

Errors of the Australian Colonies/States and the History of Their Discovery

Background

Historically, from 1850 to 1912, the Australia Colonies either sourced the printing designs and plates from the major London stamp printing firms or produced them locally. Both in London and domestically during this sixty two year period, many different printing techniques were used to produce postage stamps across all the colonies, including lithography, recess printing, and typography. During the course of this printing, errors in stamp production appeared, with many of these errors now prized by collectors keen to enhance their collections. The most common errors encountered in stamp production of the Australian Colonies include:

◇ Imperforate between pair	◇ Imperforate between stamp and margin
◇ Double print	◇ Double impression
◇ Printed on both sides	◇ Double overprint
◇ Inverted overprint	◇ Double perforation
◇ Errors of watermark	◇ Offsets on reverse

Historical philatelic references

From 1880 to around 1950, there were a large number of philatelic journals in Australia and the United Kingdom keen to publish new developments and varieties in philately. Many of the articles in Australia were almost direct copies of their counterparts in the home country, and vice versa. England was well served by the "London Philatelist", "The Philatelic Record" and "The Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal." In Australia, the leading philatelic publications were "Vindin's Philatelic Monthly", the "Australian Philatelist" and the "Australian Stamp Journal". Each of these publications (and a number of others) were integral in providing philatelists with information of the discovery of new errors culminating with their listing in to the Stanley Gibbons British Empire catalogue the following year. The publication of the Brusden White catalogue in 2004 provided a major boost to the collector awareness of errors in the 1901-1912 Federal Period.

Treatment and relative rarity of the material

This exhibit displays many of the major errors from the Australian Colonies/States. Many of the errors are quite rare, and record confirming the number of recorded examples is provided for many of the items displayed, together with the history of their discovery from the various philatelic publications of the day. Stamps contained within a bold black box signify examples of significant rarity, generally with ten or less examples recorded.

Stamps that have an (E) in the description have been certified as genuine by a recognised authority. Finally, most errors have been given a date when they were listed in the Stanley Gibbons British Empire or Brusden White catalogues, the most popular references for this subject.

Exhibitor research

The exhibitor has conducted extensive research into the history of the discovery of each of the errors. The major philatelic publications researched include all the major philatelic journals and auction houses from the 1880's to the present predominantly from the United Kingdom and Australia. This research provided evidence of the discovery of each error and their rarity and availability to collectors. In addition, public collections in both countries have been visited to record examples displayed in these institutions.

Principle References:

"Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970" published by Stanley Gibbons
Philatelic Journals: *"Australian Philatelist"*; *"Australian Stamp Journal"*; *"London Philatelist"*; *"The Philatelic Record"*; *"Philately from Australia"*; *"The Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal"*; *"Vindin's Philatelic Monthly"*.
Principle Stamp Auction House Catalogues: *"David Feldman"*; *"Christies Robson Lowe"*; *"H.R. Harmer"*; *"Millennium Philatelic Auctions"*; *"Moss Green"*; *"Prestige Philately"*; *"Robson Lowe"*; *"Rod Perry Auction Galleries"*; *"Spink"*; *"Stanley Gibbons Australia"*; *"Gary Watson"*

Queensland
September 186
Watermark Small Star
Rough Perforation 14-16



1d Carmine Rose
Error - Double Perforation

Mint examples of double perforations in the Queensland Chalons are very scarce.

December 1862
Thick Paper
No watermark
Rough Perforation 13



1d Orange Vermillion
Error - Imperforate

This error was first reported in the "London Philatelist" in June 1916 when Stanley Gibbons purchased the Hausberg collection and listed in the British Empire catalogue the following year. Two examples are recorded.

Ex Nelson



1d Orange Vermillion
Error - Double Perforation

Mint examples of double perforations in the Queensland Chalons are very scarce.



2d Blue
Error - Double Perforation



2d Blue
Error - Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Base

This error was first reported on the 23rd of June 1948 with the auction of this stamp by Robson Lowe in London. It is the only example recorded.

Ex Beston

Queensland
December 1862
Thick Paper
No watermark
Rough Perforation 13

2d Blue

Error - Imperforate horizontally between pair

A used pair of this error was first reported in the Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal in September 1895 and listed in the British Empire catalogue in 1917. In 1925 the spectacular "Mayfair Find" was auctioned by Harmers of London which featured a mint block of 106 with one row of twelve imperforate horizontally. The block was subsequently broken down to eight pieces with two pairs in a mint block of six in the Royal collection. The largest known multiple of this error are two pairs contained in a mint block of eight of which two are recorded, although the other block has not been seen since the Collins Sale in 1928.

Ex "Mayfair Find", Gill, Nelson



6d Yellow Green on 2.4.1868 cover from Bowen to Scotland

Error - Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Base

Although a couple of examples of this error are known of the 2d value, only two copies are recorded of the 6d value, both on cover. Australian Colonies errors on cover are particularly rare.

