

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"*

Tasmania

1st November 1853

Plate 1, Second State

No Watermark

Imperforate



4d Orange

Error – Double Impression (E)



4d Pale Orange

Error – Double Impression (E)

Double impressions on the 4d Courier are very rare and only 7 examples are recorded across three different printings of which these two are the only examples recorded from the second state of the plate. The second impressions are 1mm to the base and are quite faint. Collectors became more aware of this error when two examples were auctioned in London in 1969 which led to their listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1971.

August 1857

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value

Imperforate



1d Pale Red Brown



2d Green



4d Blue

Error – Watermark Inverted

Early collectors had recognised the errors of watermark on the colonial printings of the Chalon stamps and they were first recorded in "Vindin's Philatelic Monthly" in December 1891.

Tasmania

August 1857

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value

Imperforate



2d Yellow Green



1d Brick Red

Error – Watermark Inverted and Reversed



1d Deep Red Brown



1d Pale Red Brown (E)



1d Brick Red



1d Carmine (E)



2d Dull Emerald Green



2d Yellow Green

Error – Double Impression

Early colonial collectors were well aware of these errors on the 1857 colonial printings of the Chalon series. They were first reported in the “Australian Stamp Journal” in March 1912 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1923 as “Double Prints”, however, their more accurate description is “Double Impressions.” The second impression is usually .5 to 1mm away from the first printing.

Tasmania

August 1857

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value
Imperforate



4d Deep Blue



4d Pale Blue



4d Blue



4d Bright Blue

Error – Double Impression



4d Bright Blue

Error – Printed on Both Sides (E)

This rare error was first reported in the London Philatelist in August 1909 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1923. Two examples are recorded in private hands with another copy residing in the Royal Collection. A scanned image of the front of the stamp is shown on the left.

Ex Earl, Hayes, Sato

March 1860

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value
Imperforate



6d Grey Violet

Error – Printed Double

Although there are no contemporary reports of this error, however, it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1923, probably in the format of the Double Impression. This is the only example recorded, with the doubling 2½mm at top.

Ex Boker, Sato

Tasmania

1864

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value

Perforated 10



1d Brick Red
*Error – Double
Perforation*



1d Carmine
*Error – Double
Impression*



4d Blue
*Error – Double
Impression*



4d Blue
*Error – Double
Perforation*



4d Pale Blue
*Error – Double
Perforation*



4d Pale Blue
Error – Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Right

This error has not been recorded in early philatelic literature and this stamp on cover appears to be the only known example.

Tasmania

1865

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value
Perforated 12



1d Dull Vermillion
Error – Double Impression

Double impressions are rare in unused condition with only a handful of examples of this error recorded.



1d Carmine
Error – Printed Double (E)

Correctly identified Double Prints are rare in the Chalon series with only two genuine unused examples of this error recorded.



1d Dull Vermillion
Error – Double Impression (E)



1d Carmine
Error – Double Impression



1d Carmine
Error – Watermark “2”



1d Carmine
Error – Watermark “2”

This error was first reported in the “London Philatelist” in July 1892 and was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1894. Although seven postally used examples are recorded, most exhibit doubtful cancellations. It has been estimated that about 25-30 examples of this error exist, the majority being fiscally used.

Tasmania

1865

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value
Perforated 12



4d Blue
Error – Double Impression (E)



4d Blue
Error – Printed Double (E)



6d Slate violet
Error – Double Perforation

Correctly identified Double Prints are rare and this is the only recorded example.

6d Slate violet
*Error – Imperforate horizontally
Between Pair*

There is no evidence of this error being recorded in contemporary literature. One other example is recorded from the Earl collection which sold in London in 1980, and the error was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1987. Both examples are pen cancelled.



1/- Vermillion
*Error – Imperforate
Vertically Between Pair (E)*

Although collectors knew of this error in the 1930's, it was not listed by Stanley Gibbons until 1987. The other six examples known are all fiscally used and this is the only recorded postally used example.

Ex Collins, Krichauff, Cohen

Tasmania

1865

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value

1/- Vermillion

Perforated 12½

Error – Imperforate Vertically Between Pair (E)

This error first came to the attention of collectors at the Evans sale in 2002 when this pair was auctioned. It is the only recorded example which led to its listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2014.

Ex Evans



1d Carmine

Oblique Roulette 14-15

Error – Imperforate Horizontally Between Pair (E)

Although this strip was well known to collectors by 1950, the significance of the imperforate between error was not recognised. It is the only recorded example, however, it is not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.

Ex Beresford, Earl, "Hayes"



6d Grey Violet

Pin Perforated 13 - 14

Error – Imperforate Vertically Between Pair (E)

This pair is a recent discovery in 2008 and is the only recorded example. It is not listed by Stanley Gibbons.

