

FROM AUSTRALIAN STATES TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 1850 – 1960

The 'BESANÇON' Collection

This marvellous collection – built over the last 40 years – will be auctioned by Corinphila in 2017-2019. The 'BESANÇON' collection retraces the history of Australia through adhesive postage stamps and their use on mail from earliest settlements in the 19th century, the founding of the Commonwealth of Australia and ending on the Centenary of Australian Postage Stamps.

In all probability one of the most complete and important collections of Australian States and Australia 1850-1960 ever assembled, outstanding also for its quality!

The following pages provide a small extract from the 'BESANÇON' collection.



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NEW SOUTH WALES

1788 A fleet of 11 ships with convicts, soldiers and others arrived at Botany Bay in January 1788. Captain Phillip proclaimed the new colony. The first settlement was made at Sydney. The area was known as New South Wales with Sydney as the administrative centre and included all territory east of longitude 135° East.

1803 The Sydney Gazette of 10 July 1803 first mentions Postal services.

1825 'Act to Regulate the Postage of Letters in New South Wales' under Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane.

1838 'Act to Provide for the Conveyance and Postage of Letters' under Governor Sir Richard Bourke introduced letter charges according to weight and distance carried.

A cheap local Sydney Post is established by the issue of prepaid embossed stamped envelopes.

1848/49 Proposals for a uniform rate of postage followed by the 'Act to Establish a Uniform Rate of Postage and to consolidate and Amend the Law for the Conveyance and Postage of Letters' which took effect from 1 January 1850. The Act authorised the issue of adhesive postage stamps.

1850 The first stamps 'The Sydney Views' were issued. They were engraved locally on copper plates. The 1d. by Robert Clayton, the 2d. by John Carmichael and the 3d. by H.C. Jervis. All three copper printing plates wore rapidly and were variously re-engraved by H.C. Jervis.

1851 The second locally produced 'Laureated' issue, engraved by John Carmichael and H.C. Jervis on steel plates (1d., 2d. plate I, 3d.) and on copper plates (2d. plate II, 6d., 8d.)

1852 Stamps to prepay postage made obligatory.

1854 The third 'Diadem' issue made from engraved steel plates made by Perkins, Bacon in London.

1856 'Laureated' Sixpence Registration Stamp.

From 1862 New issues printed from typographed plates printed by De La Rue in London.

1879 First appearance of O.S. overprinted Official Stamps

*Charles
Lathorp
Pack*



Sydney View 1d.,
proof blocks of 6 and 9 re-joined!

Provenance:

Upper block of 6: Charles Lathorp Pack
(1944), W. R. D. Wiggins (1981)
Lower block of 9: Alfred Lichtenstein &
Louise Boyd-Dale (1990)

Philippe Ferrary de la Renotière



Sydney View 1d., plate I, unused.

Provenance:

Philippe Ferrary de la Renotière (1922)



Sydney View 1d., plate II, strip of four on cover.

Provenance:

Charles Lathrop Pack (1944)

John R. Boker Jr. (1981)



Sydney

Sydney View, 2d., plate III, the famous "L" shaped unused multiple.

Reference: G.J. Hutson handbook, Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia (1962)

Provenance:

V. P. Manwood (1995)



Sydney View 3d. and Laureated 2d. mixed franking!



Sydney View 3d. and 1d. (pair), the famous cover to Van Diemen's Land.

Provenance:

Alfred H. Caspary (1958)

Lars T. Amundsen (1967)



1885/86, ONE POUND overprinted "POSTAGE", largest known multiple!



1860, 8d. orange, perf. 12

Provenance:

Lars T. Amundsen (1967)



Sydney



Official stamp 1882/85, 8d. "O.S." treble overprint. Just two specimens known.



QUEENSLAND

- Prior to 1859** Postal Service in the locality then known as the Moreton Bay District administered by New South Wales.
- 1859** Moreton Bay District separated from New South Wales as the Colony of Queensland on 10 December 1859.
- 1860** The first stamps printed from steel plates engraved by Perkins Bacon in London. Steel plates were then delivered to the Colony for further printings.
- 1866** First Lithograph plates for the 4d. and 5s. made by taking lithographic transfers from Perkins Bacon steel plates.
- 1876** General decision that Queensland should produce its own stamps. Electrotypes came into use for printing from 1879.
- 1880** Authorisation of Fiscal Stamps for Postal use.
- 1903** Printing from lithographic stones from transfers taken from recess plates.



