

**THE POSTAGE STAMPS,  
ENVELOPES, AND POST CARDS  
OF AUSTRALIA AND THE  
BRITISH COLONIES OF OCEANIA**

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The postage stamps, envelopes, and post cards of Australia and the British Colonies of Oceania  
by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY,  
LONDON, has much pleasure in presenting subscribers to their Catalogue of *the Postage Stamps of the British Colonies of Oceania* with an Autotype Illustration of the sheet of the Registration Stamp of New South Wales. The Autotype is taken from an unused entire sheet in the collection of a well known Colonial collector, kindly lent for that purpose, and of course gives the correct arrangement of every variety of type. The enclosed sheet will therefore replace *Plate M.* previously given with the Catalogue.

LONDON,

*Dec. 20th, 1888.*

THE  
POSTAGE STAMPS,

Envelopes, and Post Cards,

OF

AUSTRALIA AND THE BRITISH COLONIES OF OCEANIA.

With Autotype Illustrations.

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED

BY

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

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LONDON, 1887.

## PREFACE.

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**I**N the season of 1881-82 the Society commenced the preparation of the Lists of Stamps of the Australian Continent, and has included in its subsequent labours those of the Colonies of Great Britain which are collectively designated Oceania. The following pages contain the results of their investigations; for the delay in the appearance of which some explanation is perhaps called for.

A perusal of the papers of the President and Vice-President will inform those members of the Society who have hitherto not been acquainted with the facts, of the difficulties of the task, and of the causes which prevented complete lists being compiled until the problems of the plates of the locally-engraved stamps had been solved. It was found advisable to entrust these specific investigations to individual members; and the prosecution of their enquiries, and the comparison and verification of the results obtained by each, have necessarily occupied much time. The Catalogues of M. Moens and of Major Evans have been freely consulted as the existing standard lists. It is believed the postponement has been attended with the result, that in the labours of the Society will be found the first systematic attempt to settle questions of the highest interest to Philatelists, and which since the earliest days of collecting have presented difficulties of an almost insurmountable nature.

The lists have been completed to the end of 1886.

Collectors will find in the remarkable Autotype illustrations a complete series of the entire plates, which, from their absolute fidelity to the minutest detail, will enable them to reconstruct their own plates, and be of essential service in detecting impostures.

LONDON, *October*, 1887.





## FIJI ISLANDS.

### Issue I. End of 1871.

*Three values*, type-printed; coloured impression on medium white wove paper; watermark, "FIJI POSTAGE," in single-lined letters, once in each sheet of stamps; white gum; shape, upright rectangular; perforation, 12½. Design: Each stamp bears the initials "C.R." ("Cakambau Rex") in script type, surmounted by a crown, in white upon ground of coloured horizontal lines within circular frame. Curved labels above and below circle, with name of country and value in words. (*Illustrations 1, 2, 3.*)

**ONE PENNY.** Beaded circle, with thin inner and outer lines. The upper curved label has an ornament at each end resembling a cross *palée*, and is inscribed with the word "FIJI" in Roman letters. The bottom label, also curved, is plain, and cut square at the ends by the frame of the stamp. It is inscribed "POSTAGE ONE PENNY" in small block letters. Both inscriptions are in coloured letters on white. In the upper spandrels are floreate ornaments, and the lower ones are filled in with triangles containing other small ornaments.

**THREE PENCE.** The circle, formed of alternate dice of colour and white, has a thick inner line of colour, and an outer one formed of minute dots. Labels and ornamentation of spandrels the same as in preceding value. Inscriptions in colour upon white.

**SIX PENCE.** Toothed circle with two thin inner and one thick outer lines of colour. The circle is dissected by a hexagon of white lines. The ornaments at the extremities of the upper label are fashioned something like nippers. Floreate ornaments in upper spandrels; beaded triangles in lower ones. Inscriptions in white upon colour.

T. "FIJI." B. "POSTAGE" and value in words.

1d., blue, very dark to light shades.  
3d., green " "  
6d., carmine (shades). "

*Varieties.*—A series can be made, printed on distinctly yellow-toned paper. All the values also exist imperforate. Copies of these latter, however, are not known used, and they are believed to be proofs.

### Issue II. 1872.

*Three values.* The same stamps surcharged with the numerical value above the crown, and the word "CENTS" beneath the initials "C.R." The surcharge is in black, and each word has a capital letter. Same paper, watermark, and perforation. (*Illustration 4.*)

2 cents, blue, dark and light, surcharged on the 1d.  
6 " green " " 3d.  
12 " carmine and rose-lake, dark and light, surcharged on the 6d.

*Varieties.*—All the above are also found imperforate, to which a like remark as in the unsurcharged issue applies.

TO MRU  
MRSOPLAO

FIJI ISLANDS.