Tasmania

1871

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value

Perforated 11½



6d Dull Lilac
*Error – Imperforate
Between Stamp and
Margin at Top*

This is the only recorded example of this error.



6d Slate Violet
Error – Imperforate

This error was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1923 and the above pair is the only recorded example.

Ex Blake



6d Bright Violet
Error – Double Impression



6d Lilac
Error – Imperforate Vertically Between Pair

This error was listed as “Imperforate Between” by Stanley Gibbons in 1923, however, there were two different types of this error which was corrected in the catalogue in 2010 based on the existence of these two pieces. All recorded examples are pen cancelled. Six imperforate vertically between pairs are recorded, including one in the White collection. Only two of the imperforate horizontally between pairs are recorded, both manuscript cancelled on the same day.

Imperforate Horizontally Between Pair: Ex Evans



6d Lilac
*Error – Imperforate
Horizontally Between Pair*

Tasmania

1871

Watermark Double Lined Figure of Value

Perforated 11½



1/- Orange Red
*Error – Double
Impression (E)*



6d Dull Reddish Lilac
Error – Double Perforation



1/- Orange
*Error – Imperforate Between
Stamp and Margin at Base*

This is the only recorded example of this error.



1/- Orange
Error – Imperforate Vertically Between Pair

This error was first reported in the Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal in June 1891 and listed in the catalogue in 1929. Four used examples are recorded, all pen cancelled, with this strip of four being the largest multiple recorded.

Ex Evans, Bell



6d Dull Claret
*Error – Watermark Inverted
Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin at Base*

This block and two other singles are the only recorded examples of this error imperforate between stamp and the margin at base.

Tasmania

1st November 1870

Watermark Single Lined Figure of Value



1d Rose Red (Watermark "4")

Perforation 12

Error – Imperforate (E)

There are no contemporary reports of the discovery of this error although it appeared in an early Plumridge auction before the turn of the century, which is probably the example in the Tapling Collection in the British Library. It was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1899. This is the only example in private hands.

Ex Bell



2d Blue Green

Perforation 12

Error – Printed Double (E)

This error was discovered in 2007 and led to it's listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2010. It is the only recorded example.

Ex Cohen



10d Black

Perforation 12

Error – Imperforate

This error was first reported in the "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" in September 1891 and it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1899.



2d Blue Green

Perforation 11½

Error – Printed Double (E)

This error was first recorded in "Philately from Australia" in December 1954 and was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1968. One mint and nine used examples are recorded.



10d Black

Perforation 11½

Error – Imperforate Vertically (E)

This error was discovered in 2003 and led to it's listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2010. It is the only recorded example.

Ex Evans

Tasmania

25th March 1871

Watermark Lined TAS

Perforation 11½



1d Rose

Error – Imperforate (E)

Colonial collectors were aware of this error at the turn of the century and it was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1920. Five used pairs are recorded, and another is in the Royal collection.



1d Rose

Error – Imperforate Horizontally (E)

Although there was an example in the Forster collection in the United States in the 1920's, it was not publicised until an article in "The Courier" in December 2015. Three examples are recorded of which one is damaged. It will be listed in by Stanley Gibbons in 2017.



3d Pale Red Brown

Error – Imperforate Horizontally

This error was first recorded in the "Philatelic Record" in June 1888 before being listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1937. Five pairs are recorded.

Ex Tinsley



3d Purple Brown

Error – Double Perforation



3d Pale Red Brown

Error – Imperforate

This error was first reported in the "Philatelic Record" in October 1891 and it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1900. This strip of three is the largest multiple recorded.

Tasmania

25th March 1871

Watermark Lined TAS

Perforation 11½



9d Blue

Error – Printed Double (E)

This error was first reported in the “Stamp Lover” in April 1914 and was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1990. Five examples are recorded.



9d Blue

Error – Imperforate (E)

This error was reported in the “Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal” in September 1891 and it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1899. This pair is the only recorded example with a marginal control number.

28th October 1878

Watermark TAS

Perforation 14



1d Rose Carmine

Error – Imperforate

Although this imperforate error is not listed by Stanley Gibbons, its existence has been noted by collectors for many years. One school of thought is that this could be a plate proof, however, none were discovered when the De La Rue archives were auctioned by Robson Lowe in the mid 1970s. This is the largest known multiple of this error recorded.

