

# Commonwealth of Australia

## THE SCULPTURED PROFILE PORTRAIT ISSUES OF KING GEORGE VI

This exhibit covers the sculptured portrait issues of King George VI issued in 1951 and 1952. They were designed and engraved by Frank Manley of the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne and were based on a photograph by Dorothy Wilding. A scan of the photograph is shown below left.



These issues were required following the announcement of rate increases applicable from 9 July 1951.

- 3½d became the letter rate within Australia and the British Empire, as well as the commercial papers rate to the British Empire,

- 4½d became the postcard rate to foreign countries by surface mail and needed to be red to comply with UPU regulations, and

- 6½d became the combined airmail and letter rate within Australia, as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> weight step letter rate within Australia and the British Empire.

The 6½d stamp was initially issued in brown. Following complaints that the colour made it too difficult to distinguish it from the 3½d, the colour was changed to green.

On the following pages the plate manufacture is described and examples of die proofs are exhibited for each of the denominations. (No die proofs were issued for the 6½d colour change). Imprint blocks and the known colour shades are also shown. These are followed by plate varieties, some of which are listed in *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* and some located by the exhibitor. These are all shown in positional blocks of mint stamps.



### References:

*The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, King George VI*, edited by Geoffrey Kellow

*The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, Booklets*, edited by Geoffrey Kellow

*Australia Post's: A Selection of the Engraved Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia, Royalty*, 2003, edited by Richard Breckon

*The Australian Stamp Monthly*, January 1952 and September 1952 issues

*The Bulletin of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain*, April 1952 issue



## 3½d KING GEORGE VI, 1951 - 1953

Following engraving of the die by Frank Manley, a steel master plate of 640 impressions was laid down. It comprised four groups of 160 impressions (Sheets A, B over C, D) in two panes of 80, divided by a central gutter with two defacing lines. From two alto plates, twelve nickel electrotype plates were manufactured. The By Authority imprint appears below stamps 10/1 and 10/2 of each pane. The stamps were printed on watermarked Multiple Crown and C of A paper, perforated 14.70 x 14.08 and first issued on 28 November 1951. It was eventually replaced by the 3½d Queen Elizabeth II issue of 21 April 1953.



Eight die proofs, mounted in a sunken frame, were presented to various dignitaries including King George VI. The above was presented to W.L. Russell of the Stamp Advisory Committee.



Brown- purple



Reddish- brown





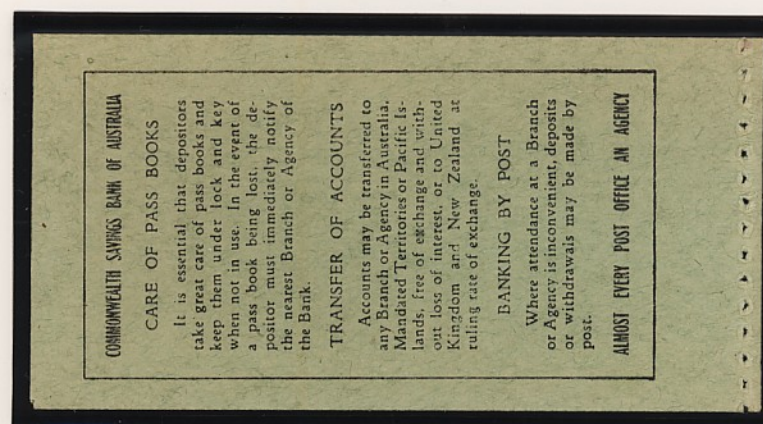
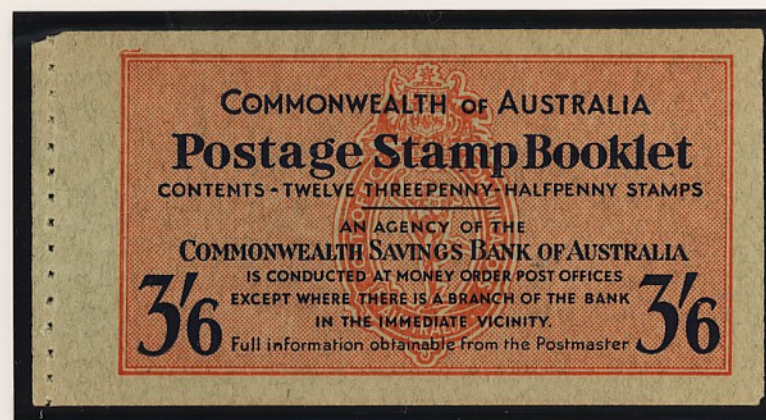
## 3½d KING GEORGE VI BOOKLET, 1952 - 1953

