

Australian Rarities Stamp Special



DOWNIES

February 2018

One of only SIX known examples!

Important, distinctive and rare, we are proud to present the George V Red 1d Die Proof. The equivalent of an early Australian predecimal Proof coin, this great Australian rarity is known by just six examples.

In stamp production, a 'Die Proof' is an image taken directly from the master die of an engraved stamp. Printed with extra pressure onto a highly glazed card, Die Proofs are of very high quality, due to the use of the master die. In contrast, stamps issued for use are printed from a plate upon which the master die has been transferred on multiple occasions. Produced for archival or presentation purposes, Die Proofs are created in tiny numbers – as evidenced by the excessively rare Red 1d Die Proof.

Produced by Perkins Bacon & Co – the company contracted to produce Australia's early stamp dies and plates – the Red 1d Die Proof is in near Mint condition. One of the finest known examples, this great rarity is sure to command the interest of collectors worldwide.



1d RED KING GEORGE V
OFFICIAL DIE PROOF

\$17,900
18128

Rare 1920s stamp booklet!

We are delighted to give just TWO of our clients the chance to secure a genuine, original, complete booklet of 1927 2d Red stamps!

A very rare, fascinating piece of Australian philatelic history, each of the two 1927 2d Red Booklets comprises 12 stamps – with

all stamps printed on inverted watermarked paper! A must-have for the serious collector, we expect both 91-year-old booklets to be snapped up at speed.



All twelve stamps found in this seldom seen original booklet were printed on Inverted Watermark paper

1927 2d RED INVERTED
WATERMARK BOOKLET
(12 STAMPS)

\$549
16970



Each stamp was printed on 'CofA' watermarked paper

The last stamps of the Kangaroo Series!

More than just a key element of Australian philatelic history, as the last of the Kangaroo Series, this highly sought after collection is notable for its extraordinary rarity in premium grade.

The first Australian stamp design type, the Kangaroo motif was employed until the end of the reign of George V. Kangaroo stamps printed on 'CofA' watermarked paper were only issued from 1932, and, with these stamps

seldom set aside at issue, the complete set is rarely offered in Mint Unhinged quality, as here.

Highlighted by the excessively rare high denomination issues – the 5/-, 10/-, £1 & £2 – we have this important complete 7-stamp collection in fresh Mint Unhinged condition.

1932-1935 6d-£2 CofA WMK
COMPLETE SET OF 7 STAMPS MUH **\$23,500**
18129

Rare Australian Edward VII stamps

Issued in Victoria in 1901 and 1902 respectively, the £1 and £2 stamps seen here were the only stamps issued in Australia featuring the portrait of Edward VII! Whilst technically Victorian stamps, they were legal for use Australia-wide in the lead-up to our first national stamp issue in 1913. High denomination issues, few of these stamps have survived in any condition, and are considered extremely rare in the Mint Light Hinged quality offered here.

1901-1902 £1 & £2 EDWARD VII
STAMPS PAIR MLH **\$2,450**
18130



One of finest known

Issued over a century ago, as war raged on the Western Front, the 1916 £1 Brown & Blue Kangaroo is incredibly rare as a Block of 4. Indeed, there are a mere SEVEN Blocks known to exist and the example before you is acknowledged as one of the finest of the seven.

Among Australia's most sought after philatelic issues, this great rarity is in Mint Very Lightly Hinged condition, and is notable for outstanding eye-appeal. An 'exhibition piece', never before offered by Downies, this immensely rare 3rd Watermark Block of 4 is the consummate centrepiece of any advanced collection.

1916 £1 BROWN & BLUE BLOCK OF 4
MINT VERY LIGHT HINGED (MVLH) **\$49,500**
18131



3rd Watermark

Excessively rare in MUH

A classic Australian rarity, and highly sought after in standard format, the 1916 £1 Brown & Blue Kangaroo is excessively rare and hotly pursued when found printed upon Inverted Third Watermark paper – as presented here.

Seldom seen on the market, and always snapped up at super speed, we have just the single example of the 1916 £1 Brown & Blue Kangaroo Inverted Watermark available. In superb, fresh Mint Unhinged condition, this early Australian high denomination philatelic rarity will take your collection to the next level.

1916 £1 BROWN & BLUE KANGAROO
INVERTED WATERMARK MUH **\$14,900**
18132



Inverted Watermark



The first £1 Kangaroo!

A fundamental element of every predecimal collection, we have one example available of the 1913 £1 Brown & Blue Kangaroo – Australia's very first £1 Kangaroo stamp! Printed in the first year of the national stamp series, and bearing the First Watermark, this key issue is very rare in Mint Hinged.



