

EL BOURNA
MAI 5A
1855
P. 101

Wm Macgregor

Newcastle

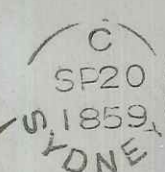

Robert Hurst
Sydney



Retouches of the 2d Diadem 1858

In 1858 the plate was damaged by over-heating which caused it to blister in places, and a number of the stamps were imperfect. The plate was repaired from time to time by local workmen, Who touched up defective designs and also frame lines. In doing this they made various graver slips causing varieties.

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.



J. W. Saunders Esq.
Bank. R. S. Wales
Maitland

Position 104 3rd RETOUCH

Major 2d diadem retouches

In 1858 the 2d diadem plate was damaged and the positions most affected (24 & 104) were retouched no less than three times over a period of 15 months. This process altered the appearance of the stamps produced. Two of the stamps below have been used by Stanley Gibbons to illustrate these major retouches in their catalogues.



July 1858



August 1859



September 1859



July 1858



August 1859



September 1859

Position 24

First

Second

Third



Lines above & below "Pence" strengthened, the lower touches right hand square



Heavy line added at base of neck and three clear lines added below neck above "PE"



Very extensive, completely altering the appearance of the stamp

Position 104



Diadem and hair completely redrawn. Line added along neck. Wore rapidly down right and below neck



About six lines added below and parallel to base of neck



Very extensive, giving the stamp an utterly different appearance



Position 24

First Retouch

Lines above and
below "TWO PENCE"
deepened, the lower
projecting through "ACE"
into the right square.



*See page entitled
'major retouches'
illustrated in Stanley
Gibbons catalogue.*

1st RETOUCH - JULY 1858.



Position 24

Second Retouch

**Heavy Line added at base of
neck.**

**Three clear vertical lines
added below neck and above
"PC".**

*See previous page -
"major Retouches"*

2nd RETOUCH AUGUST 1859

(possibly only 17 printed)



Normal.



Position 24

Third retouch

Very extensive, completely altering the appearance of the stamp. "TWO PENCE" recut. Engine turning in background and lines in the side panels entirely redrawn. Lines added to chignon and diadem.



3RD RETOUCH

See page entitled
"major retouches"
illustrated in Stanley
Gibbons - Catalogue.



SEPTEMBER 1859



Miss Caroline Shannon
(with speed) Wollongong

No. 27,606

4 JUL 1945

The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed

*New South Wales: 1858, 2d dull
blue, Plate T retouched, used.*Stamp, sent by *Messrs V.S. James*of which a Photograph is attached hereto, and are
of opinion *that it is S.G. 109,**Genuine*

FOR THE EXPERT COMMITTEE.

*J. H. Hutton*
CHAIRMAN.



Position 104

Third Retouch

Similar to position 24, third retouch. Very extensive gilding the stamp an utterly different appearance. The whole background filled in and much of the stamp retouched. The most obvious test is that the point of the neck is very blunted.



*See page 27, 606
"Major retouches"
Illustrated in Stanley
Gibbons Catalogue*

Normal



Position 104

First Retouch

Extensive and most obvious
Diadem and hair completely
redrawn. Line added along
neck. More rapidly down right
and below neck.



103

104

In pair with normal



Before retouch



Before retouch



Before retouch

See page entitled
"major retouches"

Note: Graver slip through "AG".



Position 104

Second Retouch

About six lines added below
and parallel to the base of the
neck in a feeble attempt to fill
up this badly worn area.



92

104

*In pair with normal,
(work inverted & reversed)*

*See page entitled:
Major Retouches*





Damaged prior to retouch



Position 13

Retouch in panel under
"NEW" and in the background
above "TW".





Position 25

Lines have been strengthened
left of "SOUTH" and above
"NEW".



Unused





Damaged state prior to retouch.



Position 36

Heavy curved lines added in right panel above "W" and in top panel after "H". Diadem and hair slightly retouched.



35

36

In print normal.





Damaged prior to retouch.



Position 37

Prominent grabber slip
diagonally downwards into
centre of the left hand square.



32687



Ret. N29
Mrs Pockley
Pictouville
North Shore

67
PM 1856

No. 32687

THE BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION, LTD.
EXPERT COMMITTEE

3 BERNERS STREET,

LONDON, W.1 *30 DEC 1957*

The Committee is of the opinion that the
New South Wales 1856 SG-t14 Plate 1
wmk 2^c imperf: 2^d light ultramarine on
cover used (N^o 49 on the sheet) is genuine and
is retouched.

