

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"*

New South Wales

1st January 1850

No Watermark

Imperforate



1d Pale Red - Plate I

Hard Bluish Paper

Error - Double Impression (E)

Most of the Double Impression Plate I errors encountered are derived from this printing. Colonial collectors were aware of these errors for many years and they were first published by Bassett Hull in 1911. The doubling on this example is approximately .5mm to the base.

Ex "Manwood"

August 1850

No Watermark

Imperforate



1d Dull Carmine - Plate II

Hard Toned Yellowish Paper

Error - Double Impression

Double Impressions on the 1d Plate II were well known to colonial collectors and the first reference to them was made in Bassett Hull in 1911. The doubling on this example is approximately .5mm to the base.



3d Yellow Green

Greyish Wove Paper

Error - Double Impression

The Double Impression error on the 3d value is much rarer than the 1d. It was first recorded by Bassett Hull in 1911.



3d Yellow Green

Greyish Wove Paper

Error Double Print, One Albino (E)

This error was first recorded in December 1957 when an article was published on it by Robson Lowe in "The Philatelist". He stated that "this is the first time I have come across such an error among the primitive classic stamps of the British Empire."

The first printing was the albino, with the value tablet of "THREE PENCE" almost coinciding with the coloured impression of "POSTAGE". The doubling is clearly evident in the margins. This is the only recorded example of this error.

Ex "Manwood"

New South Wales

July 1851

No Watermark

Imperforate



2d Prussian Blue - Blue Medium Paper

Error - Double Impression (E)

Most of the Double Impression errors encountered on the 2d Laureate are generally derived from this shade and printing and it is quite scarce. The doubling is approximately .5mm to the base.

March 1854

Watermark "3"

Imperforate



3d Yellow Green

Error - Watermark "2" (E)

Early collectors of New South Wales were aware of this error in the 1880s and it was first reported in the "Philatelic Record" in May 1890. Two unused examples are recorded in private hands. More than 20 used copies are known, including one pair, with most examples faulty and cut into. It is thought that about four sheets were printed of this error.

Ex Pack, "Manwood"

February 1854

Watermark Numeral of Value

Imperforate



5d Dull Green



6d Greyish Brown



1/- Pale Red

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed

Early colonial collectors were aware of the Watermark inverted and reversed error from the last century before publication by Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" in 1962. Most of the errors of watermark in this issue are inverted and reversed. The 1/- value in unused condition is very scarce.

New South Wales

December 1855

Watermark "5"

Imperforate



5d Dull Green

Error - Watermark Reversed (E)

This error of watermark is very rare with only a couple of examples recorded. It was not recorded by Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" published in 1960.

February 1854

Watermark "6"

Imperforate



6d Deep Slate

Error - Watermark 6 Sideways - Facing Right (E)

This error was discovered by the English collector H. Gordon Kaye and was the subject of an article in the "London Philatelist" in 1980. This is the only recorded example which led to its listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1994.

Ex Kaye

15th August 1859

Watermark "8"

Imperforate



6d Greyish Brown

Watermark 8

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed (E)

This error was first recorded by Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" in 1962 although it was known to collectors well before this date. Only a couple of unused examples of this error are recorded, whilst used pairs are the largest known with three recorded.

Ex Hutson



6d Greyish Brown

Error - Watermark 8 Sideways - Facing Right

Collectors were aware of this error at the turn of the last century. It was first recorded in the "Australian Philatelist" in October 1905 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1994. Pairs are the largest known multiple of this error and two are recorded.

Ex Ginger, Hutson

New South Wales

1st January 1856

Imperforate



Soft Yellowish Wove Paper - No Watermark
(6d) Registered - Vermillion and Prussian Blue
Error - Frame Printed on Reverse
The second printing inverted (E)

This is a very rare error which was first recorded in the "London Philatelist" in July 1895 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1954. One unused and three used examples are recorded, one being in the Royal Collection. A scan of the front of the stamp is illustrated at the left.

Ex Hutson, "Manwood"



Bluish Wove Paper
Watermark Manufacturers Letters
(6d) Registered - Orange and Prussian Blue
Error - Double Impression of Frame (E)



An enlarged scan of the top of the stamp illustrating the error.

