

SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB'S GOLD MEDAL COMPETITION

PRIZE ESSAY.

THE PUNCTURED OFFICIAL STAMPS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

By CEREBUS.

In the compilation of this article I have endeavoured to place before philatelists information which will, I hope, prove interesting upon a subject that has been almost neglected, probably on account of the present type of official stamp having punctured holes instead of a surcharge as in former issues. It would appear that the "Punctured Official Stamp" had come to stay, and although it is nearly six years since the first issue of these stamps, very little is known regarding them. If we want our Australian collections to be thoroughly representative, we must not neglect any stamps, or set of stamps, even should their appearance as stamps be unsatisfactory. Having that fact in view I have endeavoured to compile a reliable, and representative list of known varieties; and I take this opportunity of acknowledging the valuable information and assistance given me by several Government Officials and other philatelists who, like myself, have made a speciality of this branch of philately.

O.S. "10 HOLES," TYPE I.

November, 1902.

New South Wales stamps then current punctured O.S. only, with ten holes in the letter "S" were first issued during November, 1902, for use in Commonwealth Offices. The stamps of this type, known as Type I, were punctured by means of a hand machine which perforated each stamp singly, in vertical rows.

All denominations were issued wmk. Cr. and N.S.W. (excepting the 5/-, 10/-, and £1, which were wmk. as usual), viz. :— $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 9d., on 10d., 10d., and 1/-.

Stamps as Type I were only punctured in this manner for a few months, there is no official record of the exact date when the machine, which punctured the stamps, known as Type II, was installed, but I have been informed that it was during the first three months of 1903. Specimens of Type I are extremely rare and I have only succeeded in collecting the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. (two shades), 2d., 3d., 6d., and 1/- (two shades), during the last two years.

The following information should prove useful in determining the stamps of Type I:—

8 Holes in letter "O," oval shape.
10 Holes in letter "S."

The size of the punctured holes of Type I is small compared with that of Type II, and the formation of the letters O.S. is totally different.

The 2/6 emerald green was not issued punctured as Type I.

O.S. 10 HOLES, TYPE I. Wmk. Cr. and N.S.W., Perf. 12 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. green
1d. scarlet
1d. carmine
2d. ultramarine
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. deep blue
4d. brown
6d. orange
8d. magenta
9d. on 10d. brown

10d. violet
1/- marone
1/- purple brown

Perf. 11.

3d. yellow green
5/- purple wmk. 5/-

Perf. 11 x 12.

5d. deep green
20/- ultramarine wmk. as usual

Perf. 12 x 11.

10/- rosine, violet, and blue
wmk. N.S.W.

O.S. 8 HOLES, TYPE II.

1903.

New South Wales stamps with 8 holes in letter "S" were first issued early 1903. The machine adopted for puncturing these stamps, known as Type II, still in use, can puncture four or more sheets together, which is generally done; the stamps being punctured in horizontal rows, one row at a time. This is a

much quicker method than that employed to puncture the stamps as Type I. The punctured letters "O.S." of Type II contain 8 punctured holes in each letter. The letter "O" is perfectly round, and the letter "S" more closely resembles the letter "Z." The punctured holes of Type II are, besides, large, compared with those of Type I.

The following denominations were issued wmk. Cr. and N.S.W. (excepting the 5/-, 10/-, and £1, which are wmk. as in Type I), ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 8d., 9d. on 10d., 10d., 1/- and 2/6. The variety noted as a "double puncture," is caused by the operator passing the stamps through the machine twice. In Type II a whole row would be affected, instead of one stamp as in Type I. The variety noted as "7 holes in the letter S" of "O.S." is due to a short needle, which does not reach the bottom sheet when four or more sheets are being punctured together.

O.S. "8 HOLES," TYPE II.

Wmk. Cr. and A.

The following denominations have been issued as Type II. on paper wmk. Cr. and A:—½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 10d., 1/-, 2/6, and 20/-, the 3d. and 5d. are still wmk. Cr. and N.S.W., the 5/-, wmk. 5/- in diamond, the 10/- on fiscal paper, and the 9d. brown and blue wmk. V. and Cr., Victorian type

O.S. "8 HOLES," TYPE II.

On Victorian Paper.

Wmk. Cr. and Double-Lined A.

The following denominations have been issued on Victorian paper wmk. Cr. and A:—½d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 9d., 10d., 1/-, and 2/6.

I have succeeded in obtaining specimens of all the values, but some of them will most likely be very rare.

O. S., 8 HOLES, TYPE II.

Wmk. Cr. and N.S.W. Perf. 12 x 11½.

