

Early Records.

The Trustees of the Public Library of New South Wales are anxious to secure, for preservation in the Public Library of the State, early records of the History of New South Wales—which is, for the first 50 years, practically the History of Australia. Copies of some of the historical documents in the archives of the Public Record Office in London have already been made, and printed in the Historical Records, and these cover the history of the earliest period of colonization. The Trustees are now desirous of obtaining local records of our early history, with special reference to the first settlements of the various country districts. They will be very grateful if old residents and others, who have in their possession documents relating to the early settlement of their districts, will present them to the Public Library of New South Wales, Sydney, where they will be preserved and made available for students. If in any case persons possessing valuable records of this nature are unwilling to part with them, the Trustees will esteem it a great favour if they will submit the documents for inspection, so that copies may be made and a record kept of their whereabouts.

Punctured “O.S.” Stamps.

A collector has asked us what the status is of the ‘O.S.’ punctured stamps as compared to stamps that were surcharged ‘O.S.’ After mature consideration we give it as our opinion that both stand on the same place. It does not matter what methods are adopted to distinguish stamps used for official from those used for private service. We admit that the punching or perforation of the distinguishing letters somewhat detracts from the appearance of a stamp, but this does not make the stamps less collectable. Since we are living in an age of specialising an interesting collection of these punctured stamps of the Commonwealth could be got together. It may not be generally known that, as far as New South Wales is concerned, each Government Department has to buy its requirements first from the Post Office, and the supply is afterwards sent to the Government Printing Office where the punching is done. No stamps in that condition can be purchased direct from the Post Office. The values range from $\frac{1}{2}$ d to £1; but the values above 1s are now seldom met with. In fact the Postmaster General does not encourage the use of the high values. These were used sparingly for some time by the Comptroller of the Government Savings Bank, but by a new arrangement there is no need for a higher value than 1s. We have met with but few of the value of 5s and 10s, and have so far only seen one 20s stamp. A number of varieties can be made up, especially of missing and broken letters, reversals, &c. There are two distinct issues, one showing the ‘S’ of ‘O.S.’ with eight holes and ‘N’ with 10 holes, and the other ‘S’ with 10 holes and ‘N’ with 11 holes. These varieties refer to the stamps used by the Government of this State, there being three different sets, one ‘O.S.’ over ‘N.S.W.’ for the State Offices, ‘O.S.’ for Federal offices in this State only, and ‘G.R.’ for Government Railways. The collecting of these stamps depends entirely whether the collector puts any value on official stamps, or not.