

# Stamp Hunting

## Nimrod suggests some stamps worth looking for

### Australia 1913-45

Australia's first stamps, the iconic 'Kangaroo and Map', were issued between January and April 1913 (SG 1/16). These are very popular stamps which helps to keep prices buoyant. With the centenary fast approaching I expect to see an increase in demand which should help push prices even higher. In particular, I would be looking out for fresh, very well centred examples of the 2d. (3), 4d. (6) and 5d. (8) values in mint condition.

In 1914 a 6d. Kookaburra (19) appeared. Fine used examples are very hard to track down at the moment – many examples that I've seen over the last couple of years have perforation faults or fairly heavy, unpleasant cancellations, so I would recommend seeking out as an attractive example as possible.

1914 also saw the introduction of the redrawn 'King's Head' design, after it's initial release in 1913, with further values being issued over the following few years. The line perf 14¼ versions of the 1d. and 5d. (21, 23) in mint condition are nowhere near as readily available as was once the case and are well worth looking out for.

In 1915 a new watermark was used for several of the 'Kangaroo and Map' stamps (24/30). These are all scarce stamps in mint condition but I'd suggest looking out for the 2½d. (25) and 1s. (28) fine used. The new watermark didn't last very long at all before it was replaced a new 'narrow' type with most values appearing with this new watermark between 1915 and 1928 (35/45). The 6d. (38) is a tricky little stamp in mint condition and fine used examples of the £1 and £2 (44, 45) are very hard to track down.



The 1918 die III 1d. (53) is an uncommon stamp, particularly fine used. The 4d. violet of 1918-23 (64) is likewise uncommon fine used. The 1918-23 1½d bright red-brown (60) and 2d brown-orange (62) are not as readily available in mint condition as previously and well centred mint examples of the 1s.4d. (66) are very difficult. Six of the low value 'King's Head' stamps were reissued in 1924 with changed colours and the 1d. additionally either without watermark or with a single or multiple watermark (76/84). The 2d., 3d. and 4d. values are not easy in mint condition but I've always found the 1d. with multiple watermark and the 1d. and 1½d. without watermark to be just as scarce in fine used condition.

For the 1926-30 'King's Head' issue a new multiple watermark was introduced (85/93, 94/104). The original perf 14 values are generally scarcer than the later perf 13½×12½ values. The 2d. and 4d. (89, 91) are very difficult fine used, possibly more so than the 1s.4d. top value. The perf 13½×12½ 4½d. is tricky in both mint and used condition. This new watermark was also used for a few of the 'Kangaroo' stamps, issued 1929-30 (107/14). Look out for the 1s. (109) in mint condition – fine examples are in short supply.

A new 'CofA' watermark was introduced in 1931 for both the 'King's Head' and 'Kangaroo' issues (124/31, 132/38). The humble ½d. (124) and 1½d. (125) are not at all common in fine used condition, while supplies of the 6d. (132) and 9d. (133) fine mint seem to be dropping.

The 1931 'Air Mail Service' 6d. exists with 'OS' overprint (139a). Fine used examples are in very short supply at the moment, as are fine mint examples of the 1932 6d.

Kookaburra (146). Many examples I've seen recently either have toned gum or are poorly centred. The same can be said for the 1935 Silver Jubilee 2s., while the 1934 Macarthur 9d. and 1935 Anzac 1s. are very difficult to find fine used, most examples I've seen recently either having short perforations or poor centring.



## 1 of 5 Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Concise Catalogues to be won!

Just read through this month's *GSM* and find the answers to the ten questions printed below. Write the answers (the source is not required) on a postcard or sheet of paper, add your name and address (in block letters) and post to: GSM COMPETITION (July), Stanley Gibbons Limited, 7 Parkside, RINGWOOD, Hants, BH24 3SH.

The first five all-correct entries opened on 13 August will each win a copy of the latest Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Concise Catalogue*. The correct answers will be published in October *GSM*.

REMEMBER: Include your name and address; Do NOT include any correspondence or cash; Post early.

### COMPETITION QUESTIONS

- 1 What were formed predominantly in the Precambrian period of Earth's history?
- 2 What official position did Lieutenant George Benson hold at Gallipoli?
- 3 John Filson was the ghostwriter of which American national hero?
- 4 Who earned the title of 'The Maid of Orleans'?
- 5 Swamp Cypress, Maidenhair and London Plane are all types of what?
- 6 What did Enrique Urdaneta and George Crowther set out to find in the late 1860s?
- 7 Which country introduced its decimal currency on 10 July 1967?
- 8 During World War II, what country was saved from near starvation and surrender by *Operation Pedestal*?
- 9 On which island is the Ano Nuevo lighthouse located?
- 10 What was the name of the illuminated magnifying machine which was popular with philatelists in the mid-seventies?

### COMPETITION RESULT

**The winner of a £50 SG voucher in our April competition was Mrs J Todd of Surrey**

The correct answers were: (1) 1664, (2) William Hoggatt, (3) Welsh Mountain Badger Face Sheep, (4) Oscar Scott Woody, (5) The United States Overrun Countries Series of 1943-44, (6) Cook Islands, (7) 1680, (8) Oslo, (9) Azerbaijan, (10) USS *Knorr*.

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