominent differences being as follows:

Earlier Die (Fig. 33)

Reworked Die

'R' of 'THREE' is uneven

'R' of 'THREE' is even and differently shaped.

Horizontal bars of 'E's' in 'THREE' are reasonably even.

Horizontal bars are very uneven.

'C' of 'PENCE' slopes forward.

'C' of 'PENCE' slopes backwards.

Stamps from the new plates came into circulation late in 1926.

1 May 1924. Sixth Georgian Series (as Fig. 26, 30, 31, 27 and 34). Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 19. Perf. 14. 1d sage-green, 1½d scarlet, 2d red-brown, 3d blue, 4d olive, 4½d violet.

Seventh Georgian Series

Due to the non-arrival of supplies of watermarked paper from London, the Note Printing Branch found that its stocks of 1d and 1½d stamps were insufficient for current use. On 1 August 1924, the Postmaster-General's Department authorized the

printing of stamps on unwatermarked paper until such time as the normal paper arrived. Supplies of unwatermarked paper were procured locally and substantial quantities of the 1d and 1½d stamps were printed on this paper, the sheets being gummed at the Note Printing Branch after printing.

*Aug. 1924. Seventh Georgian Series (as Fig. 26 and 30).
Letterpress-printed on unwatermarked paper. Perf. 14.
1d sage-green, 1½d scarlet.*

CHAPTER SIX

The Introduction of Multiple Crown A Paper and Final Series

Eighth Georgian Series

During 1925, the Postmaster-General's Department decided to adopt a revised specification for stamp paper in which it was provided that

'... each sheet is to bear water-marks containing small crowns over A's set close together but spread over the whole sheet ...'



Fig. 34



Fig. 35

The first order for this paper was placed in January 1926, and delivery was completed by 19 August 1926. Stamps printed on the multiple Crown A paper were first issued in October 1926 and comprised ½d and 1½d denominations. As printed stocks of other denominations on the single watermarked paper became depleted, further printings were made on the new paper and the issue of this series extended over many months, not being completed until 1928. The form of watermark is shown at Fig. 35.

Concurrently with the introduction of the new paper, new perforating heads were also introduced. These provided perforations gauging 13½ x 12½ in contrast to the 14 x 14 gauge which had been in use since 1914. While stamps with the new perforation were first introduced in February 1926, both types of perforation heads continued in concurrent use for a considerable time, the 14 x 14 head not being discarded completely until 1928. As a consequence, all stamps of this group were issued in both perforation categories. Over the period, some colour shades occurred and the stamps were punctured 'OS' for official use.

1926-1928 Eighth Georgian Series

1926-28. Eighth Georgian Series (as Fig. 25, 26, 30, 31, 27, 34 and 32). Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 35.

(a) Perf. 14 x 14.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d orange, 1d sage-green, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d scarlet, 2d red-brown, 3d blue, 4d olive, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d violet, $\frac{1}{4}$ d greenish blue.

(b) Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d orange, 1d sage-green, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d scarlet, 2d red-brown, 3d blue, 4d olive, $4\frac{1}{2}$ d violet, $\frac{1}{4}$ d greenish blue.



Fig. 36

During 1929, new 3d printing plates were introduced and the resultant stamps displayed new characteristics when compared with those produced from the now discarded 1926 plates already referred to.

A new 3d die was prepared as a basis for the new plates and the most marked differences in the stamps were as follow:

1926 Plates

Figures of value thin and uneven.

Words of value uneven.

1929 Plates (Fig. 36)

Figures thick and even.

Words of value thick and even.

Ninth Georgian Series

A further revision of postal rates, which became effective on 4 August 1930, increased practically all rates. As a consequence, bearing in mind U.P.U. requirements, it was necessary to alter the colour of the 2d stamp to red and to re-introduce a 5d stamp. Colours of both the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d and 5d stamps were established as brown and the $4\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp was dropped.

Because of the time factor, it was decided to prepare provisional 2d and 5d stamps by appropriate overprinting of $1\frac{1}{2}$ d and $4\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps (Fig. 37 and 38). The two provisionals were available just before the rates change became effective and the balance of the series was issued during August and September 1930.



Fig. 37

Just before this rates change occurred, new plates for the $4\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp, made from a re-worked die, had been manufactured and all 5d provisionals were based on printings from the new $4\frac{1}{2}$ d plates. The main differences between the two $4\frac{1}{2}$ d dies were as follows:

Old (Fig. 34)

New (Fig. 38)

Figures of value thin and uneven.