This error has only recently been discovered and is similar to the latter printings Perforated 13 in 1862. The second impression is .5mm to the base. It is the only known example.

7th January 1856

Watermark "1"

Imperforate



1d Orange - vermillion
Error - Watermark "2" (E)

This error was discovered by the English stamp dealer Tommy Allen with its discovery was announced in the "Australian Stamp Journal" in December 1935. This was the first recorded example which led to the listing of the error in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1969. A second example has recently been discovered in 2014.

Ex Allen, Frazer, "Alvarado"



1d Orange-red
Error - Printed on Both Sides
The second printing inverted (E)

This error was first recorded by Bassett Hull in 1911 and occurs in two different shades. The only unused example is in the orange-vermillion shade, whilst this, the only used example in private hands is in orange-red. The Royal Collection has two used copies. It was first listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1913. A scan of the front of the stamp is illustrated at the left.

Ex Hamilton, Frankenstein, "Alvarado"

New South Wales

7th January 1856

Watermark Double Lined Numeral
Imperforate



1d Orange Vermillion
*Error - Watermark
Inverted and Reversed*



1d Orange Red
*Error - Watermark
Inverted and Reversed*



2d Blue "Retouched"
[Position 24]
*Error - Watermark
Inverted and Reversed*



2d Blue - Watermark "5"
*Error - Watermark
Inverted and Reversed*



2d Blue Plate II
Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed

This error is quite scarce on the 2d Plate II and this strip of three represents the second largest unused multiple of this stamp and the largest multiple comprising the error.

Ex Hutson

The watermark Inverted and Reversed Error was well known to colonial collectors although the first recording of it is made in Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" in 1962.

New South Wales

7th January 1856

Watermark "2"

Imperforate



2d Blue

Error - Watermark "1" (E)

The first report of this error was in the "London Philatelist" in May 1892 by M. P. Castle, the famous London collector. His copy was bought by King George V in 1929 and is now in the Royal collection. This is the only other recorded example.

Ex Pack, Isleham, Frankenstein, "Alvarado"

October 1856

Watermark "3"

Imperforate



3d Dull Green

Error - Watermark "2" (E)

This error was also well known to collectors in the 1880's. It was first recorded in the "Australian Philatelist" in April 1894. Ten used examples are recorded, as well as four pairs, three of which are in institutional collections.

Ex Espana, White

May 1863

Watermark "6"

Perforated 13



Above is an enlarged image of the base of the unused example illustrating the error.

(6d) Rose Red and Prussian Blue

Error - Watermark Inverted

Double Impression of Frame (E)

The error "Double Impression of Frame" has been known to collectors since the Bassett Hull book of 1911, but only in the Pale Blue shade. These two stamps in Prussian Blue are the only examples recorded.

Ex Silk

New South Wales

May 1863

Watermark "6"

Perforated 13



(6d) Rose Red and Pale Blue
Error - Watermark Inverted



(6d) Rose Red and Pale Blue
Error - Watermark Inverted
Double Impression of Frame (E)

The error Double Impression of Frame has been known to collectors since the Bassett Hull book of 1911 and was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1976.

Ex Carrington

February 1860

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value

Perforated 12

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed



1d Orange Vermilion



2d Pale Blue - Plate I



2d Prussian Blue - Plate II



5d Dull Green



6d Olive Brown



1/- Brownish Red



1/- Rose Carmine

The Watermark Inverted and Reversed Error was well known to colonial collectors although the first recording of it was made in Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" in 1962.

New South Wales

February 1860

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value
Perforated 12



1d Orange-red
Error - Double Impression (E)

The first report of this error was when it was auctioned by Robson Lowe in October 1969. This is the only recorded example and led to the listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1973.



2d Blue
Error - Watermark "1" (E)

This error was first recorded by Bassett Hull in 1911 although it was already listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1908. It is a very rare stamp with only four examples known, this being the only one in private hands.

Ex Collins, Manus, Ginger, Hutson



5d Dull Green
Error - Watermark Reversed

There are no contemporary reports of this error although an unused example is recorded imperforate. This is the only recorded example, although it is quite probable others exist.