Queensland

December 1862

Thick Paper

No watermark

Rough Perforation 13



1/- Grey

Error - Imperforate Vertically Between Pair

This error was first reported in the Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal in September 1895 and listed in the catalogue in 1917. Three examples are recorded in private hands, with another pair residing in the Royal Collection.

Ex Collins, Fair



1/- Grey

Error - Double Perforation

Mint double perforation errors on the Queensland Chalons are particularly scarce. The mint strip of three is the second largest multiple known of the 1/- value and the only mint example with double perforation recorded.



January 1865

Watermark Small Star

Perforation 12½ x 13



1d Orange Vermillion

*Error - Imperforate Between Stamp and
Margin at Base (E)*

Although known to collectors in the 1930's with a strip of three in a mint block of 18 in the Vickery collection, the first publication of this error was recorded with the sale of a strip of 4 in a mint block of 16 in the Slade Slade sale in 1979. All the examples of this error appear to have originated from the same sheet and now comprise this block of eight, a block of sixteen, and another in the Vickery collection.

Ex Stevenson, Manning

Queensland
December 1866
No watermark
Perforation 13



4d Reddish Lilac
Error - Double Transfer

The first recording of this error was in *The Philatelic Journal* in March 1951 featuring the unused stamp at the left and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 2005. It is difficult to understand how this double transfer error can occur when printed by lithography. These two stamps are the only examples recorded of this rare error in private hands. An unused example is in the Royal collection.

Mint: Ex Stone, Griffiths
Used: Ex Manton, Griffiths



4d Lilac
Error - "FOUR" Missing (E)

This error was first reported in the *London Philatelist* in July 1895 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2005. These are the only examples recorded of the Lilac shade showing the value completely missing.

Ex Hiscock (unused)
Ex Griffiths (used, left)

4d Grey Lilac
Error - "FOUR" Missing

This error was first reported in the *London Philatelist* in July 1895 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2005. This is the only example recorded in the Grey-lilac shade.

Ex Griffiths



Queensland
December 1866
No watermark
Perforation 13

5/- Pale rose

Error - Imperforate Horizontally Between Pair

This error was first reported in the London Philatelist in July 1892 and catalogued by Stanley Gibbons in 1917. Three examples are recorded, each emanating from the original block of six with one pair in the Royal collection.

Ex Snowden, Nelson



April 1868
Watermark Truncated Star
Perforation 13



2d Blue

Error - Imperforate Vertically Between Pair

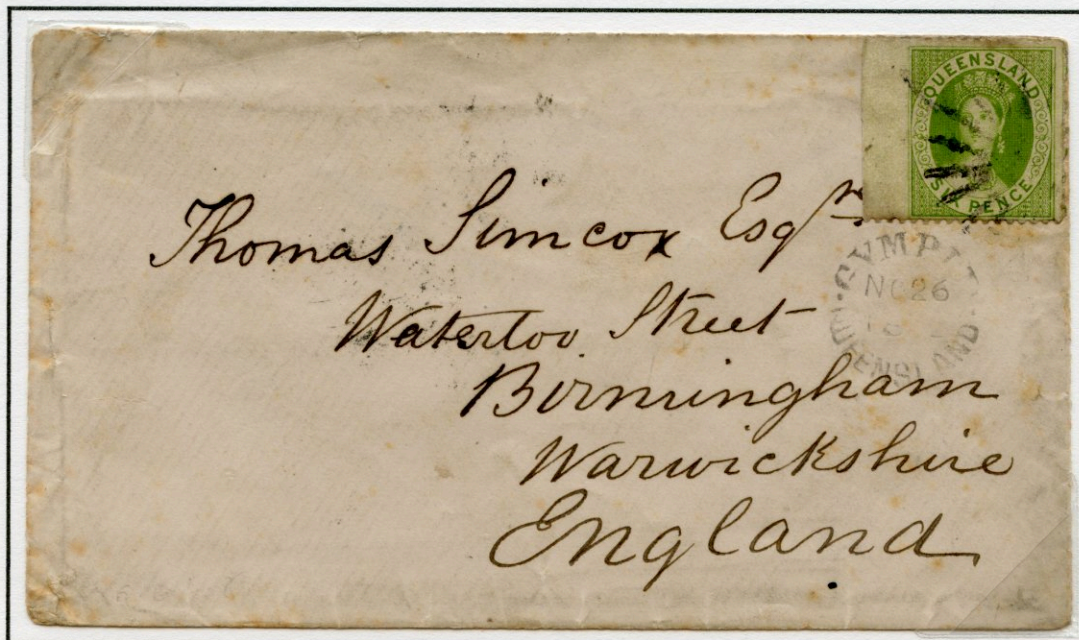
There are no contemporary reports regarding this error and it is a new discovery. It is the only recorded example.