Figures of value thick and even.

Words of value uneven.

Words of value thick and even.



Fig. 38



Fig. 39

The 4½d stamp printed from the new die was not issued at post offices, although some quantities of the stamp were included in postmarked form in specimen sets of stamps sold by the Postmaster-General's Department.

Stamps of this series, occasioned by the rates change, except the two provisionals were punctured 'OS' for official use. Subsequently, in February 1932, the stamps of this series, and the 4d stamp of the previous series, were overprinted 'OS' in the form shown at Fig. 41. It is remarked that the 5d stamp of the new series, which was printed from new plates, shows some differences when compared with the 5d which was first issued in 1915.

The 1915 stamp had the inner frame characteristics illustrated at Fig. 21. However, the 1930 version accords to the presentation shown at Fig. 20. Additionally, the shape of the figures vary, and also the size of 'FIVE PENCE'.

1930 Ninth Georgian Series. Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 35. Perf. 13½ x 12½.

(a) Provisionals (as Fig. 37 and 38).

2d on 1½d scarlet.

5d on 4½d violet.

(b) (as Fig. 30, 31 and 39).

1½d brown, 2d scarlet, 5d brown.

(c) Overprinted 'OS'.

2d scarlet, 4d olive.



Fig. 40

Tenth Series

During 1931, the Department decided to vary the watermark specification by including the expression 'C of A' instead of 'A' only below the crown, maintaining this in an overall pattern (Fig. 40). Stamps printed on this class of paper commenced to appear in October 1931 and continued in use without change, except for some colour shades, until 1937-38, when they were replaced by a new recess-printed series in smaller size.

Generally, stamps of the final King George V series were not punctured 'OS' but the ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d and 5d denominations appeared with the 'OS' overprint in 1932-33.

1930-37. Tenth Georgian Series (Fig. 25, 26, 30, 31, 36, 27, 39 and 32). Letterpress-printed on paper watermarked as Fig. 40. Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$.

½d orange, 1d green, 1½d brown, 2d scarlet, 3d ultramarine, 4d olive, 5d brown, 1¼d greenish blue.

Overprinted 'OS' (as Fig. 41).

½d orange, 1d green, 2d scarlet, 3d ultramarine, 5d brown.

[Note: Dates of first printings of certain of the stamps noted above on C of A watermarked paper were as follows:
½d, 16.12.31; 1d, 28.7.31; 2d, 15.1.32; 2d for booklets, 4.8.31; 5d, 22.12.31.]

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Definitive Pictorials, 1932-34

The Definitive Pictorials, 1932-34



Fig. 41



Fig. 42

The pictorial stamps issued during the reign of King George V fall into three groups. The first group comprises the 6d Kookaburra stamp of 1914, which has been described in Chapter Two. Within the second group are the several commemorative and air mail stamps of the period and as these are to be described in a separate booklet concerned with commemorative and special issues, they are not included in the present volume. The third group, which is the subject of this chapter, comprises the definitive pictorial stamps of 1932 and 1934. Of these, there are but three stamps, the 1/- Lyrebird and the 6d Kookaburra (1932) and the 1/6d Mercury and Globes (1934).

1/- Lyrebird

Over the years from 1927 to 1931, the Postmaster-General's Department had issued several commemorative stamps, all of which were recess-printed. By 1931, it was considered that this method of stamp production might be extended experimentally to include some values of the definitive series, all of which were then being letterpress-printed.

It was decided, as a commencement, that the first stamp should be of 1/- denomination and depict the lyrebird and that its size was to accord with stamps of the current George V sideface series. The Note Printing Branch was asked to prepare tentative designs and these reached the Department in September 1931. Subsequently, the sketches were submitted to the ornithologist at the National Museum, for his opinions. Upon his advice, the drawings were amended slightly so that the representation of the bird would be technically correct, except that the conventional manner of showing the tail feathers erected was maintained. From these drawings, a new sketch was prepared by the Note Printing Branch artist, Mr F. D. Manley, this being submitted to the Department on 17 November 1931, and approved on 10 December.

Subsequently Mr Manley engraved the die. Proofs of the stamp became available on 23 December and were approved on the following day, following which plate-making was commenced, one plate only of 120 subjects being manufactured. Printing of the stamps commenced late in January 1932 and the stamp was issued at post offices on 15 February 1932, replacing the 1/- Kangaroo stamp, a type of which had been maintained since 1913. In March 1932, approval was given for the overprinting of stamps with the expression 'OS' for use by Government Departments. The colour of the stamp was officially described as green and over the various printings some colour shades became evident.