1st Watermark

1913 £1 BROWN & BLUE FIRST WMK
MINT HINGED **\$5,900**
18133

Missing from most collections

Issued in 1916, and distinguished by the 3rd Watermark, this ever-popular Australian WWI-era stamp is unquestionably rare today. Missing from most collections as a result, this is your chance to secure the 1916 £1 Brown & Blue Kangaroo in fresh Mint Lightly Hinged condition.



3rd Watermark

1916 £1 BROWN & BLUE 3RD
WATERMARK MLH **\$4,590**
18134



A key early Australian issue, printed on 3rd Watermark paper, the 1915-23 2d-5/- Collection is difficult to assemble as a complete 8-stamp set. Fresh MLH quality!



3rd Watermark

1915-1923 2d-5/- 3rd WMK SET OF 8 STAMPS MLH

\$1,850
18135



Issued in the penultimate year of WWI, the 1917 5/- Grey & Yellow 3rd Watermark is rare in premium grade. Printed on 3rd Watermark paper due to shortages caused by WWI, this key type is offered in MUH quality.



3rd Watermark

1917 5/- GREY & YELLOW 3rd WATERMARK MUH

\$1,250
18136



The perfect partner for the 1917 5/- Grey & Yellow above right, this 101-year-old stamp was printed on 3rd Watermark paper due to shortages in standard paper caused by WWI. Very rare in MUH – just one available!



3rd Watermark

1915 10/- GREY & PINK 3rd WATERMARK MUH

\$2,650
18137



Rare in pristine Mint Unhinged, as here, the colour of the £1 stamp was changed in 1924 to avoid confusion with the George V 3d Blue. Highly sought after in such nice condition, we have just one in stock.



3rd Watermark

1924 £1 GREY 3rd WATERMARK MUH

\$3,500
18138



Distinguished by the John Ash Imprint, and the Small Multiple Watermark paper, the 1929 1/- Imprint Block of 4 is scarce and seldom offered. Top stamps in Mint Lightly Hinged, with the bottom pair in MUH.



Small Multiple Watermark

1929 1/- EMERALD ASH IMPRINT BLOCK 4 MUH/MLH

\$950
18139



Issued to replace the 3rd Watermark paper 10/- stamp, this rare Small Multiple Watermark Depression Era 10/- stamp is missing from most collections in the pristine Mint Unhinged quality presented here.



Small Multiple Watermark

1929 10/- GREY & PINK SMALL MULTIPLE WATERMARK MUH

\$2,450
18140

The King of Australian Kangaroo Stamps!



The first Australian £2 Black & Red Kangaroo, this historic stamp is excessively rare in Mint Lightly Hinged quality.



1st Watermark

1913 £2 BLACK & RED FIRST WATERMARK MLH

\$14,900
18141



Issued in the aftermath of WWI, and featuring 3rd Watermark paper – very rare in fresh MLH condition.



3rd Watermark

1919 £2 BLACK & RED 3rd WATERMARK MLH

\$6,900
18142



Tremendously rare, this 'corner example' of the Depression Era 'CofA' Watermark Red & Black £2 is in pristine MUH.



CofA Watermark

1934 £2 BLACK & RED CofA WATERMARK MUH

\$18,900
18142

Among Australia's rarest stamps – offered in premium grade

The 1913-34 £2 Red & Black Kangaroo Series is a truly iconic element of Australian philatelics. Not only historic and visually commanding, these high denomination Red & Black £2 issues are also highly sought after for their immense rarity – in any condition.

Printed in relatively limited numbers, with high denomination stamps needed by few people, the rarity of early Australian £2

stamps is largely because they represented too much value to set aside for posterity. From the World War I years through to the Great Depression, people could not afford to casually stash these stamps away as a memento.

Thus, one rarely sees the 1913-34 £2 Red & Black Kangaroo stamps on the market – especially in premium grade. It is the unquestionable rarity of these stamps in top quality that

makes this opportunity so special. Not only do we have the 1913 Red & Black £2 in Mint Lightly Hinged – we also have the 1919 £2 in fresh, original MLH, and an ultra-rare 'Corner example' of the Depression Era 1934 £2 in superb Mint Unhinged!

With only one example of each of the extremely rare Red & Black Kangaroo £2 stamps available, we highly recommend immediate action.



The Colours of Chaos! Australia's first stamps!