Ex Gawaine Baillie

Tasmania

April 1880

Watermark TAS

Perforation 12

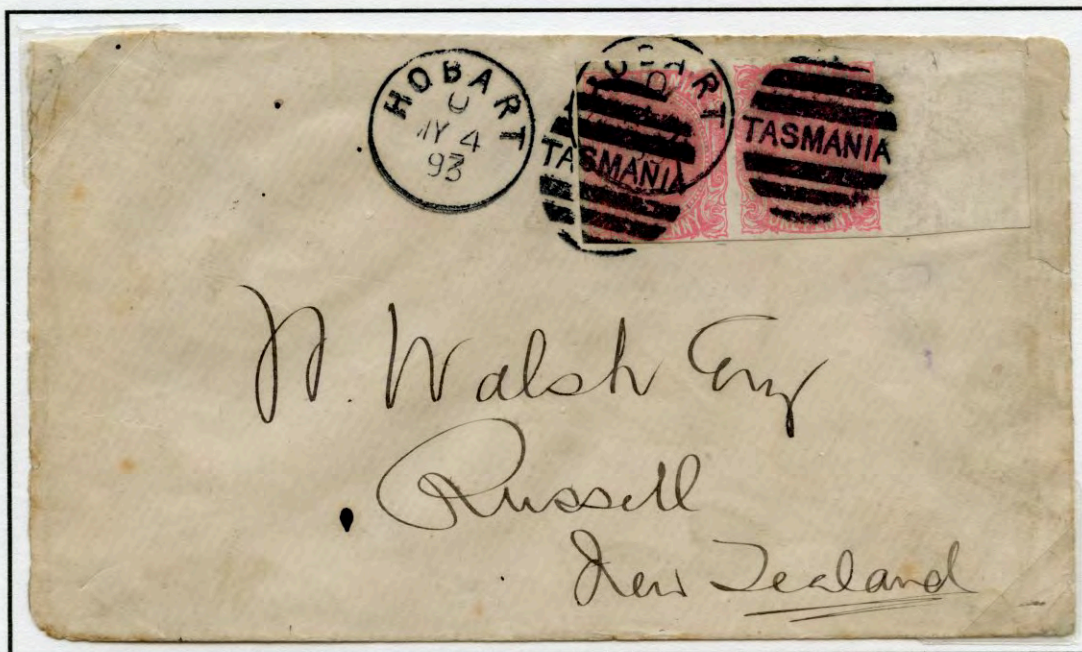
1d Pink

Error – Imperforate

This error was first reported in the London Philatelist in June 1892 and it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1899. The mint block of eight is the largest multiple recorded. The used strip of three is rare, being the only known piece used in period. The used pair on cover is the only recorded example.

Mint block of 8: Ex Bell

Cover: Ex Cohen



3d Red Brown

*Error – Imperforate Vertically
Between Pair (E)*

There does not appear to be any articles in any of the contemporary literature before Stanley Gibbons listed the error in 1917. Five pairs and a block of 4 are recorded.

Ex Gawaine Baillie

Tasmania

April 1880

Watermark TAS

Perforation 11½

3d Red Brown

Error – Double perforation



3d Red Brown

Error – Imperforate (E)

This error was first reported in the “Federal Australian Philatelist” in July 1891 and it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1900. Only two examples are recorded showing the marginal control number.



April 1880

Watermark TAS

Perforation 12

1d Rosine

Error – Imperforate (E)

Recognition of the two different shades of the imperforate error was noted by early collectors but not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue until 1971. The largest known multiples are blocks of four and two are recorded.



Tasmania

April 1880

Watermark TAS

Perforation 12



4d Chrome Yellow

Error – Printed Both Sides

The second impression printed sideways (E)

This error was first reported by Bassett Hull in 1890 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1899. With nearly all examples it is difficult to distinguish with the naked eye, however, under magnification, the printing is quite clear on the reverse. All examples show the second impression printed sideways.

1st Jan 1891

Watermark TAS

Perforation 12



2½d on 9d Pale Blue

Error – Surcharge Double One Inverted

This error was first published in the "Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal" in September 1892 and listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1897. This pair is one of the few recorded showing the inverted surcharge in pair with a normal stamp.



½d Orange

Error – Imperforate

This error was first reported in the "London Philatelist" in June 1892 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1914. Mint blocks of 4 of this error are scarce and five are recorded. The used pair is rare, with only one other pair in the Royal collection known.



½d Orange

Error – No Watermark (E)

There are no contemporary reports regarding the printing of this stamp on no watermark paper and this block is the only recorded example. Plate proofs are known on unwatermarked paper, however, they are crisply printed with a high level of detail surrounding the design, unlike this block, which exhibits the same characteristics as the issued stamp.



Tasmania

1st January 1889

Watermark TAS

Perforation 14



Halfpenny on 1d Scarlet

Error – Surcharge “al” of “Halfpenny” Reading Downwards



Two printings of 500 sheets were made of this surcharge before the issue of the ½d Orange in 1891. In the second printing, the second position in the right hand pane had the “al” of “Halfpenny” reading downwards and was quickly corrected after a “few sheets” had been printed. This error was first reported in the “Federal Australian Philatelist” in January 1890 and it was listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1897. This is the only complete pane to survive containing the error. The used example at the left is also quite rare, with only eight examples recorded, including one on cover.

Ex Yardley, Slade Slade