15 February 1932. (Fig. 42.) Engraved and recess-printed on unwatermarked paper at the Note Printing Branch, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Melbourne, and issued in sheets of 120. Perf. 11.

1/- green.

(March 1932)

Overprinted 'OS' (as Fig. 41).

1/- green.

6d Kookaburra

The second pictorial stamp of the year depicted the Kookaburra, that well-known Australian bird which had previously been depicted on the short-lived 6d engraved stamp of 1914. While the general presentation of the subject followed the 1914 pattern, an entirely new drawing was prepared by Mr F. D. Manley at the Note Printing Branch, following consultations with the National Museum ornithologist.

This design, in which the denomination was expressed as 6d, as required, was submitted to the Postmaster-General's Department on 13 January 1932. But a few days earlier, on 6 January, a new Postmaster-General, Hon. J. E. Fenton, had taken office,



Fig. 43

succeeding Hon. A. E. Green, who had held the portfolio from 5 February 1931. In view of the financial depression then in course in Australia, and because the production costs of recess-printed stamps were greater, the new Postmaster-General decided that the 6d Kookaburra stamp should be letterpress-printed. The Note Printing Branch was so informed when the approved design was returned on 22 January 1932. It had been agreed earlier that the stamp would also be of the same size as stamps of the King George V letterpress series.

The letterpress die was engraved by Mr E. Broad and on 24 March 1932, a die proof in a colour designated as madder brown was submitted to the Department. The engraving, and the colour, were both approved and the proof returned on 8 April 1932, following which two printing plates were made, each comprising 120 subjects. As was the practice with letterpress-printed stamps, watermarked paper was utilized, and some instances of inverted watermarks are known, as well as colour shades. The stamp was issued at post offices on 1 June, and replaced the 6d Kangaroo stamp, the design of which had been in use since 1913.

With the recently issued 1/- Lyrebird stamp as a precedent, the Note Printing Branch suggested to the Department on 14 April 1932, that to meet expected requisitions, it would be necessary to overprint some quantities with the expression 'OS'. The Department decided on 28 April that the stamp would not be so overprinted, but acting on its intimation of 14 April the Note Printing Branch had already made an 'OS' printing of 6,100 sheets. The decision of 28 April was not subsequently changed and a few months later the 'OS' stocks were destroyed, none being issued.

*1st June 1932. (Fig. 43.) Engraved and letterpress-printed on watermarked paper (Fig. 40) at the Note Printing Branch, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Melbourne, and issued in sheets of 120. Perf. 13½ x 12½.
6d madder brown.*

1/6d Mercury and Globes

Late in 1933, when it became obvious that the long-projected regular airmail service between England and Australia was likely to be inaugurated during the following year, the Department decided that an airmail stamp, of a value appropriate to the charge which would be made, might properly be introduced. It was further decided that two tentative designs should be prepared. Suggestions for these, originated within the Department, were that one should show an outline map of the proposed England-Australia airmail route and the other of an aeroplane leaving Melbourne aerodrome with the first official overseas mail.

On 3 January 1934, the Note Printing Branch was asked to prepare designs on the lines indicated and to suggest other