1860, 2d. die proof.

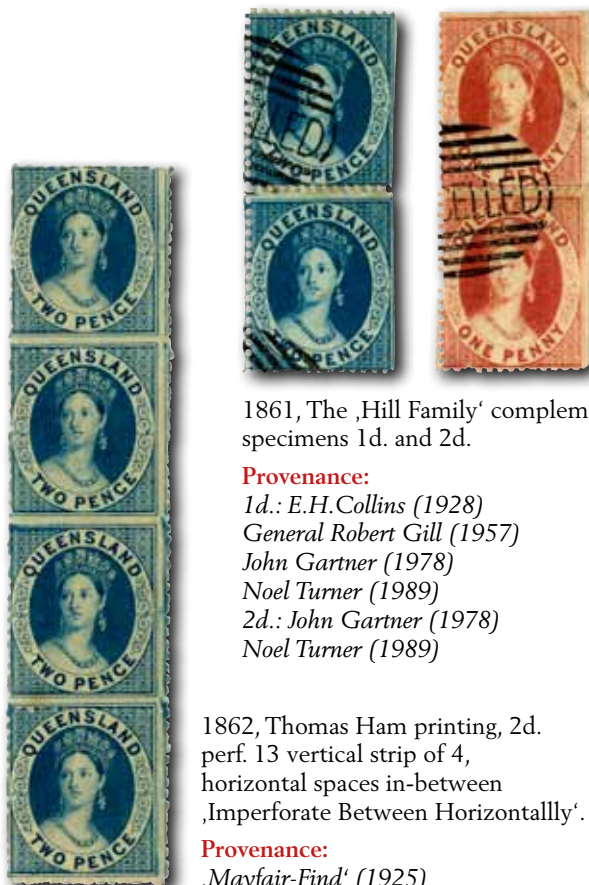


Maurice Burrus



1860, 2d. blue imperf., used pair.

Provenance:
Maurice Burrus (1964)



1861, The 'Hill Family' complementary specimens 1d. and 2d.

Provenance:
1d.: E.H. Collins (1928)
General Robert Gill (1957)
John Gartner (1978)
Noel Turner (1989)
2d.: John Gartner (1978)
Noel Turner (1989)

1862, Thomas Ham printing, 2d. perf. 13 vertical strip of 4, horizontal spaces in-between, 'Imperforate Between Horizontally'.

Provenance:
'Mayfair-Find' (1925)



1860, 2d. blue on cover, wonderful First Issue cover!

Provenance:
T.H. Chapman
Frank Godden
Noel Turner (1989)



1863, Thomas Ham printing, 6d.
apple green, perf 13, block of 15 mint.

Provenance:

,Mayfair-Find' (1925)



Queensland's first railway train passes over Iron Pot Gully,
Ipswich district, 1865.



Brisbane, Parliament House



1868/74, 1d. pair and 6d. on cover to Germany.



Anglo-Boer War Patriotic Fund, 1d and 2. on cover to London,
taxed on arrival as not permitted by UPU!



1903 (approx), Essay for proposed 6d.
featuring the future King Edward VII.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- 1836** Proclaimed as a British Colony on 28 December 1836.
- 1839** First local Post Office Act introducing a rate of 3d. per letter, irrespective of weight, for all letters received or posted for delivery in the Colony.
- 1841** Postal rate for internal letters based on weight and distance carried.
- 1854** Inland rate of 2d. per ½ ounce weight on prepaid, double rate on unpaid letter mail.
- 1855** The first stamps printed from steel plates engraved by Perkins Bacon in London. Steel plates were then delivered to the Colony for further printings.
- 1868** First surface printing plates by De La Rue delivered to Adelaide for printing.
- 1874** First Official stamps overprinted ,O.S.‘



1855, 1s. violet, prepared for use but not issue!
Only about 15 specimens recorded!



1860/69, 'TEN PENCE' Surcharge
Inverted at Top, rejoined pair!

Provenance:
Colonel Napier



1855, Recess by Perkins Bacon, 6d. deep blue, imperforate, the famous block of 21, used.

