Thick 'POSTAGE', 1904-1912

A new plate was needed to replace the badly worn De La Rue key plate in use since 1886. On an enlarged photograph of a De La Rue proof the word "POSTAGE" was drawn in more prominent letters. This enabled the production of a new 'die' etched on zinc. Three plates were prepared: **plate 1** 1904-1906; **plate 2** 1906-1908 and **plate 3** 1908-1912. The stamps were **printed in Adelaide until 1909,** thereafter in **Melbourne**.

3 pence

1. Adelaide printings: **plate 2** **perf 12** **watermark crown over 'A'**

*A, 26 June 1906

(pale grey-olive with pale olive overprint)

Detmold paper

value overprint type 1 (19mm); 1½mm 'E' to 'P'

8 value page numbers recorded for this printing, but not this one

*As with the thin "POSTAGE" series, Purves [ref. (1)] used the letters A, B, C etc. to indicate the printing order *for each denomination* in the **thick 'POSTAGE' series**. To differentiate herein the letters are shown in **magenta.**

B, 15 Oct. 1906

Detmold paper

(dull olive with greenish-olive overprint)

32

43

19mm value overprint

16 19

26 29

printing **B** paying the registration fee on a 0-½oz letter to Switzerland

Variety: imperforate between

31 32

ex Napier and Purves

Only **2 examples** are known; the other is in the Vickery Collection, Powerhouse Museum, Sydney.

C, 23 Oct. 1907 — *olive-bistre with greenish-olive overprint* Detmold paper

19 mm value overprint

printing **C** paying the registration fee on a cover to Denmark

Note: provisional 'Adelaide' registration label – the first type used in South Australia

C *continued*

1.1 plate 3 perf 12 watermark crown over 'A'

D, 8 Sep. 1908 — *olive-green (shades)* *Parsons paper

*On Parsons paper the value page numbers were always in black regardless of the value

19mm value overprint

Paying the registration fee on a cover to U.S.A. 2½d U.P.U. overseas postage

Paying the registration fee on a domestic cover. Postage 2d. *(front only)*

2. Melbourne printings: plate 3 perf 12½ watermark crown over 'A'

E, 7 Dec. 1909 — *pale olive-green*

Parsons paper

value overprint type 2 (17mm)

variety: *perf 11, Jan.10

*The perf 11 machine was used in Melbourne during the early 1900's to perforate stamps of Papua, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia. Purves speculated that a very small number of sheets of the South Australian 3d and 9d long stamps were discovered imperforate (normally perf 12½) and were subsequently perforated by the perf 11 machine which happened to be available at the time.

