

AUSTRALIA

The Australian 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps were issued on May 2, 1935. Copper electro printing was used for the first occasion with this issue. Although ink colour was better retained as a result, in practice the electrodes wore very rapidly and a large amount of retouching had to be redone. This led to the numerous examples that can be found on careful inspection of the stamps.

Value	No. of Plates	No. of stamps/plate	Sheets/plate	No. printed
2d	6	320	4	96,044,000
3d	1	320	4	2,879,920
2/-	1	160	2	499,920

The 2d and 3d plates were arranged in four groups of 80 stamps (sheets) i.e. 320 subjects, each with an upper and lower pane (see Fig. 1). Each pane consisted of 4 horizontal rows of 10 stamps. Plate numbers were printed in all four corners. The 2/- plate was a half plate with the two sheets side-by-side and the plate number appears only in the top corners of the respective sheets. The Ash imprint is found under stamps 35 and 36 of the lower pane of each sheet.

Describing position of varieties

Each sheet is accorded a letter based on its location on the plate (See Fig. 2)

A = Upper Left Sheet
C = Lower Left Sheet

B = Upper Right Sheet
D = Lower Right Sheet

The pane is also identified U = Upper L = Lower
Stamp position is described as per Figure 1

e.g. A variety found on Plate 1, occurring in the Right Upper Sheet, lower pane and in Row 3, column 10 is marked as "1B/L30"

Design and Printing issues

Designer and Engraver – Frank Manley from the Printing Branch, Melbourne.

Design based on photograph taken by Raphael Tuck and Sons in 1927. Stamps issued May 2, 1935. 2d and 3d withdrawn from circulation July 1935. Supplies for 2/- exhausted June 1935.

Master plate made of steel die. Copper electro type plates produced from master die and used for printing. One reason was requirement for dry printing process on chalk-surfaced paper. Printing process used rotary recess by John Ash, Melbourne.

Paper used: Chalky surfaced paper, watermarked Multiple Crown "C of A"

Plate gutters between panes are horizontal, instead of vertical. This allowed stamp perforating to be done by existing comb machines.

Commentary

Roller Flaws: Are constant coloured flaws occurring more than once on a sheet due to adherence of 'foreign material' to the transfer-roller. NB: Only occur in adjoining stamps in vertical rows (7 sets identified)

Retouch: A minor correction effected by hand-engraving on the plate or cylinder. Usually refers to work done on photogravure stamps.

Recut: An unhardened printing plate that has been retouched

2d – Varieties and Flaws

Plate	Position	Description
1	1A/U4	Pronounced red spot above 2d and in front of horse's front hoof
	1A/L6	Dot under horse's leg (roller flaw)
	1A/L16	Dot under horse's leg (roller flaw)
	1A/L26	Dot under horse's leg (roller flaw)
	1A/L29	Colour spot over hill on left. Later found as retouched stamp
	1A/L33	Scratch on King's head
	1A/L36	Dot under horse's leg (roller flaw)
	1B/U13	"End bracket" mark in front of horse stretching from mid body to knee
	1B/U19	Two short parallel lines at right border just above shrubs
	1B/U36	Red blotch on corner of inscription tablet immediately above "I" of AUSTRALIA & opposite base of right-hand "2d"
	1B/L22	Dot in upper right corner (roller flaw)
	1B/L32	Dot in upper right corner (roller flaw)
	1D/U4	Flaw on horse's rein
	1D/U30	Large dot above King's helmet
	1D/U49	Stake near horse's off front hoof
	1D/L29	"Reversed apostrophe" between 'GE' of George
2	2A/U31	Retouch to ground left of horse
	2A/L26	Vertical line through right numeral. Small dot to left of letter "Silver" Later – retouch between "2" of 2d and last "IA" of AUSTRALIA
	2B/L5	Short horizontal frame at lower frame border under last "A" of Australia. Found on Scarlet and Brownish-red printings
	2B/L37	Inverted crescent shaped line stretching from left frame border at level of top of horses head to lower face harness on horse.
	2C/U7	Spot behind tail (roller flaw)
	2C/U17	Spot behind tail (roller flaw)
	2C/U27	Spot behind tail (roller flaw)
	2C/L33	Lines in left frame level with head
	2D/U3	Thickening of lower frame line presenting as a slight inverted crescent shape line between "USTR" of AUSTRALIA
	2D/U8	Bottom frame & shading below 'Postage' recut