- ½d. green
 - 1d. scarlet
 - 1d. carmine
 - 2d. ultramarine
 - 2d. pale ultramarine
 - 2½d. deep blue
 - 4d. brown
 - 4d. orange brown
 - 6d. orange-yellow
 - 6d. orange
 - 8d. magenta
 - 9d. on 10d. brown
 - 10d. violet
 - 1/- marone
 - 1/- purple-brown
 - 2/6 emerald
- Perf. 11.**
- 5d. deep green
- Perf. 11 x 12.**
- 3d. yellow green
 - 5d. myrtle green
 - 20/- ultramarine
- Perf. 12 x 11.**
- 3d. yellow green
 - 5d. myrtle green
 - 5/- purple wmk., 5/-
 - 10/- rosine, violet and blue
- Perf. 11 x 11½.**
- 3d. yellow-green.
- Perf. 11½ x 11.**
- 3d. yellow green
- Perf. 12.**
- 5d. myrtle green
 - 5/- purple wmk., 5/-

VARIETIES.

Double Puncture,

Perf. 12 x 11½.

- ½d. green
- 7 Holes in S.**
- Perf. 12 x 11½.**
- 2d. ultramarine
 - 1/- marone

O. S. 8 HOLES, TYPE II.

Wmk. Cr. and A. Perf. 12 x 11½.

- ½d. green
 - 1d. scarlet
 - 1d. carmine
 - 2d. ultramarine
 - 2d. pale ultramarine
 - 2½d. deep blue
 - 4d. brown
 - 4d. orange brown
 - 6d. orange yellow
 - 6d. orange
 - 8d. magenta
 - 10d. violet
 - 1/- marone
 - 1/- purple brown
 - 2/6 emerald
- Perf. 11.**
- 10d. violet
- Perf. 12 x 11.**
- 20/- ultramarine
- Wmk. V. and Cr.**
- Perf. 12 x 12½.**
- 9d. brown and blue

O.S. 8 HOLES, TYPE II.
Wmk. Cr. and Double-Lined A.
Victorian Paper. Perf. 12 x 11½.

½d. green
 1d. carmine
 2d. ultramarine

4d. brown
 6d. orange
 8d. magenta
 1/- marone
 2/6 emerald
Perf. 12 x 12½.
 9d. brown and blue

O.S.
N.S.W., 10 HOLES, TYPE I.

December, 1902.

The postage stamps of New South Wales then current were first issued punctured O.S., N.S.W., for use in State Departments during December, 1902. There is a decided difference in the punctured letters O.S., N.S.W., known as Type I, from those which appeared later and known as Type II. When this style of official stamp was decided upon, a hand machine was installed, which punctured each stamp singly, in vertical rows. It was found necessary to improve upon this method, and in February, 1903, a new machine came into use. Stamps as Type I were therefore punctured by a hand machine only, for a period of nearly three months. Upon enquiry I was informed that all values from the ½d. green to the £1 ultramarine, were issued punctured as Type I. The 2/6 emerald green, not being in existence at the time, is not included in this list.

The following information should prove useful to Collectors:—

O.S.

Type I N.S.W. has	8 holes in letter	"O"	oval shape.
"	"	10	" "S"
"	"	11	" "N"
"	"	10	" "S"
"	"	13	" "W"

A comparison of this list with that of Type II is interesting. The variety noted as a "double puncture" is due to a mistake made by the operator in passing the same stamp through the machine twice.

O.S.

N.S.W. 10 HOLES, TYPE I.
Wmk. Cr. and N.S.W. Perf. 12 x 11½.

½d. green
 1d. scarlet
 1d. carmine
 2d. ultramarine
 2d. pale ultramarine
 2½d. deep blue
 3d. green
 4d. brown
 4d. orange brown
 6d. orange yellow
 6d. orange
 8d. magenta
 9d. on 10d. red-brown
 9d. on 10d. yellow brown
 10d. violet
 1/- purple-brown
 1/- marone

Perf. 11.

3d. yellow-green
 5d. yellow-green
Perf. 11½.
 5d. myrtle-green
Perf. 11 x 11½.
 3d. yellow-green

5d. myrtle-green
 20/- ultramarine, wmk. as usual

Perf. 11½ x 11.

3d. yellow-green
Perf. 11 x 12.

5d. myrtle-green
 20/- ultramarine

Perf. 12 x 11.

5/- purple wmk. 5/-
 10/- rosine, violet and blue, wmk. N.S.W.

Perf. 12.

1d. carmine
 2½d. deep blue
 6d. orange
 9d. on 10d. yellow-brown
 1/- marone

VARIETIES.

Double Puncture.

Perf. 11 x 11½.

3d. green
Wmk. Sideways.
Perf. 12 x 11½.