Seldom seen as a complete 21-stamp collection

An important piece of Australia's early history as a nation, the George V 1914-24 1/2d-1/4 Stamp Set is seldom seen on the market as a complete 21-stamp collection.

After more than a decade of red-tape and red-hot debate, Australia's first national stamps were unveiled in 1913. In December of that year, the George V Portrait Series

was launched. The colours of the various denominations changed on a regular basis in the early years, and whilst a nightmare for the Australian public, the chaos has resulted in an extensive and highly collectable George V Portrait set.

Comprising all 21 different stamps from the 1/2d to 1/4 from 1914 to 1924 – and headlined by the rare Lemon 4d stamp –

this comprehensive 21-stamp set features a variety of scarce to rare early Australian stamps. Very difficult to assemble as a complete collection, especially in stunning MUH condition as here, we have two COMPLETE sets available.

1914-1924 COMPLETE SET
1/2d-1/4 STAMPS MUH
(21 MUH STAMPS)

\$2,950
18144



CofA Watermark

Each Block of Four carries the imprint of the Commonwealth Government printer at the time, John Ash.



Rare Imprint Blocks of 4 – in MUH quality!

The last stamps of the reign of King George V

Distinctive, highly collectable and rare, Imprint Blocks form a crucial part of Australian philatelics. A mouthwatering opportunity, we can present the complete 1/2d to 1/4 set of Imprint Blocks from 1931 to 1936 – the last stamps of George V.

Found on the selvedge of each sheet, an 'imprint' denotes the printers contracted to

produce stamps on behalf of the Commonwealth Government. Printers varied over time, but during the post-Depression Era, the printer was John Ash – a company that also printed Australian notes. With an imprint appearing only once on a 120-stamp sheet, Imprint Blocks are very rare today, largely because sheets were naturally broken up for everyday use.

We have two complete 1931-36 John Ash Imprint Blocks of Four Sets available, with each comprising eight Blocks from 1/2d to 1/4. Seldom seen in such a comprehensive format, the collection is underpinned by Mint Unhinged quality.

1931-1936 COMPLETE SET
1/2d-1/4 CofA WATERMARK
IMPRINT BLOCKS OF 4 MUH

\$4,750
18145

Crown your Imprint collection!

Celebrating the Coronation of King George VI, the Robes Stamp Trio is always highly sought after – never more so when found in Imprint Blocks of Four! The crowning glory of the collection on the opposite page, and an important acquisition in its own right, the 1938 John Ash Imprint trio comprises the 5/-, 10/- and £1 ‘thick paper’ Blocks, with each Block of Four in strictly Mint Unhinged. Very scarce as Imprint Blocks of Four, we have only a few sets available.

1938 5/-, 10/-, £1 ROBES THICK
PAPER ASH IMPRINT BLOCKS OF 4 MUH
(12 STAMPS)

\$1,290
18146



Riding on the sheep’s back

Among Australia’s earliest commemorative stamps, the 1934 2d, 3d & 9d were issued to mark 100 years since the death of iconic colonial figure John Macarthur – the ‘Father of the Merino Industry’. Sought after as individual stamps, we have this post-Depression Era trio as original John Ash Imprint Blocks of Four, with each block presented in superb Mint Unhinged quality. Very scarce today, this is an opportunity that should not be missed!

1934 2d, 3d, 9d MACARTHUR SET OF 3 ASH
IMPRINT BLOCKS OF 4 MUH (12 STAMPS)

\$790
18147

Scarce Centenary Stamps!

Surprisingly affordable at less than \$400, we also have a small number available of the 1936 South Australian Centenary Ash Imprint Block of Four Trio. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of South Australia, and including the 2d, 3d and 1/- stamps, each Block of Four is offered in strictly Mint Unhinged quality. Featuring the John Ash Imprint upon the selvage, this highly desirable element of early Australian philatelics is very scarce and always popular with collectors.

1936 2d, 3d, 1/- SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CENTENARY
ASH IMPRINT BLOCKS OF 4 (12 STAMPS)

\$395
18148



1949 Robes Imprint Trio – not as thick as some!

Although the Robes stamps were launched as George VI Coronation commemoratives, the designs were revived as definitive stamps in 1949 – printed on ‘thin’ paper and bearing a different Imprint!

Unlike the 1938 Robes Trio, this post-WWII issue was printed on much thinner paper. In addition, the selvage of each sheet bore the imprint ‘Printed by the authority of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia’.

Known as ‘Authority’ imprints as a result, this distinctive Block of Four trio is the perfect partner for the 1938 set.