Fig. 44



Fig. 45



Fig. 46



Fig. 47



Fig. 48



Fig. 49



Fig. 50



Fig. 51

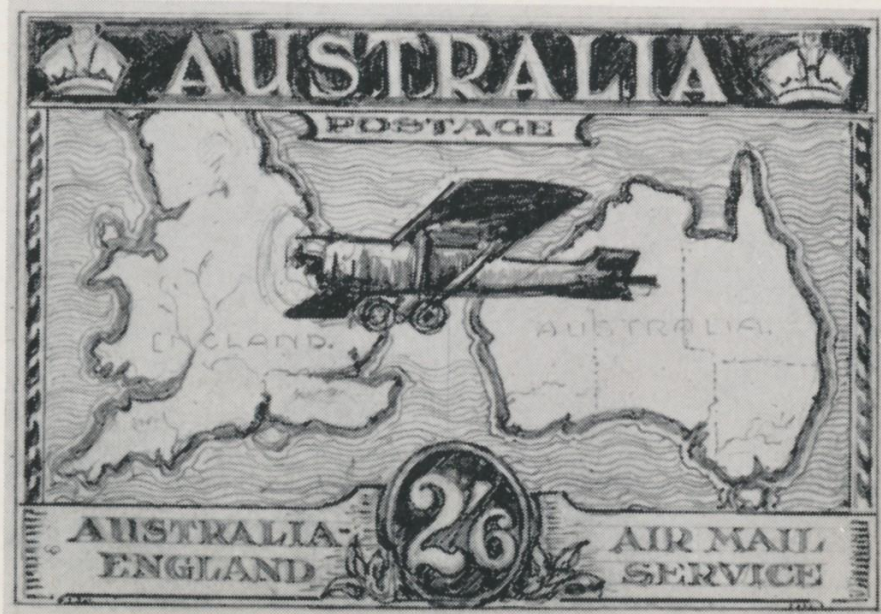


Fig. 52

suitable designs. As it was not practicable at this time to indicate the actual airmail postage charge which would be expressed as the denomination of the stamp, the tentative value of 2/6d was adopted for design purposes. The Note Printing Branch submitted nine pencil sketches to the Department on 11 January 1934, these being illustrated at Fig. 44 to 52.

None of these designs was considered suitable and it was then thought that the design of the 6d airmail stamp of 1931 (Fig. 53) might lend itself to adaption. The Note Printing Branch was asked on 23 February 1934, to prepare a new design upon this basis, the changes required being the transfer of 'AUSTRALIA' to the base of the design below the words 'AIR MAIL SERVICE'; the omission of the decorative features at the top and sides; the wider separation of the two hemispheres and the substitution of the figure of Mercury, the messenger of the gods, for that of the aeroplane, the 'Southern Cross'. It was still not practicable to determine the denomination.



Fig. 53



Fig. 54

A preliminary design by Mr F. D. Manley embodying the required features was received by the Department on 12 March 1934, this being in the form shown at Fig. 54. This was approved in principle on 28 March 1934, subject to slight modifications, which included the placing of the expression of denomination at each side of the word 'AUSTRALIA' and the presentation of this latter name in colour and not in white on colour as proposed. The revisions having been approved, the Note Printing Branch was instructed on 12 April to cut the die, provided that a slight adjustment of the presentation of the hemispheres be first made. However, this work could not immediately proceed as some delay had occurred in determining the airmail letter rate for the Australia-England service. The rate was not decided until 9 May 1934, and the Note Printing Branch was then able to insert the expression '1/6' appropriately in the design and continue work on the engraving. The engraving of the die was the work of Messrs E. Broad and F. D. Manley.

Four die proofs in colour were submitted on 12 June 1934, but as by this time the Department had decided that separate airmail stamps would not be maintained, it was necessary to vary the design slightly to indicate that the stamp would be part of the definitive postage series and not specifically restricted in use

for air mail. The die proofs were accordingly returned to the Note Printing Branch on 14 June 1934, with the intimation that the word 'POSTAGE' was to be substituted for the expression 'AIR MAIL SERVICE' below the figure of Mercury.

A proof in claret colour from the amended die was submitted to the Department at the end of June and on 4 July, 1934, the Note Printing Branch was advised of approval of the engraving and acceptance of the suggested colour. The manufacture of plates was completed on 12 October 1934, and a test printing made. However, stamps of this printing were not considered satisfactory because of slight damage to the original die, which had adversely affected the quality of the plates. It was then decided to prepare a new die urgently and make further plates. These latter were in use by the middle of November 1934, when the first printings were made for distribution to post offices, where the stamp was issued on 1 December 1934. As was the case with the previous engraved pictorial stamp, the 1/- lyrebird, unwatermarked paper was utilized but, for the first time, so far as Australian Commonwealth postage stamps were concerned, the paper was chalk-surfaced.



Fig. 55

1 December 1934. (Fig. 55.) Engraved and recess-printed on unwatermarked chalk-surfaced paper at the Note Printing Branch, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Melbourne, and issued in sheets of 80. Perf. 11.
1/6d claret.

Subsequent Printings

This stamp was still in use when His Majesty King George VI ascended the throne. Its later history is identified with the introduction of the King George VI recess-printed series of 1937-38, printed on new rotary presses. The stamp will therefore come to attention again in the appropriate booklet descriptive of the King George VI definitive stamps. However, to round off the present record, it is perhaps helpful to record the two subsequent major stages of the stamps in summarized form, as follows:

1. 1937. Rotary recess-printed on chalk-surfaced watermarked paper (Fig. 40). Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.
2. 1948. Rotary recess-printed on thin unsurfaced watermarked paper (Fig. 40). Perf. $13\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.