Provenance:

Julius Beresford (1958)
Maurice Burrus (1962)
John O. Griffiths (1992)



Adelaide





1856/58, 2d orange-red, mint strip of 4



1861, The 'Hill Family'
complementary specimens
1d., 2d. and 6d.

Provenance:

1d. and upper 6d.: Alfred Lichtenstein
& Louise Boyd-Dale (1990)



1860/69, 6d. used on illustrated cover to Tasmania!



1860/69, 'TEN PENCE' Surcharge Inverted at Top, the unique example used on cover. One of the true gems of South Australia!

Provenance:

John R. Boker Jr. (1981)



1885, De La Rue Essays 3d. and 6d.,
unadopted and hand-painted



TASMANIA

- 1804** Governor Collins arrived with over 400 convicts from Port Phillip (Victoria).
- 1824** Van Diemen's Land was proclaimed independent of New South Wales.
- Prior to 1825** Tasmanian postal arrangements were under the authority of the Chief Postmaster in Sydney, NSW
- 1828** Erection of General Post Office in Hobart. Appointment of General Postmaster. First legislative Postal Act fixing letter rates.
- 1842** Distance-weight sliding scale abolished. Letters per ½ ounce weight in Hobart and Launceston 2d., Inland letters 4d.
- 1853** Van Diemen's Land was renamed Tasmania in August 1853. First adhesive postage stamps issued and use of adhesive stamps on letter mail made compulsory: 1d. per ½ ounce on town letters, 4d. per ½ ounce on inland and ship letters. The first stamps printed from steel plates engraved by Perkins Bacon in London. Steel plates were then delivered to the Colony.
- Corresponding 1d. and 4d. adhesive stamps locally engraved in steel plates by C.W.Coard, printed by H. and C. Best at the 'Courier' Newspaper Office.
- 1855** New stamp issue printed from steel plates engraved by Perkins Bacon in London. Steel plates were then delivered to the Colony for further printings.
- 1856** Tasmania was granted self-government.
- 1870** First Surface printing plates by De La Rue, typographed in the Colony.
- 1882** Fiscal stamps authorised for postal use.



1853, 1d. pale blue, fine large part o.g. strip of three.

Provenance:

Philippe Ferrary de la Renotière (1922)
Sebastian Earl (1980)



1853, 4d. orange, plate II, unused.



1854, Chalon Head 4d. die proof.



1854, Chalon Head, Perkins Bacon Die Proof by Humphrys without value, POSTAGE or country inscriptions.

Provenance:

Sebastian Earl (1980)



1853, 1d. pale blue on cover.



Hobart



1857, 1d. pale red-brown, mint block of four.



1855, Chalon Head, London Printing, 4d. unused block of four.



1858, Chalon Head 6d. used with Great Britain 1855/56, 2d. and 4d. to make up 1s. rate to London.

Provenance:

J. Grant Glassco (1969)



1886, De La Rue hand-painted Essays for proposed 2s.6d. design.



1891, De La Rue hand-painted Essays.





- 1803** Arrival of 360 convicts and approx. 50 Royal Marines and free settlers in October 1803.
- 1835** Proclamation announcing that „the Settlement called Port Phillip was in the Colony of New South Wales“.
- 1841** First Post Office erected in Melbourne.
- 1850** Separation from New South Wales was anticipated by the local administration. First adhesive stamp issue ‚Victoria Half Lengths‘, lithographed by Thomas Ham, introduced on 1 January 1850.
- 1851** Separation from New South Wales on 1 July 1851.
- 1852** New stamp design for the 2d. the ‚Queen on Throne‘.
- 1854** Lithographic printings of ‚Victoria Half Lengths‘ and ‚Queen on Throne‘ continued by J.S. Campbell & Co. and Campbell & Fergusson.
- 1854/56** New stamp issues produced by local Printers.
- 1856** ‚Queen on Throne‘ 2d. and 6d. printed by Perkins Bacon & Co from steel plates in London.
- 1857** New design of adhesive stamps ‚Emblems‘, printed by Calvert Bros. from electrotype plates.
- 1860/63** The ‚Beaded Ovals‘, ‚Netted Corners‘ and ‚Laureated‘ issues.
- 1868** Bi-colour printings from two plates.
- 1870** ‚Joubert‘ 2d. and later issues printed from electrotyped plates
- 1884** Fiscal stamps authorised for postal use.