5

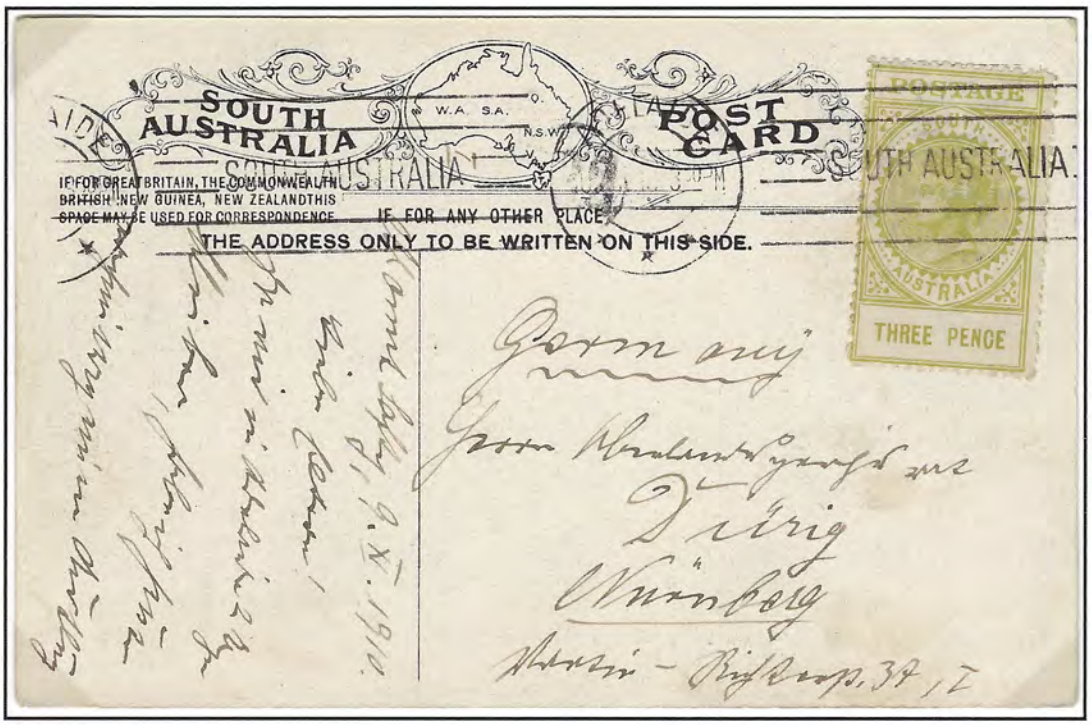
29

about **12 used examples** are known, most being cancelled at Cowell.

Normal stamp (**with private perfin *'ES & Co LTD'**) and extra 2d paying double-rate postage to Greece.

(*Elder Smith). **Very few covers are known bearing long stamps with private perfins.**

Solo usages on cover



On picture postcard to Germany.

After 1906 the left-hand side of a postcard *could be used for correspondence to any overseas country*, the postage rate being 1½d. The extra 1½d postage here *may* be due in part or wholly to a late fee.

Overpaying by one halfpenny the foreign letter rate to U.S.A.

E *continued*

9 10

4 value page numbers recorded for this printing

23 25

5 6

F, 14 July 1910 — *deep green- olive with pale olive *overprint* Parsons paper

*value overprint type 3 (20 mm, 2 mm 'E' to 'P')

1 5

11 15

3 4

14

27 28

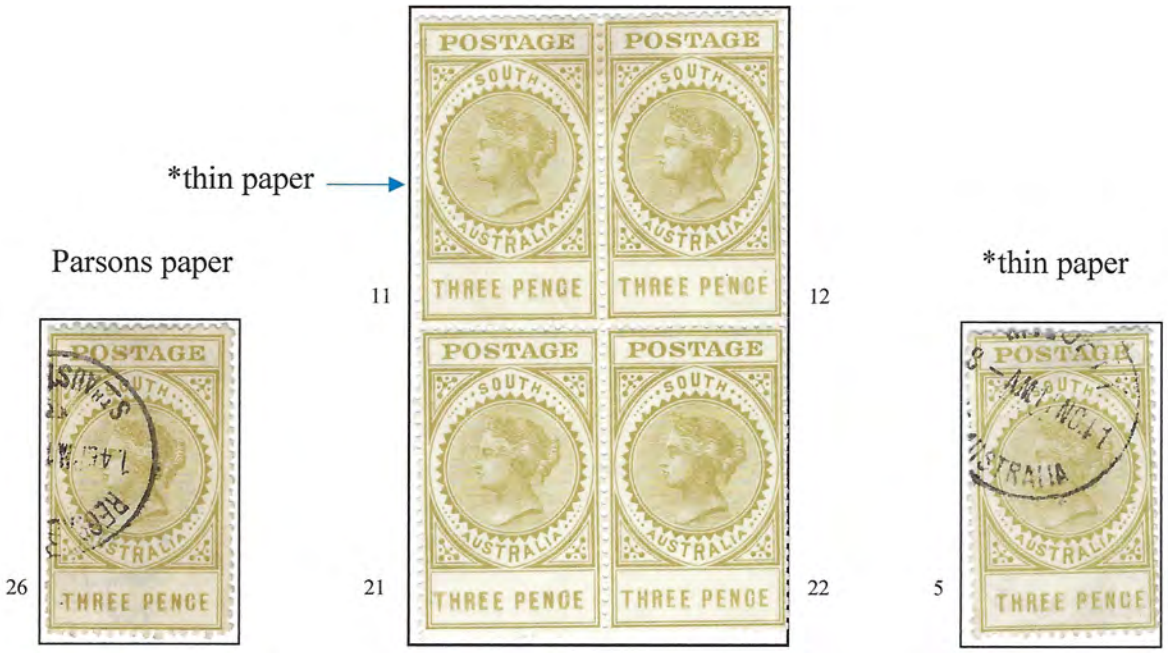
50

Paying the registration fee on cover to New Zealand, postmarked 31 May 1911; *postage 1 penny

*Imperial penny postage introduced 1 May 1911.