February 1860

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value
Perforated 13

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed



1d Orange Vermilion



3d Blue Green

Ex Hutson

New South Wales

February 1860

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value

Perforated 13

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed



3d Blue Green

On the reverse is the convolvulus printing in the margin at the left. This should be on the front of the margin and confirms the error. It is the only recorded example of this marginal printing throughout the whole Diadem series.
Ex Hutson



6d Purple



6d Violet



6d Purple
Watermark "5"

This is the largest known multiple of this stamp and this error.

Ex "Alvarado"



6d Purple
Watermark "12"

This is believed to be the only unused multiple of this stamp.

New South Wales
February 1860
Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value
Perforated 13

Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed



8d Red Orange



1/- Rose Carmine



1/- Carmine



6d Purple
*Error – Watermark “5” Sideways
Facing Left (E)*



8d Bright Yellow
*Error – Watermark “8” Sideways
Facing Right (E)*

This error was announced in the “Philatelic Journal” of Great Britain in April 1927 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 2003. Six used examples are recorded, with another in the Royal Collection.

Ex “Alvarado”

This error was discovered in 2003. It is the only recorded example and led to the listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2012.

Ex “Alvarado”

New South Wales
February 1860
Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value
Perforated 13



3d Yellow Green
*Error - Watermark Inverted and Reversed,
Double Perforation and
Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Right*

This combination of three errors is extraordinary and there are no reports of this in contemporary literature. It is the only recorded example.



6d Purple
*Error - Imperforate Between
Stamp and Margin at Base*



6d Mauve
*Error - Imperforate Between
Stamp and Margin at Right*

All the examples showing the error imperforate between stamp and margin encountered by the exhibitor have been perforated 12. Those perforated 13 are very rare.

Error - Double Perforation



6d Mauve



1/- Rose Carmine



1/- Rose Carmine

Double perforations throughout the perforation 13 Diadem issue are quite scarce.

New South Wales

1861 - 1888

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value



5/- Rose Lilac

*Error – Imperforate Between Stamp
and Margin at Base*

This error is very similar to the 1897 printing in reddish purple where the “imperforate vertically between pair” errors are additionally “imperforate between the stamp and margin at base” from the bottom of the sheet. This single from the earlier printings is the only recorded example.



5/- Reddish Purple

Error – Mixed Perforations (E)

The stamps in this pair are perforated 10 all round with an additional horizontal line of perforations gauging 12 between producing the mixed perforation error. Although this pair resided in the Hutson, he did not record it in the “Stamps of New South Wales”. This error is not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue and it is the only example recorded.

June 1864

Watermark Single Lined 1

Perforated 13



1d Pale Red

*Error – Watermark Inverted
Imperforate Between
Stamp and Margin at Right*

There are no records of this error being recorded in contemporary philatelic literature. Only one other example is recorded showing the Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Right. This is the only piece showing both the errors.



1d Pale Red

Error – Watermark Inverted

Although there are no contemporary reports on this error, it was well known to colonial collectors who had examples in their collections, including H. L. White. This block is among the largest recorded multiples of this stamp.

New South Wales

12th April 1862

Watermark Double Lined 2 Figure of Value
Perforated 12



2d Blue

*Error – Imperforate Between Stamp
and Margin at Base*

It is difficult to understand how this error occurred. The De La Rue stamps were printed in two panes comprising 6 x 10 units side by side. The above stamp shows an inter-pane margin with blue framelines at the base.



2d Blue

*Error – Imperforate Between Stamp
and Margin at Top and at Right*

This error has not been recorded in contemporary philatelic literature, with most stamps imperforate between stamp and side margins being cut down examples. This copy, showing imperforate between the stamp and margin at top is unique in this series.

September 1867

Watermark Single Lined Figure of Value
Perforated 13



4d Pale Red Brown

Error – No Watermark (E)

This error occurred when the paper was misplaced prior to printing resulting in the stamps at the side of the sheet being printed without watermark. This error was first reported by Hutson in 1960 and only two examples are recorded.