2d – Varieties and Flaws (continued)

Plate	Position	Description
2	2D/U39	Scratches in top right corner Later – retouch to six lines of shading
	2D/L8	Spot to left of horse’s head
	2D/L32	Vertical scratches by right frame (Next to last “A” of Australia & opposite horse’s tail) – found in scarlet and carmine shades Later – retouch to crosshatching adjoining lower frame
	2D/L40	Weak shading at top
3	3A/U7	Vertical coloured flaw over “I” of AUSTRALIA. Also known as long “I” variety. Extends upwards to terminate opposite “5” of 1935 Later – retouch “I” of AUSTRALIA
	3A/U28	Thickened red line on and below “L” of AUSTRALIA
	3A/U31	Retouch to lines N.E. of helmet & lines through “RG” of GEORGE and “AL” of AUSTRALIA
	3A/L5	Left diagonal line between “IA” of AUSTRALIA
	3A/L21	Spot in top margin (roller flaw)
	3A/L31	Spot in top margin (roller flaw)
	3B/L27	Spot over head (roller flaw)
	3B/L28	Blur at top
	3B/L29	Diagonal scratch between front legs
	3B/L37	Spot over head (roller flaw)
	3C/U18	Extended frame at top
	3C/U28	Extended frame at top
	3C/U38	Extended frame at top. Printing extends ½ inch top & bottom over frames above and below
	3C/L7	Spot in top right (roller flaw)
	3C/L10	Weak re-entry along base under “AU” of AUSTRALIA Later – retouch shading below “AU” and “Posta”
	3C/L11	Retouch to lines left of helmet (removed an angular spot)
	3C/L17	Spot in top right (roller flaw)
	3C/L23	Small inverted “v” to right of King’s helmet above base of horse’s tail
	3C/L26	Retouch to crosshatching below “Australia” and “Posta”
	3D/L4	Stroke between “OR” of George (Roller flaw)
	3D/L14	Stroke between “OR” of George (Roller flaw)
	3D/L24	Stroke between “OR” of George (Roller flaw)
	3D/L26	Extra line at Base
	3D/L34	Stroke between “OR” of George (Roller flaw)

2d – Varieties and Flaws (continued)

Plate	Position	Description
4	4B/U18	Dot by horse's ears
	4B/U36	Dot above 5 of "1935"
	4B/L26	Retouched vertical lines above B of "Jubilee"
	4C/U29	Faint shading at bottom
	4C/L1	Retouch shading to sky top left (shows traces of two long vertical scratches at left border stretching from just below horse's mouth to top of 2d).
	4D/U26	Dot in front of King to left of helmet
	4D/U36	(Thickened horizontal line above 5 of "1935") Two dots – one between horse's back legs and second at right frame at lower level of tail
	4D/U38	Spot to left of horse's head
4D/L3	Short vertical line at right frame border opposite horse's rump	
4D/L13	Weak re-entry below "LIA" of AUSTRALIA and lower frame	
5	5D/L1	Short line to left of "of." Extends to "S" of Silver
6	6B/L27	Retouch to crosshatching below and around "AGE" of Postage
	6C/L11	Extensive, strong retouch to sky left of King's head
	6D/U33	Spot in hills to right of horse
	6D/L5	Lower frame recut. Retouched crosshatching below "OSTAGE" of Postage
6D/L15	Horizontal lines below & right of "AGE" recut	
6D/L23	Spot above hills to right of horse	