A special steel master plate was provided for booklets. This was of 576 impressions, divided into left and right groups of 288, each 6 panels of 48 in 3 horizontal rows of 16. From a single alto plate, four nickel electrotype plates were manufactured. Printed on watermarked Multiple Crown and C of A paper and perforated 14.80 x 14.08, booklets were officially first issued on 1 July 1952. However, some were accidentally pre-released from 24 June 1952.

Booklets comprised of two panes of stamps with a front and back cover, advertising for the Commonwealth Savings Bank and two insert pages with postal information.



Front cover



Back cover



## 3½d KING GEORGE VI, 1951 - 1953

VERTICAL LINE RUNNING UPWARD FROM "P" OF "POSTAGE" TO THE TOP FRAME

This variety occurs on a number of clichés. Those below are amongst the most pronounced.



R8/1



L1/7



## 3½d KING GEORGE VI, 1951 - 1953

### WEAK ENTRY AFFECTING NOSE AND BROW

All four stamps in this block are affected and all stamps in the sheet may have been affected



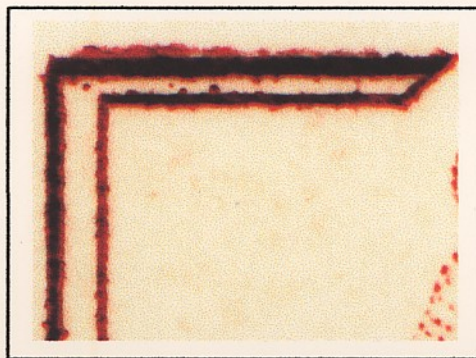
Weak entry



Normal



### RE-ENTRY TO TOP FRAME AT LEFT, R4/5

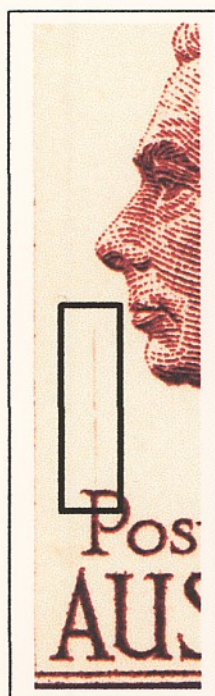




## 3½d KING GEORGE VI, 1951 - 1953

VERTICAL LINE RUNNING UPWARD FROM "P" OF "POSTAGE" TO THE KING'S LIPS, R8/6

This variety was first recorded in the April 1952 issue of the bulletin of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain.



FLAW ON THE "A" OF "LIA", L9/4





# 3½d KING GEORGE VI, 1951 - 1953

NO BRIDGE TO NOSE, L6/8

This variety was first recorded in the January 1952 issue of the Australian Stamp Monthly



No bridge



Normal





# 3½d KING GEORGE VI, 1951 - 1953

VERTICAL HAIRLINE FROM "3" TO BACK OF HEAD, LOWER SHEET, 10/7



Enhanced image





## 4½d KING GEORGE VI, 1952 - 1953

The steel master plate was a composite, comprising 320 impressions each of the 4½d and 6½d laid down from 4-on transfer rollers for each value. The layout was four groups of 160 impressions in two panes of 80, each 10 horizontal rows of 8, divided by a central gutter with two vertical defacing lines. From a composite alto plate, five nickel electrotype plates were manufactured, of which two (divided into 320-on halves – Sheets A over B) were used for printing. The By Authority imprint appears below stamps 10/1 and 10/2 of each pane. Printed on watermarked Multiple Crown and C of A paper and perforated 14.70 x 14.08, the stamp was first issued on 20 May 1952 and discontinued in July 1953.



Eight die proofs, mounted in a sunken frame, were presented to various dignitaries including King George VI. The above was presented to Sir W. McKell, the Governor General.