10d Lilac

Error – Imperforate Vertically Between Pair

This stamp was printed in two panes of 6 x 10 to make a sheet of 120. The error is from the right hand vertical column of the left hand pane and ten examples of this error should exist. It was first recorded in "Vindin's Philatelic Monthly" in September 1891, and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1917. Seven examples have been recorded, including a pair in the Royal collection.

Ex Frazer

New South Wales

August 1871

Watermark Small Crown / NSW

Perforated 13



1d Dull Red

Error – Watermark Inverted

The New South Wales Government Printer was generally very careful when preparing the paper for printing since there are very few watermark errors in this series. The inverted watermark errors were recorded by Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" in 1962. The two stamps at the left are very rare, and are the only recorded examples.

Ex Hutson



1d Dull Red

*Error – Imperforate Vertically
Horizontal Pair*

This error was discovered in England and reported in the "Philatelic Record" in May 1902 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1976. Two examples of this error are recorded.

Ex Hamilton, Frankenstein



1d Dull Red

*Error – Imperforate Vertically Between
Horizontal Pair (E)*

Although reported in 1902 as "imperforate vertically", this stamp is actually "imperforate vertically between pair". It is a new discovery and was catalogued separately from the pair at the left by Stanley Gibbons in 2014. This is the only example known in private hands, with one other recorded in the White collection in the State Library of NSW.

Ex Carrington



1d Salmon - Perforation 13 x 10

Error – Watermark Inverted

This inverted watermark error was recorded by Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" in 1962. It is a scarce error, with three examples recorded, but I believe others should exist.



1d Salmon - Perforation 13 x 10

Error – Mixed Perforations 13 and 10 (E)

This stamp is perforated 13 x 10 with an additional horizontal perforation gauging 10 at top, thereby creating the mixed perforation error. It was discovered in 2015 and is the only recorded example. This is the earliest mixed perforation from New South Wales, and the only example from the De La Rue issues. It is expected to be listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2017.

New South Wales

August 1871

Watermark Small Crown / NSW

Perforated 13



2d Prussian Blue

Error – Watermark Inverted

Double perforation

This combination of Watermark Inverted and Double Perforation is the only example recorded. In addition, the Watermark Inverted in a strip of three is the largest multiple recorded.

Ex Hutson



2d Blue

Error – Imperforate Vertically

Horizontal Pair (E)

The Slade-Slade sale in April 1979 was the first time this error came on to the market and became known to collectors. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue originally listed this error in 1976, however, it has now been changed to an imperforate vertically between in a horizontal pair. This is the only recorded example of this error.

Ex Slade Slade, Midas, Frankenstein



2d Blue

Error – Double Perforation

A registered envelope from Mudjee dated the 27th of October 1874 and addressed to Sydney with 2d Prussian Blue x 3, with the unit at the top left showing the error "double perforations horizontally". Examples of errors used on cover are quite rare.

New South Wales

August 1871

Watermark Small Crown / NSW

Perforated 13



3d Blue Green

Error – Watermark Reversed

The watermark errors on the 3d value of this series are quite common and exist in all variants.



4d Red Brown

Error – Watermark Inverted

The inverted watermark errors were first recorded by Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" in 1962, and they are not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. The above stamp is the only copy recorded.

Ex Hutson



5d Bluish Green

Error – Watermark Inverted

The watermark errors on the 5d value of this series are quite common and exist in all variants, although this error in a mint block of four is quite scarce.



6d Bright Mauve

Error – Watermark Inverted and Reversed

The inverted watermark errors were first recorded by Hutson in "The Stamps of New South Wales" in 1962, and they are not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. The above stamp is the only example recorded.

Ex Hutson



6d Bright Mauve

*Error – Imperforate Vertically
Between Pair*

This error was first reported in "Philately from Australia" in June 1953 and catalogued by Stanley Gibbons the following year. This is the only example recorded.

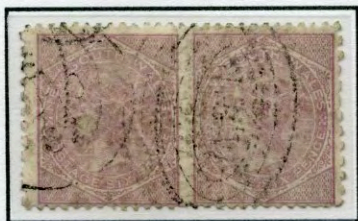
Ex Hutson

New South Wales

August 1871

Watermark Small Crown / NSW

Perforated 13



6d Pale Lilac - Perforation 13 x 10

*Error – Imperforate Vertically
Between Pair*

This error was first reported in “Philately from Australia” in June 1953 and catalogued by Stanley Gibbons in 1955. This is the only recorded example.