Very scarce, we have the 1949 5/-, 10/- & £1 Thin Paper Authority Imprint Block of Four Trio in MUH.

1949 5/-, 10/-, £1 ROBES THIN
PAPER AUTHORITY IMPRINT
BLOCKS OF 4 MUH (12 STAMPS)

\$1,450
18149

Thick & Thin McCracken Pair!

An interesting insight into Australian stamp production, the 1940 & 1948 Thick & Thin Imprint Blocks of Four form the perfect pair – and are available at the perfect price!

The 1/6 airmail stamp was launched in 1940, printed on thick watermarked paper. The stamp was issued again in 1948, printed on thin watermarked paper, with both printed by WCG McCracken. Offered in MUH, we have Imprint Blocks of both types available at just \$245 for the pair!

1940-48 1/6 HERMES AIRMAIL
THICK & THIN IMPRINT BLOCKS
OF 4 MUH (2 BLOCKS 8 STAMPS)

\$245
18150





Spectacular Double Perforation Error!

Exceptionally rare in this format

Australian stamp production is world-renowned for quality, consistency and precision. Thus, errors seldom creep through the system – making a spectacular blunder such as the 1978 18c Kingsford Smith stamp incredibly rare!

Something went seriously wrong with the creation of the 1978 18c Kingsford Smith stamp. As illustrated by this immensely rare Block of 15, the stamps at the top received no perforations, with the bottom two rows of stamps separated by DOUBLE perforations!

Error stamps are always popular, but the more spectacular the error, the more highly sought after are the stamps. This breathtaking bungle is one of the most outstanding errors we have seen, and, known by very few examples, we expect the 1978 18c Kingsford Smith Block of 15 Error to be snapped up instantly.

In strictly Mint Unhinged condition, we have just one Block of 15 available. Immediate action a must!



1978 18c KINGSFORD SMITH
ERROR 15 STAMP BLOCK MUH **\$6,500**
18151



Kingfisher Colour Cock-up!

Exceptional Error – known by a tiny number of examples

One of the rarest philatelic Errors ever offered by Downies, we are delighted to present the 1980 22c Kingfisher Missing Colour stamp as an original Block of 30 and Strips of 10!

As illustrated above, the printers didn't quite get the colours right for this distinctive tribute to Australia's iconic White-tailed Kingfisher. The first stamp on the left has no colour whatsoever in the nest and mound upon which the kingfisher sits, whilst the

second stamp from the left has very subdued colour. All stamps from the third stamp from the left carry the appropriate colour combination, forming a sharp contrast with the first two stamps on each row.

An exceptionally rare Error type, it is believed that just the single Block of 30 exists, as well as seven Strips of 10. A dramatic centrepiece for any collection, and a must-have for the serious Error collector, we have the sole

Block of 30 in stock, as well as three Strips of 10. Never before offered by Downies, and sure to command the attention of collectors across the globe, this glaring gaffe is offered in superb Mint Unhinged condition.

1980 22c BIRD MISSING COLOUR 30-STAMP BLOCK MUH **\$9,995**
18153

1980 22c BIRD MISSING COLOUR STRIP OF 10 STAMPS MUH **\$3,450**
18154



Rare 'Official Service' stamps complete set!

Used for mail between Federal and State Government departments, 'Official Service' stamps are scarce, important and highly collectable. A great opportunity, we have the COMPLETE 1931-32 OS Overprint 11-stamp Set available in Mint Unhinged!

Not available to the public, OS stamps were issued in tiny numbers for a very brief period. The series was ended in part because a 'black market' for the stamps emerged, with collectors paying a premium to get their hands on them! As a result, few OS stamps have survived. Headlined by the super-scarce Kingsford Smith 2d & 3d, all OS stamps are tough-to-find in the superior MUH quality presented here. Just THREE sets available!

1931-32 COMPLETE OVERPRINTED OS SET OF 11 STAMPS MUH

\$2,950
18155

Important WWII-era overprint stamps

Australians served in the British Commonwealth Occupation Force in Japan after WWII, and to facilitate personal mail, the Government issued 'BCOF Japan 1946' overprinted stamps from 1946 to 1949. Sought after as a memento of WWII, and as an interesting, distinctive part of Australia's philatelic history, we have the complete set of seven scarce BCOF stamps in MUH.



BCOF JAPAN 1946 OVERPRINTS ½d - 5/-
COMPLETE SET OF 7 STAMPS MUH

\$495
18156

CONVENIENT WAYS TO ORDER!



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