Red



Pale shade

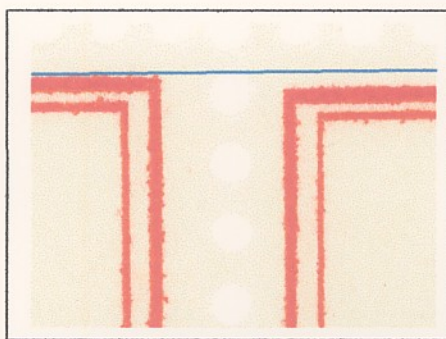




## 4½d KING GEORGE VI, 1952 - 1953

LAST TWO COLUMNS MISALIGNED, (UPPER SHEET, RIGHT PANE)

This misalignment, which occurs on all upper sheets, was first recorded in the September 1952 issue of the Australian Stamp Monthly



Column 6

Column 7





## 6½d BROWN KING GEORGE VI, 1952

The manufacture of the printing plates was as described for the 4½d. Again the By Authority imprint appears below stamps 10/1 and 10/2 of each pane. Printed on watermarked Multiple Crown and C of A paper and perforated 14.67 x 14.08, the stamp was first issued on 20 February 1952.



Eight die proofs, mounted in a sunken frame, were presented to various dignitaries including King George VI. The above was presented to Sir W. McKell, the Governor General.



Brown



Light brown





## 6½d GREEN KING GEORGE VI, 1952-1954

Following complaints that the 6½d brown was too easily confused with the 3½d stamp, the colour was changed to green. It was first issued on 9 April 1952. As the same printing plates were used, plate varieties are common to both colours. No die proofs were prepared. The stamp was eventually replaced by the 6½d Queen Elizabeth II issue of 23 June 1954.



Emerald



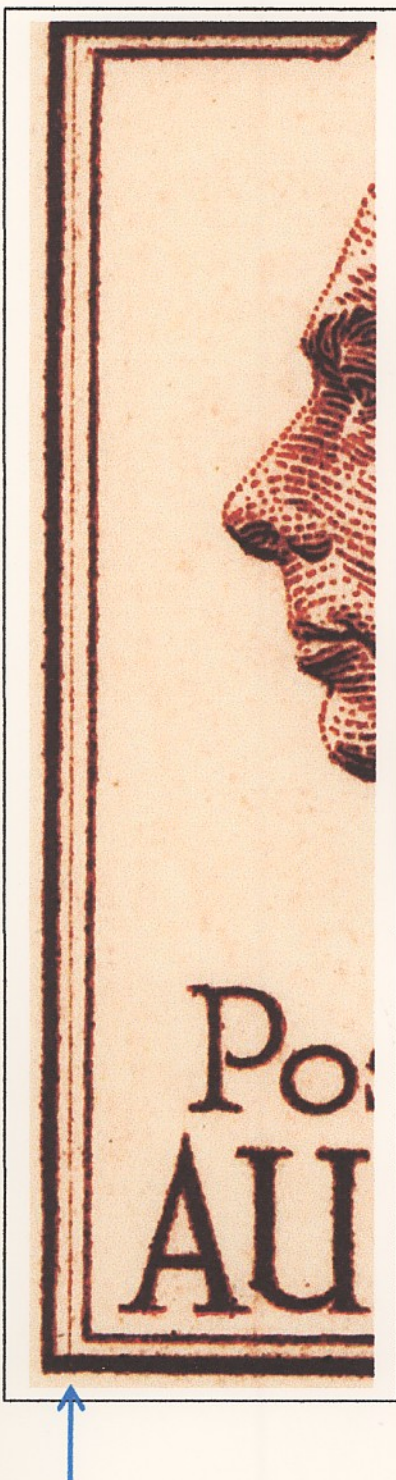
Deep emerald





## 6½d KING GEORGE VI, 1952 - 1954

LOWER SHEET: LINE FROM "s" to "S" (R9/1), RE-ENTRY TO "AUSTRALIA" AND BOTTOM OF VERTICAL FRAMES (R10/4) AND THIRD FRAME AT LEFT (10/1).