3d – Varieties and Flaws

Plate	Position	Description
1	1A/U2	Dot under “G” of King Line from “U” to “R”
	1A/U5	Dot to left of “V” of George V above “9” of 1935
	1A/U14	Dot left of horse’s head left of frame
	1A/U18	Dot left of horse’s head
	1A/U24	Strong retouch under “U” of AUSTRALIA & “POSTAGE”
	1A/L3	Weak re-entry under “AU” of AUSTRALIA
	1A/L16	Line between stamps
	1A/L20	Ring above second “G” of George
	1A/L21	Dot by horse’s front leg
	1A/L26	Line between stamps
	1A/L30	Ring above second “G” of George
	1A/L36	Line from inner frame to 2 nd “A” of AUSTRALIA
	1B/U8	Line through “O” of George
	1B/L24	Hyphen to left of “1910” Retouch around “U” of AUSTRALIA
	1C/U3	Spot in top left corner (roller flaw)
	1C/U4	Re-entry under “U” of AUSTRALIA
	1C/U8	Dash under “O” of George
	1C/U9	Dot under first “A” of AUSTRALIA
	1C/U13	Spot in top left corner (roller flaw)
	1C/U22	Weak re-entry under “LIA” of AUSTRALIA
	1C/U23	Spot in top left corner (roller flaw)
	1C/U33	Spot in top left corner (roller flaw)
	1C/L3	Spot in top left corner (roller flaw)
	1C/L7	Scratch behind tail
	1C/L15	Retouch to first “A” of AUSTRALIA (strong retouch) Diagonal shading added under “AUS” of AUSTRALIA
	1C/L24	Retouch around value at left
	1C/L28	Dot right of King’s Head
	1C/L32	Apostrophe between “George” and “V”
	1D/U32	Retouch to King’s head
	1D/L38	Dot at lower end of “f” giving impression that letter extends down between “E” and “O”

2/- Varieties and Flaws

Plate	Position	Description
1	1A/U8	Two mast like lines from hills to almost frame
	1A/L11	Plate scratches in margin. Traces on stamp
	1A/L21	Plate scratches in margin.
	1A/L31	Plate scratches in margin. Traces on stamp
	1B/L30	Retouch & cross-hatching under "AU" of AUSTRALIA
	1B/L38	Coloured flaw on King's head

Retouch Classification

Number	Position	Description
		AFFECTING LOWER PORTION OF DESIGN
1	2D/L32	Cross-hatching in lower right corner and to right of last A of "Australia." Traces of scratches can be found between the inner and outer frame-lines (opposite the horse's tail) and in the background nearby. Earliest date of retouch 30/8/35
2	Affects 3C/L10 3C/L26 6B/L27 6D/L5 6D/L15	Marked strengthening of all the cross-hatching under the word "Australia" except under the GE of "Postage" and also of the two horizontal lines under the letters "Posta" and outer frame-line underneath, which letter reveals a slight distortion
3		Cross-hatching at base strengthened under the letters AUS and to the left of the word "Postage"
4	6D/L15	Cross-hatching strengthened, particularly through the letters OSTAGE. Horizontal line under POS and outer frame-line at base underneath, which shows thickening and distortion
5	6D/L5	Strengthening of two lower horizontal lines to right of "Postage" in lower right corner and also of hatching joining them.
6	2D/U8	Extensive repair with lowest inner horizontal line redrawn along its entire length (Is thicker than normal and not quite straight). The outer lower horizontal frame-line is also redrawn but markedly thinner than normal
7		Lower inner horizontal line of shading redrawn under "Postage" and for some distance to the right with the line on top of this also affected by retouch at right end of retouch
Other-A	2A/U31	Retouch ground to left of horse
Other-B	2A/L26	Retouch between "IA" of AUSTRALIA
Other-C	3A/U7	Vertical coloured flaw over "L" of AUSTRALIA. Also known as long "I" variety. Extends upwards to terminate opposite "5" of 1935 Later – retouch "I" of AUSTRALIA
Other-D	3A/U31	Retouch to lines N.E. of helmet & lines through "RG" of GEORGE and "AL" of AUSTRALIA