G, 8 Sep. 1911 – *pale olive-bistre* Parsons paper and thin paper*

*This new **thin paper** (supplier not identified, but probably James Spicer & Sons) was introduced in mid-1911. Most of this printing was on the new paper, but part on remaining stocks of Parsons paper.



H, 27 May 1912 – *olive* thin paper

In early 1912 the perforator was provided with sharper teeth, producing **larger holes**.

*19mm value overprint

*For this printing the 19mm clichés at positions 20 and 30 were substituted with type 3 clichés (20mm).

H *continued*

5

35 36

54

I, late Nov.1912 – *olive* thin paper

Kellow has shown [ref (3)] that the printing designated '**I**' by Purves actually came *after* Purves '**J**' printing (see next page).

*19mm value overprint

*For printings **I** and **J** position #10 was substituted with a *different* type 1 cliché (19mm)

9 10 ← *substituted cliché

← See **'Note'**

Note: This 'thin' paper bore **no value page numbers or sheet numbers**

9 10

*substituted cliché

J, 26 Aug. 1912 — *olive-green* thin paper

*19mm value overprint

*For printings **I** and **J** position #1 reverted to a *different* type 1 substitution.

type 3 (20mm) substitution

3d position # 1

(type 1 substitution)

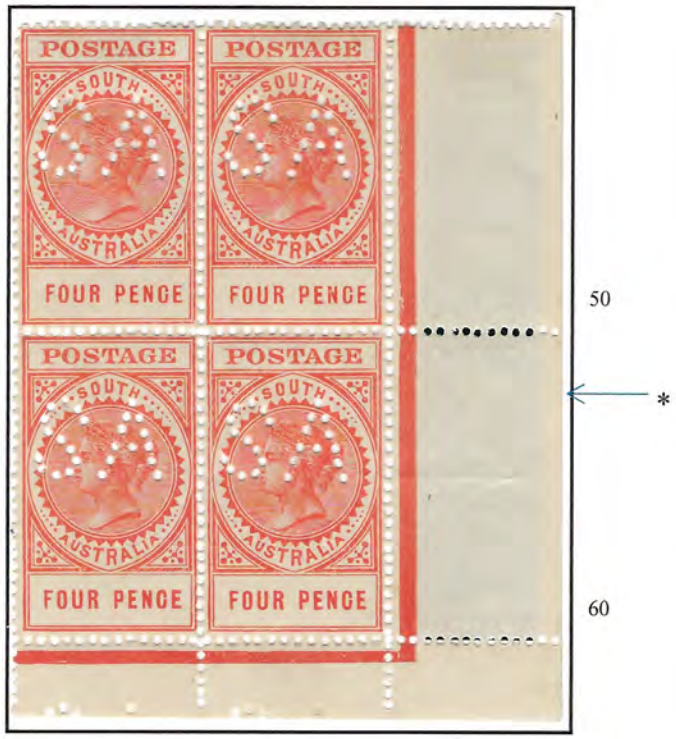
With additional 2d paying 5d postage to U.S.A. for ½-1oz.

4 pence

1. Adelaide printings: plate 2 perf 12 watermark crown over 'A'

A, Sept 1906 *(red-orange - shades)* Detmold paper

*watermark error 'AUSTRLAIA':