## 6½d KING GEORGE VI, 1952 - 1954

LOWER SHEET: RE-ENTRY TO "AUSTRALIA" AND BOTTOM OF VERTICAL FRAMES (R10/4)

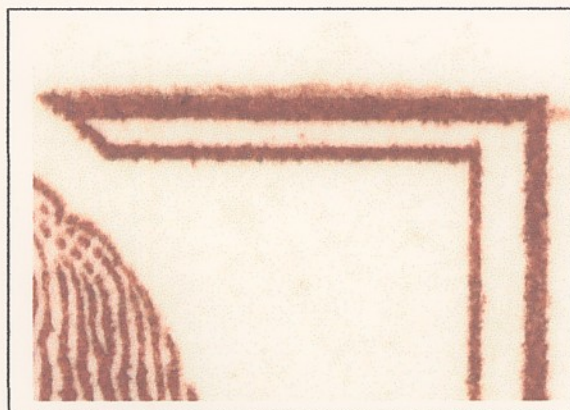
The line from "s" to "S" and the third frame at left are absent, indicating that they are electro varieties rather than master plate varieties.





## 6½d KING GEORGE VI, 1952 - 1954

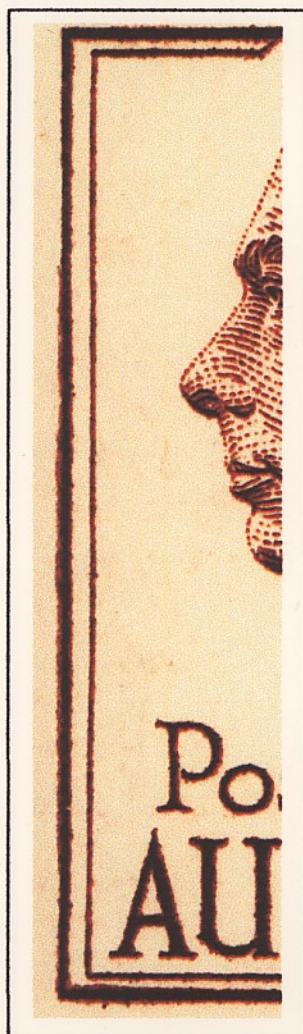
LOWER SHEET: RE-ENTRY TO TOP FRAME AT RIGHT, L10/4



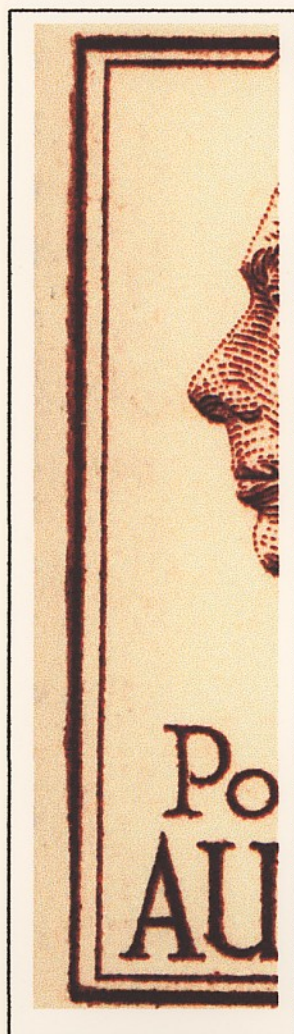


# 6½d KING GEORGE VI, 1952 - 1954

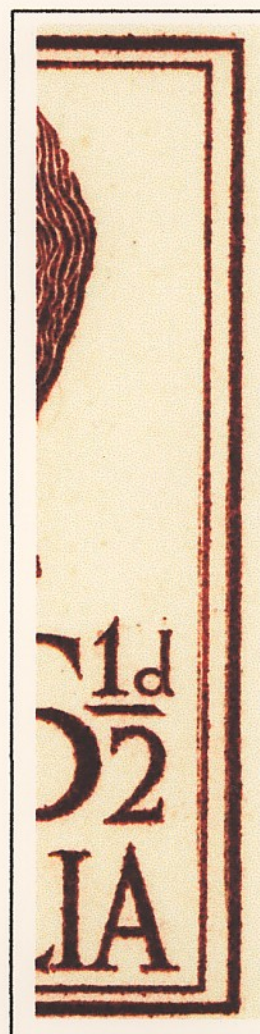
BOTTOM SHEET: THICKENING OF THE LEFT FRAME ON R1/7 AND R2/7 AND RE-ENTRY TO RIGHT  
FRAMES OF R2/8



R1/7



R2/7



R2/8