5d. green

O.S.

N.S.W. 8 HOLES, TYPE II.

February, 1903.

Stamps punctured O.S., N.S.W., Type II, were issued February, 1903, and, like

Type I, they are for use in State Departments. The machine adopted for puncturing this type, still in use, can puncture four or more sheets at the same time, which is generally done. The stamps are punctured in horizontal rows, one row at a time. The needles on the die used fit accurately into a moulded bed and ensure a uniform puncture of the letters. Such an error as a "double puncture" in this type affects a whole row of stamps, instead of only one, as in Type I. I have seen a pair of the 9d. brown and blue, one stamp showing a double puncture. The variety noted as containing only seven punctured holes in the letter "S" of "O.S." can be accounted for by the first needle forming this letter on the die being short compared with the others; and not quite reaching the bottom sheet when four or more sheets are being punctured together. An examination of the punctured holes in Type II show them to be large compared with those of Type I, and less in number, with the exception of the letter "O," which shows eight punctured holes, in both types, the "O" in Type I being oval, while that in Type II is perfectly round.

O.S.

I append a list of the punctured holes in each letter of Type II, N.S.W.

8	Holes in letter	"O"	round O.
8	"	"S"	
10	"	"N"	
8	"	"S"	
11	"	"W"	

The letter "S" in Type II closely resembles the letter "Z." I have seen a copy of the 6d. orange yellow with nine punctured holes in the letter "N."

All values from the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green to the £1 ultramarine, including the $\frac{2}{6}$ emerald green, were issued punctured as Type II. Specimens of this type show a large variety of perfs. and shades, and should prove an interesting field for the specialist.

Appended is a list of perfs. and varieties I have seen, most of which are in my collection:—

O.S.

N.S.W. "8 HOLES," TYPE II.

Wmk. Cr. and A.

Stamps punctured as Type II, with 8 holes wmk. Cr. and A., are now used in State Departments. The following denominations have been issued:— $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 10d., 1/-, $\frac{2}{6}$, and £1. Some of those denominations noted in Messrs Hagen's Catalogue Nos. 400 to 404 perf., 12 x 11, have appeared; it is quite possible that all have been punctured.

O.S.

N.S.W. 8 HOLES, TYPE II.

On Victorian Paper.

Wmk. Cr. and Double-Lined A.

Upon enquiry I learned that the following denominations were issued on Victorian paper, wmk. Cr. and double-lined A.:— $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 1/-, and $\frac{2}{6}$, most of the values are in my collection.

O.S.

N.S.W. 8 HOLES, TYPE II.

Wmk. Cr. and N.S.W. Perf. 12 x 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. green
1d. scarlet
1d. carmine
1d. rose-pink
2d. ultramarine
2d. pale ultramarine
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. deep blue
3d. green
3d. yellow green
4d. brown
4d. orange brown

6d. orange yellow
6d. orange
8d. magenta
9d. on 10d. red-brown
9d. on 10d. yellow-brown
10d. violet
1/- purple-brown
1/- marone
 $\frac{2}{6}$ emerald
 $\frac{5}{-}$ purple wmk. $\frac{5}{-}$
10/- rosine, violet and blue

Perf. II.

3d. yellow-green
5d. green
 $\frac{5}{-}$ purple wmk., $\frac{5}{-}$.
20/- ultramarine wmk. as usual

UST

Perf. 11 x 11½.

- 3d. deep green
5d. myrtle-green
20/- ultramarine

Perf. 11½ x 11.

- 3d. yellow-green
5d. deep green
20/- ultramarine

Perf. 11 x 12.

- 3d. green
5d. myrtle-green

Perf. 12 x 11.

- 3d. green
5d. myrtle-green
5/- purple wmk. 5/-
10/- rosine, violet and blue
20/- ultramarine wmk. as usual

Perf. 12.

- 2d. pale ultramarine
3d. deep green
5d. myrtle green
6d. orange
8d. magenta
5/- purple wmk. 5/-

Wmk. V. and Cr. Perf. 12 x 12½.

- 9d. brown and blue

VARIETIES.**Double Puncture.****Perf. 12 x 11½.**

- ½d. green
Perf. 11 x 11½.
5d. myrtle-green
Perf. 12 x 11½.
1/- marone

7 Holes in O.**Perf. 12 x 11½.**

- 1/- marone
7 Holes in S.
Perf. 12 x 11½.

- ½d. green
1d. carmine
2d. ultramarine

Perf. 12 x 11.