Issue III. 1875.

Three values, issued after the islands had been annexed by Great Britain, on October 10th, 1874. The same stamps as the last, with the additional surcharge of "v.r." in black, placed over the original letters "c.r." The letters "v.r." are printed in two types—plain Roman capitals, with full stop after each letter; and in ornamental Gothic capitals, with punctuation to match. Both types of surcharge are found upon the same sheet of stamps. The watermark and perforation of these stamps is the same as in the preceding issues; but the paper varies in substance. (Illustrations 5, 6.)

(A) Surcharged in Roman capitals.

- 2 cents, blue and black,
  - 6 " green and black,
  - 12 " carmine-red and black,
- } slight shades.

Variety. 12 cents, carmine-red and black; surcharge "v.r." inverted.

(B) Surcharged in Gothic capitals.

Same values and shades.

Varieties. (1) Surcharge "v.r." inverted.  
12 cents, carmine-red and black.

- (2) The letters "v.r." punctuated by a Maltese Cross.
  - 2 cents, blue and black,
  - 6 " green and black.
  - 12 " carmine-red and black.

(3) The preceding variety, with surcharge "v.r." inverted.  
12 cents, carmine-red and black.

- (4) All three values, with an inverted Gothic "A" instead of "v."
- (5) 6 cents, green, Gothic "v.r." with plain instead of ornamental punctuation.
- (6) 12 cents, carmine-red, Gothic "v.r." plain period between the two letters.

Issue IV. End of 1875.

One value. Between the date of the preceding issue and 1876 provisional stamps of the value of Two Pence were formed by the additional surcharge of "2d." above that of "v.r." (Illustration 7.)

Two colours, red and black, were employed for this extra surcharge.

I. Surcharged on the 6 cents, green.

(A) Surcharged in red.

- (1) Roman "v.r."
- (2) Gothic "v.r."

Varieties. (1) Roman "v.r." with stop before the "d" of 2d.  
(2) Gothic "v.r., 2d." without punctuation.  
(3) " " punctuated with a Maltese Cross.  
(4) Roman "v.r." no stop after r.  
(5) Gothic "v.r." inverted A instead of v.

(B) Surcharged in black.

- (1) Roman "v.r."
- (2) Gothic "v.r."

Varieties.—Same as the preceding varieties in red.

## II. Surcharged in black on the 12 cents, carmine-red.

(1) Roman "v.r."

(2) Gothic "v.r."

*Varieties.* (1) Roman "v.r.," with stop before the "d" of 2d.

(2) Gothic "v.r.," without punctuation.

(3) " " and 2d. surcharged twice.

(4) " " inverted A for v.

(5) Roman "v.r.," 2d., without punctuation.

(6) Gothic "v.r.," inverted A for v, and plain period between the two letters.

## Issue V. 1876.

*Three values.* In this issue the currency is changed back from cents to pence. An ornamental script monogram is surcharged over the original initials "c.r." The second value is also surcharged "Two Pence" in black, in a straight line over the original value of Three Pence. The paper is thick, the perforation  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , and there is no watermark. (*Illustration 8.*)

1d., ultramarine, bright and milky shades,	} black surcharge.
2d. on 3d., yellow-green, dark and light,	
6d., carmine-rose,	

*Varieties.*—A peculiar flaw in the plate exists on certain specimens of the Penny. A kind of white patch appears in the upper left corner, either as if the details of the stamp had never been finished, or as if an injury to the plate had taken place.

## Issue VI. 1878.

*Four values.* This issue is upon horizontally laid paper; in other respects it resembles the preceding. The fourth value, Four Pence, was formed by printing a stamp from the Threepenny die in pale mauve, and surcharging it "Four Pence" in black over the original value. (*Illustration 9.*)

1d., ultramarine (shades),	} black surcharge.
2d. on 3d., yellow-green (shades),	
4d. on 3d., pale mauve "	
6d., carmine-rose "	

*Varieties.*—A. The same flaw, mentioned above, in the plate of the Penny exists in this issue also.

B. The Penny, Three Pence *green*, and Six Pence are found without any surcharge.

## Issue VII. 1879.

*One value,* on white wove paper; perforation,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . The stamp is surcharged with the value in the same way as in the preceding issue, but is without the script monogram. The die was re-engraved, the letters "v.r.," in script type, being substituted for the initials "c.r." In other respects it resembles the preceding. (*Illustration 10.*)

2d. on 3d., yellow-green, slight shades; black surcharge.

## Issue VIII. 1880.

*Three values.* Die re-engraved, as above; no surcharge. The paper is wove, no watermark; perforation,  $12\frac{1}{2}$ . (*Illustration 11.*)

1d., ultramarine,	} slight shades.
2d., pale green,	
6d., carmine-rose,	