Robson
Alb. Smith
John Walker

32687



Ret. N29
Mrs Pockley
Pictouville
North Shore

67
PM 1856



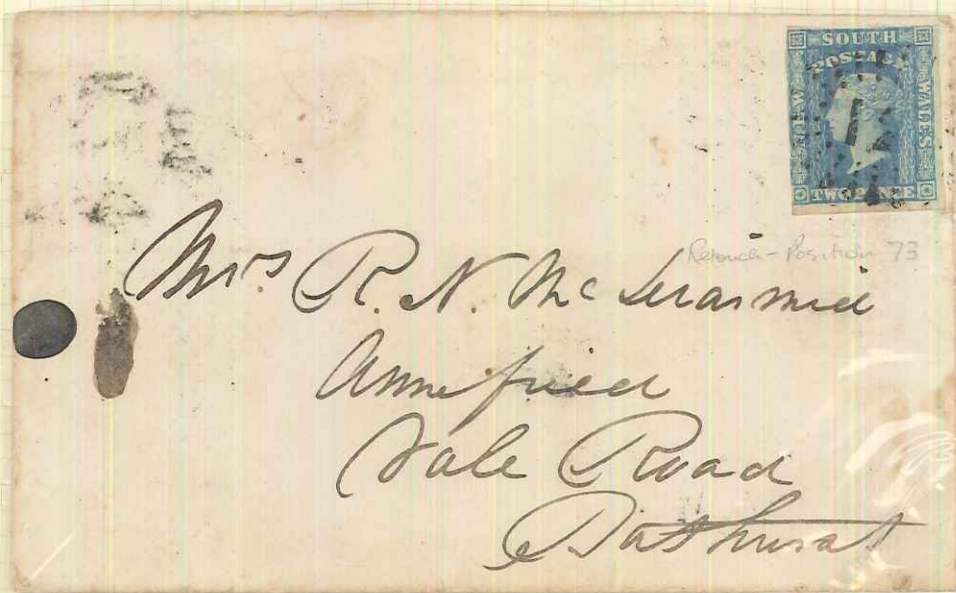
Position 49

Retouched in top frame left of
 "S" and in left panel both
 above and below "NEW".



49/ 50
 In pair with normal.

Returned postman 73 on cover



November 1859



Position 73

Curved above "NEW"
deepened.



73

74



Position 49 retouched on cover. 22nd Feb 1860
 Imperforate - perforation started in NSW on 1-2-1860. ---



Before



Before



Position 105

Right side of "N" of "NEW"
 lower than left. Heavy
 retouching in the left panel and
 front of face.



Before



Retouch



Unused
 Retouched :-



1859. 2d Diadem Lithographic Transfer of Plate 1



55118

Imagine the excitement bordering on disbelief amongst New South Wales collectors in 1909 when it was revealed that an issue used only for one month or so in 1859 had remained undiscovered for the previous 60 years!

The first mention of this stamp occurred in the *London Philatelist* Vol. XIX under the heading "Another discovery in the Diadem Issue". The reason for this particular title was because the authorities in 1859 had encountered all sorts of trouble regarding the production and supply of 2d stamps to satisfy demand and it seems they decided to try a lithographic solution to resolve the problem. This desperate alternative to recess printing lasted only a couple of months at most.

The first specimen of this lithograph was discovered by Mr Hamilton-Smith of Messrs Stanley Gibbons Ltd in 1909 among a quantity of stamps of no value. Attracted by its curious and apparently lithographic appearance, Mr Hamilton-Smith submitted it to several experts in the country, who unanimously agreed that the specimen was a lithographic production.

All lithographic specimens are of a pale blue shade which is not exactly matched upon the engraved specimens of the 2d Diadems of this issue, and have the flat and blurred characteristics of lithographic impressions. Nowadays Gibbons list this stamp as 118 and 118a (retouched) and **no mint** examples have ever been found. Also three positions were retouched on the bottom left hand corner of the relatively few sheets that were produced.

AF Basset Hull in his (authoritative) book "*The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Post Cards and Telegraph Stamps of New South Wales*" noted that during research in official records he had found the register entry relating to the proposed lithograph, but that the original file of papers could not be found.

Some 30 years later, he discovered the unexpected appearance in Sydney of the hitherto unknown proof sheet. The sheet was then the property of Mrs A K Smith, a Sydney bookseller, who stated that this 2d Diadem lithograph sheet had been in the possession of her late husband for many years. Mrs Smith refused to allow the sheet out of her possession, although she had shown it to the Mitchell Librarian and permitted Basset Hull to examine it briefly.