- 3d. yellow-green
Perf. 12 x 11½.
4d. orange-brown
6d. orange
1/- marone

Wmk. Sideways.**Perf. 11 x 11½.**

- 5d. myrtle-green

O.S.**N.S.W. 8 HOLES, TYPE II.****Wmk. Cr. and A. Perf 12 x 11½.**

- ½d. green
1d. carmine
1d. scarlet
2d. ultramarine
2d. pale ultramarine
2½d. deep blue
4d. brown
4d. orange-brown
6d. orange-yellow
6d. orange
8d. magenta
10d. violet
1/- purple-brown
1/- marone
2/6 emerald

Perf. 12 x 11.

- 1d. scarlet
2d. ultramarine
6d. orange
10d. violet

Perf. 12.

- 1d. carmine

O.S.**N.S.W. 8 HOLES, TYPE II.****On Victorian Paper.****Wmk. Cr. and Double A.****Perf. 12 x 11½.**

- ½d. green
1d. carmine
2d. ultramarine
4d. brown
6d. orange
8d. magenta
1/- marone
2/6 emerald

Perf. 11.

- 10d. violet

Perf. 12 x 12½.

- 9d. brown and blue

VARIETY.**Double Puncture.****Perf. 12 x 12½.**

- 9d. brown and blue

SUMMARY.

The points to be noted in distinguishing the difference between Types I and II of the punctured official stamps are as follows:—

While there are 8 holes in "O" of both types, that of Type I is oval, whereas the "O" of Type II is perfectly round. Type I has 10 holes in "S," whereas Type II has only 8.

In regard to the O.S.N.S.W. stamps, the same remarks apply, and, in addition, it may be noted that in Type I while the "S" of N.S.W. has 10 holes it has only 8 in Type II. "N" has 11 holes in Type I and 10 in Type II, and "W" has 13 holes in Type I and 11 holes in Type II. Finally the letter "S" on both Commonwealth and State Officials has 10 holes in Type I, and 8 holes in Types II. Type I is consequently generally referred to as 10 holes, and Type II as 8 holes.

I might add that owing to their size the 5d., 5/-, 10/-, and 20/- stamps can only be punctured singly, in vertical strips. Stamps punctured as Type I are never to be found on paper wmkd. Cr. and A., and the 9d. brown and blue, and 2/6 emerald, are only to be seen Type II. The 3d. and 5d. stamps are only to be found on paper wmk Cr. and N.S.W., the 5/- on paper wmk. 5/-, and 10/- on paper wmk. N.S.W. (sideways).

(To be Continued.)

BREVITIES.—(Continued from page 130.)

The new work on "Australia," which is being published for the Royal Philatelic Society by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., is now being printed; and Mr. C. J. Phillips, writing in "Gibbons' Stamp Weekly" of the 2nd May, says he hopes it will be on sale this summer (in Europe), but adds, further, that he cannot as yet form any idea of the cost of the work or the selling price.

Another new journal, "The Philatelic Adviser and Stamp Market Journal," edited by our old friend E. W. Wetherell, of "Philatelic Journal of India" fame, and published by Messrs. Bright and Sons, London, has come to hand, and we must congratulate them on the production of a most excellent stamp paper for the money, viz., 2s. per annum, post free. The editor has crowded a great deal into the space allotted to him, not the least important of which are six pages devoted to "New issues and discoveries." As might be expected, there is a good deal of the humorous, contributed by "Tancred" and "Tonald Mac Blither." We have always felt that philatelists take their pleasures too sadly, and we therefore welcome the lighter vein, which is very pronounced in the newcomer.

As probably all the world knows, the American Fleet is to pay Australasia a visit next month. We are not aware if there are any stamp collectors amongst the officers or crew, but most likely there are. Philatelists should make it their business to ascertain; and, if so, extend a hearty welcome to their brethren.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES' REPORTS.

Philatelic Society of Victoria.—The ordinary general meeting was held on June 18th, at 128 Russell-street, Melbourne, at 8 p.m.

The President, Mr. L. A. Chester, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

Mr. Robertson, a member of the junior branch, was elected a member of the senior Society.

Positions in exchange book, No. 180, were then balloted for, after which nominations of candidates for the position of office bearers for 1908-09 were received. They are as follows:—

For President:—The Rev. H. W. Lane and Mr. Kelson.

For Vice-President:—Messrs. Edmondson and Kelson.

Secretary, Treasurer, and Ex-Superintendent:—Mr. Brettschneider.

Librarian:—Mr. S. O. Smith.

Committee:—Messrs. Williamson, Kelson, Glazbrook, Longmore, and Rev. H. W. Lane.

Mr. C. W. Ellis was duly elected Auditor.

128 Russell-street, Melbourne.

W. BRETTSCHNEIDER, Hon. Secretary.