Ex Hutson



8d Yellow

Error – Watermark Reversed

Although recorded by Hutson, not enough research has been conducted to determine the scarcity of this error, although it is the only example recorded.



8d Yellow

Error – Watermark Inverted and Reversed

Hutson states that the watermark errors on the 8d value are quite scarce, although this particular variety appears to be more plentiful. The unused example is the only copy recorded.



8d Yellow

Error – Watermark Sideways (E)

This error has only recently been discovered and was first reported in “Sydney Views” in February 2013 and catalogued by Stanley Gibbons in 2014. It is the only recorded example

New South Wales

August 1871

Watermark Small Crown / NSW

Perforated 13



1/- Black

Error – Watermark Inverted

The inverted watermark errors were first recorded by Hutson in “The Stamps of New South Wales” in 1962, and they are not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. This stamp is the only example recorded.

Ex Hutson



1/- Black

Error - Imperforate Horizontally Between Pair

This error is first recorded by Bassett Hull in 1911 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 2003. Besides the pair in the Royal collection, this and another pair are the only examples recorded in private hands.



1/- Black

Error - Imperforate Pair (E)

The auction of the Steinway collection in 1939 of a faulty imperforate vertical pair provided the first evidence of the existence of this error. In 2002, two additional examples were uncovered with the auction of the Colonel Evans collection which led to its listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2003. Only three examples are known.

Ex Evans



New South Wales

April 1882

Watermark Large Crown / NSW



1d Scarlett - Perforation 10
*Error – Imperforate Vertically
Between Pair*

There were no reports of this error in contemporary philatelic literature, however, it was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1976. There are only two recorded examples of this error, the first one appearing at public auction in 1999.

Ex Carrington



1d Scarlet - Perforation 11 x 12
*Error – Imperforate Between Stamp
and Margin at Right*

Most examples that are encountered that are imperforate between the stamp and margin are cut down perforations from inter-pane stamps. Genuine examples of this error of the 1d value are rare.



2d Prussian Blue - Perforation 11 x 12
*Error – Imperforate Vertically
Between Pair*

This is another recently discovered error when it first appeared in a Status International auction in January 2013, although its classification was misidentified. It is the only recorded example of this error, and the only known mint imperforate between error from the De La Rue issues. It will be catalogued by Stanley Gibbons in 2016.



3d Yellow Green - Perforation 10
*Error – Imperforate Between Stamp
and Margin at Right*

The 3d value showing imperforate between stamp and margin appear to be much more common than other values, with the exception of the 5d and 8d. However, these tend to be more prevalent with later printings, and early printings such as this example are very scarce.



3d Deep Yellow Green - Perforation 10
Error – Watermark Sideways

This error was first reported in the Australasian Stamp Journal in December 1917 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1997. It is a very rare error in this shade, and this unused stamp is the only recorded example.

Ex Hutson

New South Wales

April 1882

Watermark Large Crown / NSW



3d Deep Yellow Green - Perforation 10

Error – Double Print (E)

Although collectors were aware of this error as early as the 1930's, there are no reports of it in contemporary philatelic literature. It was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 2003. Six examples have been recorded, including one in the Royal Collection, all cancelled by the Bathurst datestamp.



3d Yellow Green

Error – Imperforate

First reported in the "Australian Philatelist" in December 1900, it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1905. Mint blocks of 4 are the largest multiples known and nine are recorded in private hands with another three in institutional collections.

Ex Evans



3d Yellow Green - Perforation 11

Error – Imperforate Vertically Horizontal Pair (E)

This error was first recorded in the "Australian Philatelist" in August 1896 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1917. Two multiples of four are the largest recorded in private hands, the above block, and the strip of four which confirms the status of this error as imperforate vertically. There is a mint block of six in the H. L. White collection in the New South Wales State Library.