Number	Position	Description
		RETOUCHES AFFECTING TOP OF STAMP
8	2D/U39	Re-cutting of the right two-fifths of the top five lines of horizontal shading (Appears as a cloud)
9	6C/L11	Large patch of shading to left of King's head (Usually has horizontal lines) strongly redrawn together with horizontal lines to left of this. Other affected parts include King's hat, horse's ears and mane. Original flaw is a well defined line almost perpendicular to the left of the King's head-dress, extending upwards to the upper frame line. The flaw is as thick as the inner frame line and intersects nine of the horizontal lines of shading (postmarked date of flaw is 23/5/35. Retouched flaw dated October 35) Note: Two states of retouch exist state (i): Extensive strong state (ii): skillfully modified
10	2A/L26	A number of near vertical scratches running up the left side of the stamp and a partially re-cut area in the north-west portion going down as far as the horse's ear where a double line of shading is found in place of a single. Two parallel lines can be traced from a point just above the level of the horse's mouth, slanting downwards and bearing to the left (the line to the right remains intact and extends down to the figure 2. The line to the left has been retouched from the starting point downwards to the level of the horse's knees).
11		All horizontal lines of shading to right of the King are re-cut from a point on a level with the lowest part of the King's head-dress down to the scrub line (shading lines are thickened and visible to the naked eye) The scrub below has been redrawn, while the tail of the horse appears whiter than normal.
12		Lateral lines of shading to the left of the horse have been recut and the scrub redrawn and strengthened. All the broken lines of shading below the lower scrub line have been recut down to the level of the lower part of the charger's shoulder
13	2A/L26	Further retouch to item 10. Removes "line through numeral 2 at right"
14		Retouch to small perpendicular line to left of the King in the upper part of the stamp
15		"Red leaves retouch" Narrow area of defective shading about a centimeter long parallel to, and near, the left frame from a point just above the scrub and running downward. The area through the scrub resembles a dozen little red leaves in the scrub
16		Retouch to blob just under the left scrub. This same stamp developed a further flaw between the frame lines below the right scrub. The different states of this stamp can be identified by its having a perpendicular stroke extending upwards from the stroke of the "5" in 1935
17		Retouch to tablet frame near "1" of 1935 and to hatching over "RA" of AUSTRALIA
18		Retouch to scratch removed above scrub at right and parallel to frame
19		Retouch to a scratch removed at left running at an acute angle from above scrub to frame

Number	Position	Description
RETOUCHES AFFECTING TOP OF STAMP		
20	3C/L11	Retouch to lines of shading to left of King's head-dress
21		Retouch to a perpendicular line removed left of King's headdress
22		Retouch to shade lines above scrub at left
23		Retouch to shade lines above scrub at left which slightly involves scrub
24		Retouch to hatching under "AGE" of POSTAGE
25		Retouch to right frame which is recut for one centimeter opposite scrub
26		Retouch to shade lines above scrub
27		Retouch to top inner frame to the right and several adjoining shade lines
Other-A	4C/L1	Retouch shading to sky top left; shows traces of vertical scratches below.
	?C?D/U29	Small neat recut involving lines under POSTAGE
	3C/L31	Recutting affects lines between the "T" and "R" of AUSTRALIA, under the "ST" and the outer frame-line at base under the ST (Appears to be a later retouch)
		Four lines of shading to left of King's head-dress
		Eight horizontal lines of shading just above level of scrub to right

Major Sources:

Burchett, F. The Commonwealth Twopence Jubilee. The Australian Stamp Monthly. July 1, 1938. pp 283,285

Burchett, F. Our Commonwealth corner. The Australian Stamp Monthly. February 1, 1940. pp 41,43

Kellow, G & Breckon R. The Australian Commonwealth Specialist's Catalogue - King George V. Brusden-White Publishers, Melbourne. 1994

Kenlin, Hammond. Personal communication.

Perdriau, RS. The twopence Jubilee. The Australian Stamp Monthly. September 1, 1940 pp 289-291

Perdriau, RS. The twopence Jubilee. The Australian Stamp Monthly. October 1, 1940 pp 325327-291

Purves, JRW. The 2d Jubilee stamp. The Australian Stamp Monthly. January 1, 1938 pp 5,6

Rosenblum, A.A. "The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia." 6th Edition. Acacia Press, Melbourne, 1965.

March 31, 2005