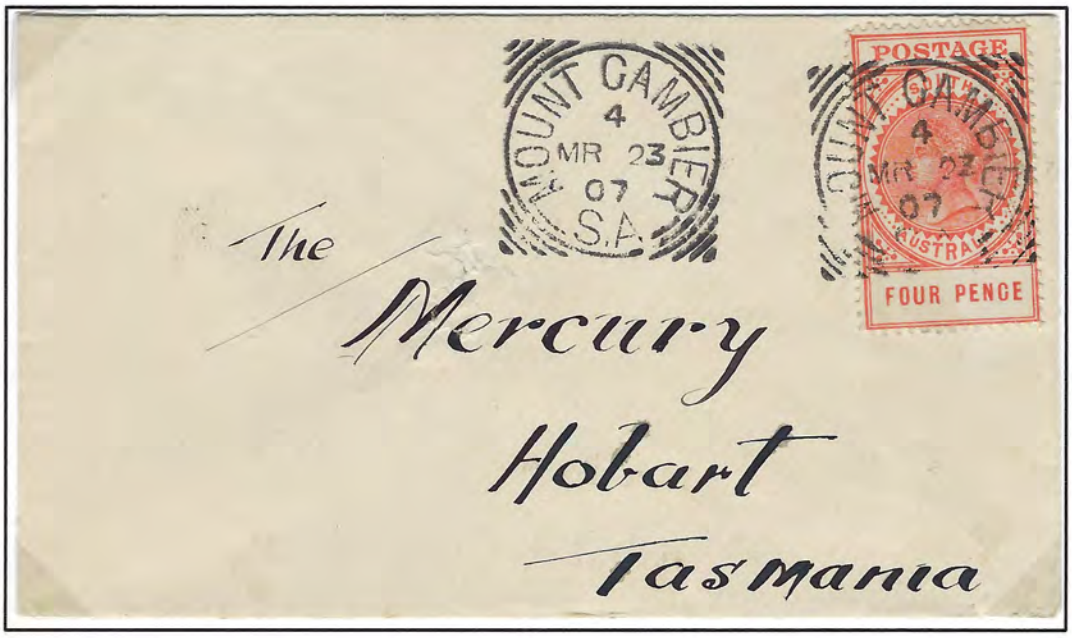
(1) sheet number

(1) from January 1906 to late 1907 **sheet numbers** in **black** were applied *in Adelaide* to both **upper and lower** sheets

6 value page numbers with sheet numbers have been recorded for this printing (on upper sheets)

B, 16 Nov. 1908 – *vermilion (shades)* Detmold paper

plate 3 **perf 12** **watermark crown over 'A'**



Paying double-rate postage to Tasmania (½-1oz.)

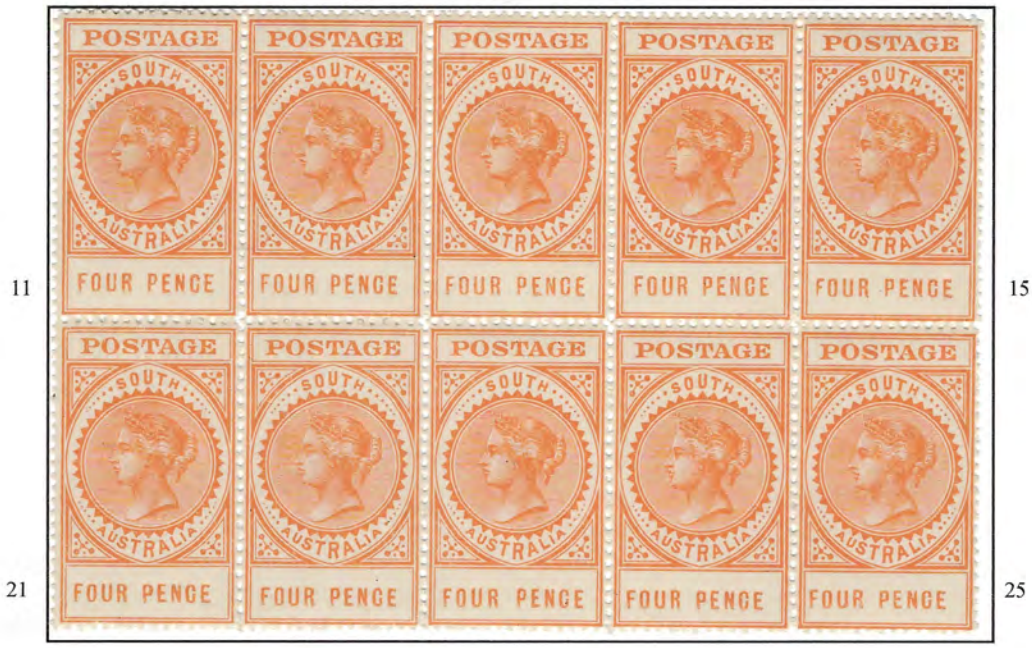
51

52

2 x 4d with additional 2½d paying 3d registration fee plus 7½d postage for a 1-1½oz letter to Switzerland

2. Melbourne printings: plate 3 perf 12½ watermark crown over 'A'

C, 16 Oct. 1909 – *golden orange* Parsons paper



D, 11 July 1910 – *brownish-orange – shades* Parsons paper

Paying the combined 3d registration fee + 1d Imperial penny postage to England, 15 Nov. 1911