1854, The famous three hand drawn 1s. Essays for the 1854 tender!

Provenance:

J.R.W. Purves (1980)

Rod Perry (1987)



1850, Lithographed by Thomas Ham, 1d. the famous used block of six!

Provenance:

Charles Lathrop Pack (1944)

John R. Boker Jr. (1981)

‚K.L.‘ collection (1996)



1854/1901, 1s. Composite Proof strip of five subjects, printed on the occasion of the Duke of York's (later King George V) visit to Australia in 1901. Only two or three struck from original dies.



1851, Lithographed by Thomas Ham, 1d. third state, unused block of ten

Provenance:

Philippe Ferrary de la Renotière (1923)

Arthur Hind (1934)

Maurice Burrus (1964)

John R. Boker Jr. (1981)

Melbourne



1851, Lithographed by Thomas Ham, 1d. unused block of 19, the largest multiple recorded!

Provenance:

Charles Lathrop Pack (1944)
Louise Boyd-Dale & Alfred Lichtenstein (1990)



1885/95, Error of colour 4d. lilac instead of magenta, mint pair

Provenance:

Charles Lathrop Pack (1947)
J.R.W.Purves (1980)
Rod Perry (1987)



Ham Printing 1850, 3d. bright blue, the famous used block of sixteen!

Provenance:

Charles Lathrop Pack (1944)
Alfred Lichtenstein &
Louise Boyd-Dale (1990)



1856, Queen on Throne, 1d. strip of six on cover

Provenance:

Corinthia sale 72, (1985)



1854, 1s. dull slate-blue, the famous block of 24 discovered in 1981. Lithographed by Campbell & Fergusson.



Stamp Duty: 1886/96, High Values, perf. 12 ½, wmk. Crown over V, only two examples of each recorded outside the Royal Collection of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



Stamp Duty: 1884/1900, High Values, perf. 12 ½, wmk. V over Crown, the set of three, superb mint o.g. Extremely rare!



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- 1826** Military post to avert a threatened French occupation.
- 1829** First settlers founded Fremantle and Perth.
- 1831** The Swan River Settlement proclaimed the Colony of Western Australia.
- 1835** Act by William IV regulating for the first time the Post Office in Western Australia.
- 1854** Issue of the 'One Penny Black Swan' adhesive postage stamps printed from steel plates engraved by Perkins Bacon. Use on all mail was compulsory.
- 1854** Issue of 4d. and 1s. adhesive stamps by transferring the 'Swan' design with altered frames and value tablets in settings of 60 from the Perkins Bacon 1d. plate to Lithographic stones.
- 1857** New locally lithographic produced 2d. and 6d. 'Swan' adhesive stamps.
- 1860** New stamp issues printed from Perkins Bacon steel plates.
- 1861** New delivery of steel printing plates prepared by Perkins Bacon in London.
- 1864/65** Production of typographed printing plates by De La Rue.
- 1893/85** Provisional surcharged ½d. and 1d. stamps.



1854, 1d black, fine unused block of four.

Provenance:

Maurice Burrus (1962)



1881, De La Rue Essay for the Internal Revenue issue, handpainted



Philippe Ferrary de la Renotière



1854, 4d. 'Inverted Frame', used. Possibly the finest in private hands!

Provenance:

Philippe Ferrary de la Renotière (1923)



King George Sound



1858, 1d. black, 2d. black on brown and 1s. pale brown used on cover to New Brunswick

Provenance:

Harmers sale 'Rarities of the World' (1964)



1854, 1d. black (pair) and 4d. blue, used on cover to England.



1854, 4d. pale-blue, unused block of 20.

Provenance:

John Gartner (1979)



1855, 1s. pale-brown unused block of 15.

Provenance:

'Superb' collection (1926)

Maurice Burrus (1962)

John R. Boker Jr. (1981)



1879, 2d. mauve, Error of Colour, very fine used.



1879, 2d. mauve, Error of Colour, unused with large post o.g.



1860, Perkins Bacon Die Proof for the 6d.