Block of 4 Ex Baillie, Alvarado

New South Wales

April 1882

Watermark Large Crown / NSW



3d Yellow Green - Perforation 12 x 10
Error – Double Perforation 10



3d Bluish Green - Perforation 10
Error – Double Perforation



3d Bluish Green - Perforation 11
*Error – Imperforate Vertically
Between Pair (E)*

This error was first reported in "Philately from Australia" in December 2012 although collectors were aware of it as early as the 1930's from the companion block of 8 in the Vickery Collection in the New South Wales Powerhouse Museum. These two blocks are the only recorded examples, and the error was catalogued by Stanley Gibbons in the 2015 edition.



3d Emerald Green - Perforation 10
Error – Watermark Sideways Facing Left



3d Emerald Green - Perforation 10
Error – Watermark Sideways Facing Right



This error was first recorded in the Australasian Stamp Journal in December 1917 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1997. This error in Emerald Green is much more common than the Watermark Sideways error in the Yellow Green shade. However, it is a rarity in unused condition, with this stamp being the only recorded example. Most of the printing was overprinted "O S", where it is much more common in mint condition.

Ex Hutson

New South Wales

April 1882

Watermark Large Crown / NSW



4d Red Brown - Perforation 11 x 12

Error – Double Print (E)

Most examples of Double Prints encountered are actually Double Impressions. The partial Double Print on this example affects the frame at right and is the only example recorded.



5d Dull Green - Perforation 11 x 10

Error – Double Perforation 10

Double perforations are quite scarce in the middle issues of New South Wales. This example shows the doubling of the Perforation 10 gauge vertically at right.



5d Blue Green

Error – Imperforate (E)

Collectors had acknowledged this error in the late 19th century and it was one of the first errors listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1900. Blocks of 4 are the second largest multiple known behind a block of 8, and eight are recorded.

Ex Evans



5d Blue Green

Error – Watermark Sideways Facing Right

Mixed Perforation

12 and 13 Vertically Between (E)

There are no contemporary reports of this error which is a recent discovery. This is the only recorded mixed perforation error on this value and was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in the 2015 edition.

New South Wales

April 1882

Watermark Large Crown / NSW



5d Blue Green - Perforation 12

Error – Watermark Sideways Facing Right

This error was first reported in the Australian Philatelist in June 1917 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1997.



6d Mauve - Perforation 12 x 10

Error – Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Right



6d Pale Lilac - Perforation 10

Error – Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Right

Most examples that are encountered that are imperforate between the stamp and margin are cut down perforations from inter-pane stamps. These stamps show the marginal inscription indicating that they are from the right hand pane of the sheet and confirm their status as imperforate between the stamp and the margin at right.

Five examples of this error are recorded, three postally used stamps and two manuscript cancelled copies.

This is the only recorded example of this error.



6d Mauve - Perforation 12 x 10

Error – Imperforate Vertically Between Pair

The discovery of this error was announced in the "Australian Stamp Journal" in July 1911 when a bank correspondence was sold to Sydney stamp dealer Fred Hagen yielding a used vertical block of 18 imperforate between. This piece was split to provide a block of four in the Steinway collection and a block of six in the H. L. White collection, leaving four pairs. This error was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1954. The above two pairs have been rejoined to form a block of four.

The top pair: Ex Pack

The lower pair: Ex Frazer

New South Wales

April 1882

Watermark Large Crown / NSW



8d Yellow - Perforation 10
Error – No Watermark (E)

This error occurred when the paper was misplaced prior to printing resulting in the stamps at the upper and lower right corners of the sheet being printed without watermark.



9d on 10d Red Brown - Perforation 11
Error – Surcharge Double (E)

The Surcharge Double error was first recorded in the "Australian Philatelist" in April 1896 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1900. It exists both watermark upright and inverted. The used examples show a different variation of the surcharge double error. They are the only used copies of the error recorded.



December 1886

Stamp Duty Paper

Watermark "NSW"

Perforation 10



2d Deep Blue
Error – Imperforate

Although catalogued by Stanley Gibbons in 1927, the first report of this error was when this pair was auctioned by Harmers of London in 1957. It is the only recorded example.