3d Brown

Error - Double Perforation

Mint examples of the Queensland Chalons showing double perforations are scarce.



6d Yellow Green on cover from Gympie 26.11.1873 to England.

Error - Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Left

Queensland
 April 1868
 Watermark Truncated Star
 Perforation 13



6d Yellow Green
*Error - Imperforate Between Stamp
 and Margin at Left*

There are no contemporary reports regarding the discovery of this error. The only recorded examples are this unused stamp and the cover on the previous page.

November 1868
 Watermark Crown/Q
 Perforation 13



2d Bright Blue



1d Orange Vermillion
Error - Watermark Reversed



6d Yellow Green

The watermark reversed error is the most common watermark error in this issue and occurs across all values. It was first reported in the Australian States Study Group Newsletter in January 1980.



2d Pale Blue



6d Yellow Green

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed

The watermark inverted and reversed errors of this issue were first reported in the Australian States Study Group Newsletter in January 1980. Although not recorded in the 4d and 1/- values, it probably exists across the whole series of denominations and are fairly scarce.

Queensland
November 1868
Watermark Crown/Q
Perforation 13



1d Orange Vermillion
Error - Imperforate

This error was first recorded in the London Philatelist in April 1894 and it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1917. Blocks of four are the largest multiple known in private hands and three are recorded. A remarkable unused block of 60 resides in the H. L. White collection in the New South Wales State Library. The used pair is the only recorded example.

Ex Nelson (Mint block of four)
Ex Griffiths (Used pair)

6d Pale Apple Green
Error - Imperforate

This error was first reported in the London Philatelist in July 1910 and it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1917. Blocks of six are the largest multiple recorded in private hands and two are recorded. The largest known multiple is a remarkable block of 108 in the White collection.

Ex Ginger, Nelson



Queensland
November 1868
Watermark Crown/Q
Perforation 13



6d Yellow Green on cover from Ipswich 4.91872 to England
Error - Double Perforation

1876
Watermark Crown/Q
Perforation 12



1d Pale Orange Vermilion



2d Blue



4d Yellow

Error - Watermark Reversed

The watermark reversed error is the most common watermark error in this issue and occurs across all values. It was first reported in the Australian States Study Group Newsletter in January 1980.



2d Blue



2d Deep Blue



6d Yellow Green

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed

The watermark inverted and reversed error is quite scarce in this issue and occurs across all values. It was first reported in the Australian States Study Group Newsletter in January 1980.

Queensland

1876

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12



2d Pale Blue

Error - Watermark Reversed

Although the watermark reversed error is quite common used, it appears to be much scarcer in mint condition. This is the largest recorded mint multiple of this error.

Ex Manning



2d Blue

Error - Double Perforation



6d Pale Apple Green

Error - Imperforate Vertically Between Pair

This error is a recent discovery and is not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.



2/- Blue

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed

The watermark inverted and reversed of the 2/- Blue is the most common watermark error from the Chalon series.

Queensland

April 1879

Watermark Small Crown/Q

Perforation 12



1d Reddish Brown

Error - Imperforate Vertically Between Pair (E)

There are no contemporary reports in philatelic literature of the discovery of this error and it was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2005. This is the only recorded example.

Ex Griffiths

April 1879

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12



1d Dull Orange

Error - Imperforate Vertically Between Pair (E)

Discovered in 2009, this stamp led to the listing of this error in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2011. This is the only recorded example.



1d Scarlet

Error - Imperforate Vertically Between Pair (E)

This error was first reported in the "London Philatelist" in January 1891. The discovery of this example in 2009 led to the listing of this error in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2011. One other pair is recorded.

Ex Manning



2d Bright Blue

Error - Imperforate Vertically Between Pair

This error was first reported in the London Philatelist in December 1902 and catalogued by Stanley Gibbons in 1917. Two used pairs are recorded, the other being in the H. L. White collection in the New South Wales State Library.

Ex Hausberg, Hobbs, Fair, Griffiths

Queensland
April 1879
Watermark Crown/Q
Perforation 12



4d Orange Yellow
Error - Imperforate Vertically (E)

This error was first reported in the "London Philatelist" in December 1902. With the purchase by Stanley Gibbons of the Hausburg collection in 1916 it was listed in their catalogue in 1917. This is the only recorded example.

Ex Hausburg, Manning



6d Yellow Green
Error - Imperforate Vertically (E)

This error was first reported in the "London Philatelist" in December 1902. With the purchase by Stanley Gibbons of the Hausburg collection in 1916 it was subsequently listed in their British Empire catalogue in 1917. This is the only recorded example.