1854, Proof for the 1s. in black with offset of the Swan 4d. value on reverse. The offset with WESTERN/WESTERN side by side that ascertained the 'Centre Inverted' variety was an 'Inverted Frame'!

Provenance:

John Gartner (1979)



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

- 1897** A convention of delegates from each State, except Victoria, meet to draw up a Federal Constitution.
- 1900** The Constitution had been agreed by all States, including Victoria.
- 1901** The Duke of York (later King George V) opened the First Federal Parliament in Melbourne on 1st. May 1901.
The States continued to print and issue their own stamps, valid only within their State.
- 1902** First issue adopted for and valid in all States except Victoria: the Postage Due issue of 1902.
- 1911** Competition announced for designs for the new 'Australia' stamps, closing date 31 May 1911.
- 1911** Mr. Blamire Young's submitted design for Commonwealth of Australia adhesive stamps is chosen. After various modifications, this design later became known as the famous 'Kangaroo Series'.
- 1913** 'Kangaroo Series' issued in 1st. January.
- 1913/14** New definitives: King George V and 'Laughing Kookaburra'
- 1914/33** Surface printed George V Issues.



1912/13, Die Proof second unapproved design by Blamire Young.

Provenance:

J.A. Kilfoyle (1961)



1913, 2s. brown
Die II, mint, with
'JBC' monogram



1913, 5s. , Die II,
mint, with 'JBC'
monogram



1915, Second
Wmk., 2s. brown,
Die II, mint, with
'CA' monogram



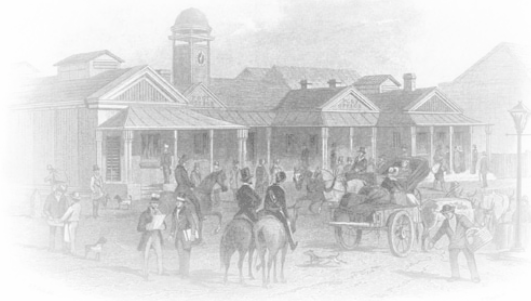
1918, Third Wmk.,
5s. mint, with 'CA'
monogram



1915, Second Wmk., 5s. mint,
with 'CA' monogram



1913, 6d Die IIA, the substituted cliché, only two such positional strips recorded!



Melbourne, Post Office



1929/30, Typographed by J.Ash, £2 mint block of 12



1929/30, Typographed by J. Ash, £2 Roo interpanneau pair, mint



1927, Opening of Parliament House, Canberra, 1 ½ d. variety imperforate between vertically





BRITISH OCCUPATION OF GERMAN NEW GUINEA

- 1884** Germany annexed a part of the Northern coast of New Guinea.
- 1914** Outbreak of World War I. German New Guinea was occupied by Australian Imperial Forces during September and October 1914 and placed under Australian administration.
- Oct. 1914** Stamps of German New Guinea were soon overprinted and surcharged ,G.R.I.‘
- Dec. 1914** Stamps of Marshall islands overprinted and surcharged ,G.R.I.‘
- 1915** King George V and Kangaroo stamps of Australia overprinted ,N.W. PACIFIC ISLANDS‘.
- 1918** Australia was given Mandate over the whole of the former German possessions (except Carolines, Marshall and Marianna Islands) under the title ,Territory of New Guinea‘.



1914, 1d. with surcharge double one inverted!



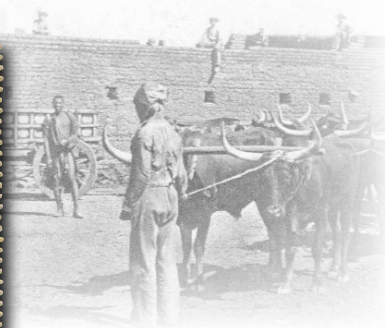
Surcharge on Marshall Islands: 1914, 2s. with surcharge double, one inverted!



1914, 2d. in vertical pair with 2½d.



1914, 2½d. in vertical pair with 3d.



1914, G.R.I. 5s. on 5 Mark variety "no stop after l", mint



1915, Registration Labels surcharged, Herbertshöhe 3d. "surcharge omitted" in pair with "normal 3d."



1914, 3d. "surcharge omitted" in pair with "normal 3d."