Ex Hutson

New South Wales
December 1886
Stamp Duty Paper
Watermark "NSW"
Perforation 10



1d Scarlet

Error – Lower Right Unit No Watermark



2d Deep Blue

Error – Lower Right Unit No Watermark

In late 1886, there was a shortage of Watermark Large Crown/NSW paper and the Government Printer was forced to produce emergency printings of the 1d and 2d values on Stamp Duty paper Watermarked "NSW". Since the paper was of a different size than that usually encountered, some sheets missed the perforating machine, producing stamps imperforate between the stamp and margin at right. This was part of the printing process and is not considered an error. However, on rare occasions, the paper was miss-placed resulting in stamps in the corner positions being printed with No Watermark.

May 1886
Watermark NSW Vertically
Perforation 12



10/- Lilac and Claret

Overprinted "POSTAGE"

*Error – Double Impression of the
 "POSTAGE" Overprint (E)*

There are no reports of this error in any of the contemporary philatelic literature. Discovered in 2011, this error was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue the following year. Currently, two unused and one used example have been recorded. There are no other instances of double overprints in any of the Stamp Duty series.

New South Wales

May 1888

Watermark Large Crown / NSW

Perforation 11 x 12



1d Lilac

Error – Imperforate (E)

Collectors were aware of this error in the 1920's however, there are no reports of it until the publication of the "Stamps of New South Wales" by Hutson in 1962. The only recorded pieces are this pair and two blocks of four, one residing in the Royal Collection.

Ex "Carrington"



2d Prussian Blue

Error – Imperforate Three Sides

This error was first reported in "Philately from Australia" in 1953 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue the following year. Although catalogued as "Imperforate between pair" the block is actually "Imperforate three sides" and is the only recorded example.

Ex Hutson



2d Blue

Error – Imperforate

The first publication of this error was in the "Federal Australian Philatelist" in April 1890 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1917. The largest known multiple are blocks of four with two examples recorded, one residing in the H.L. White collection.

Ex Hutson



New South Wales

May 1888

Watermark Large Crown / NSW

Perforation 11 x 12



2d Prussian Blue
Error – Double Perforation



1/- Violet Brown
Error – Imperforate

This error was first reported in the "London Philatelist" in October 1892 and was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1917. Often miss-classified from the later printings in 1899, it is a rare error with only this single and two pairs recorded.

Ex "Carrington"



5/- Lilac - Perforation 10
Error – Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Right

The imperforate between stamp and right margin occurs on a couple of printings of the 5/- Centenary. It is very scarce with only a couple of examples recorded.



4d Red Brown
Error – Double Impression (E)

The first report of this error was when this stamp was auctioned in the Hutson sale in London in 2013 and it was not mentioned in his book on The Stamps of New South Wales. This is the only recorded example, with



the doubling especially evident in the value tablet. An enlarged scan is illustrated at left.



6d Carmine
Error – Offset Printing on the Reverse

New South Wales
November 1888
Stamp Duty Paper
Watermark "NSW"

1d Mauve - Perforation 11 x 12

Error – No Watermark (E)



In late 1888, there was a shortage of Watermark Large Crown/NSW paper and the Government Printer was forced to produce emergency printings of the 1d and 2d values on Stamp Duty paper Watermarked "NSW". Since the paper was of a different size than that usually encountered, some sheets missed the perforating machine, producing stamps imperforate between the stamp and margin. This was part of the printing process and is not considered an error. However, on rare occasions, the paper was miss-placed resulting in stamps in the corner positions being printed with No Watermark. This error is not catalogued by Stanley Gibbons.

5th January 1891
Watermark Large Crown / NSW
Perforated 11 x 12

5th January 1891
Watermark Large Crown / NSW
Perforated 11



Halfpenny on 1d Grey
Error – Surcharge Double (E)



12 1/2d on 1/- Red
Error – Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Base

There are no early reports of the discovery of this error, however, it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1913. Two mint and three certified used examples are recorded, one being in the Royal collection.

There are no reports of this error in contemporary philatelic literature and this stamp is the only recorded example.



A scanned enlargement of the surcharge error is illustrated at left.