1st August 1882
Watermark Crown/Q
Perforation 12

1d Vermillion Red
Error - Imperforate Vertically (E)

Discovered in a dormant collection in England in 2013, this is the only example of this error recorded and is not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.



1/- Pale Mauve
Error - Double Perforation



Queensland

1890

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12½, 13 comb



1d Vermillion Red
Error - Imperforate (E)

This error was first reported in Vindin's Philatelic Monthly in September 1892 and was noted in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1912 before being listed in 1917. Used pairs are particularly scarce.



An 1895 envelope to Brisbane with the Sideface 1d Vermillion Red imperforate pair cancelled by barred numeral 121 of Clifton. Of the six covers known of this error, most appear to be philatelically inspired. This is one of the few commercially used covers.

Ex Griffiths

Queensland

19th February 1895

No Watermark with Blue Burele Band

Perforation 12½, 13 comb

1d Vermillion Red

Error - Double Perforation

One of the most common double perforation errors occurs in this issue of Queensland. It is interesting to note the printing variety "Missing PE" in the second unit.



11th May 1895

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12½, 13 comb



½d Deep Green

Error - Printed Double (E)

The existence of this error was first noted when a used example was auctioned in Switzerland in 1985 which led to its listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1987, although miss-classified. The whole design has been printed double, as opposed to the double impression on the mint block to the right. Three used examples are recorded, one being in the Dixon collection in the NSW State Library.



½d Green

Error - Double Impression (E)

One single and this block of 4 are the only unused examples of this error recorded, although I believe others do exist.

½d Deep Green

*Error - Printed Both Sides,
the Second Impression Inverted*

This error was first recorded in the London Philatelist in December 1901 and was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1908. One sheet was discovered with the second impression printed diagonally on the reverse. Although singles are common, the largest multiple appears to be this pair.



Queensland
 11th May 1895
 Watermark Crown/Q
 Perforation 12½, 13 comb



½d Green
Error - Double Perforation



2d Blue
Error - Offset



2d Blue
Error - Watermark Reversed



1d Orange Red
Error - Offset

This error was first recorded in the Australian States
 Study Newsletter in January 1980.



2d Blue
Error - Double perforation

Queensland

11th May 1895

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12½, 13 comb



2½d Rose

Error - Double Perforation

1896

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12½, 13 comb



1d Vermillion

Error - Inverted Watermark

Watermark inverted errors in this issue are quite scarce.

6th August 1895

Thick Paper

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12½, 13 comb



½d Green

Error - Double Perforation



1d Vermillion

Error - Watermark Reversed

Watermark inverted errors in this issue are quite scarce.

Queensland

1897

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12½, 13 comb



1d Vermillion

Error - Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Right

This error was caused by a paper fold and is the only reported example.



1d Vermillion

Error - Offset



2d Blue

Error - Double perforation



1d Vermillion

Error - Double Perforation



3d Pale Brown

Error - Double perforation



5d Dull Brown

Error - Double perforation



2/- Turquoise Blue

Error - Double Perforation

Queensland

1897

Watermark Crown/Q

Perforation 12 x 9½



1d Vermillion

*Error—Imperforate Between Stamp
and Margin at Left*

Although this block is referred to in Brusden White in 2004, it does not state that it is “imperforate between stamp and margin at left”. It is the only recorded example.

1907

Watermark Crown/A

Perforation 12½, 13 comb



1d Vermillion

*Error - Imperforate Between
Stamp and Margin at Right*

At least three sheets were discovered imperforate between stamp and margin at right and was listed in the Brusden White catalogue in 2004. Mint blocks of four are the third largest multiple known and six are recorded.

1897

Watermark Crown/Q

Zigzag Roulette in Black



1d Vermillion

Error - Double Zigzag Roulette

This error was first recorded in the Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal in October 1904.



1d Vermillion

Error - Imperforate

One full sheet was discovered completely imperforate and was quickly divided up in to smaller units. It was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1929. Blocks of four are the second largest multiple known and eight are recorded.

Queensland
1871 Postal Fiscals
Watermark Crown/Q
Perforation 12



2/- Blue

Error - Imperforate Horizontally (E)

This pair was discovered in 2010 and led to this error being listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2012. It is the only recorded example.



1d Mauve

Error - Double Perforation (E)

This block was discovered in 2004 and it is the only recorded example of this double perforation.



6d Red Brown

Error - Imperforate Vertically (E)

This pair first appeared at auction in 2010 which led to this error being listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2012. It is the only recorded example.



1d Violet

Error - Imperforate Vertically Between Pair (E)

This error was first reported in the London Philatelist in October 1950. This pair was auctioned in Sydney in 1982 and again in 2010 which led to it being listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2012. It is the only recorded example in private hands. There is a corner block of four in the L'Estrange collection in the Queensland State Library.