The proof sheet again appeared in Sydney in 1937. It was offered for sale by a Mr Harris, who said that it belonged to his aunt. This was subsequently sold to Miss A Vickery, who added it to her extensive collection of NSW. Her collection was eventually bequeathed to the Australian Museum in Sydney, and remained on display there until 1982, when it was transferred on loan to the Mint and Barrack Museum, Sydney.

Today examples of this extraordinary attempt to solve an acute shortage are rare, and even more so, retouched examples and covers (of which only five are known).

Lithographic Process

A plate has to be engraved in exactly the same manner as for copper-plate printed Stamps. Transfers are taken from this plate in oleaginous transfer ink, for laying down on the lithographic stone, and the stamps are then printed by the usual lithographic process, and have all the objections of copper plate printed stamps, in addition to which the printing is not so satisfactory, for the ink on the transfer paper stands up in ridges, and when this laid down by pressure on the stone, it becomes crushed and the reproduction on the stones is therefore somewhat blurred, and if, as is often the case in Stamp work, the details and background are rendered by fine lines, it gives a broken appearance to the lines when they come to be printed.

Lithographed



Colbalt Blue. 118
RPS cat 47772
Cameel "44" (Yass)

Recess printed



Pale blue. 112

No. 47772

1 - JAN 1959

The Royal Philatelic Society, London

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed *New South*

Males: 1859 2d. pale cobalt blue,

S.G. 410, used. Heads of James Earl

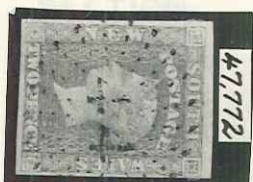
Stamp, sent by

of which a photograph is attached hereto, and are of opinion that it is genuine.

FOR THE EXPERT COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN.

Indistinct



No. 18,590

7 JUN 1935

The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed

New South Wales: 1859, 2d pale

cobalt blue, litho, retouched, used

Stamp, sent by F. J. Bolton Esq.

of which a Photograph is attached hereto, and are
of opinion that it is a genuine

lithograph and retouched.

FOR THE EXPERT COMMITTEE,



F. J. Bolton

CHAIRMAN.



SG 118a
RPS cat. 18590



Retouch: 'TWO PENCE' redrawn & line below.
(which is heavy extending across
beyond the width of the stamp)

August 1959 Lithograph printing, showing the prominent retouch at foot
(with 'Two Pence' redrawn and horizontal lines below,
from R 10/2= position 110 on the sheet),

Royal Philatelic Society certificate 1935. This stamp was submitted for authentication by
F J Bolton who wrote a series of articles for the "London Philatelist" in 1948 in which this
item was illustrated.

Spink. Hutson Sale Lot 297. February 19th 2013

Retouch: A good example of this rarity, [110], small to good margins, cancelled by
"N.S.W." in elliptical ovals, a little soiled and with some small faults. Extremely rare, only
3 or 4 examples known. R.P.S. Certificate (1935). S.G. 118a, £2500. Photo

Lot 297



Lithographed pair on cover

On Her Majesty's Service.



Surveyor General's Office,

Sydney,

19th August 1859.

J. Hood Esq
Surveyor
Camp
near Gloucester

RPSO 31573

- 2d pale blue SG 118 horizontal pair [113-114], large margin at base, elsewhere just clear to just touching, on cover to "Camp/near Gloucester" with 'NSW'-in-Concentric-Ovals cancel of Sydney (b/s), 'RAYMOND TERRACE' & 'STROUD' transit & 'GLOUCESTER' arrival b/s, central stain, Cat £1400 x3+. A very rare franking. Ex George Ginger & Victor Frankenstein. RPSofL Certificate (1948).

No. 31,573

2 APR 1948

The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

EXPERT COMMITTEE

We have examined the enclosed *New South*
Wales: 1859, 2d. pale cobalt blue,
Lithographed, (S.G. 110), pair, used on
Cover.
Stamp, sent by *R. E. Weber, Esq.*

of which a Photograph is attached hereto, and are
of opinion *that it is Genuine.*

4-68

Plate 1

Perforated issued in February 1860



Pale blue



Pale blue



Unused 56133



Wm before Rebecca.



Wm. inspired.

Plate 2

Perforated issued in February 1860



Deep



English



Prussian



Greenish blue



Dull



Prussian



Deep.



"This stamp (2d cobalt blue) was made by perforating the remainder of the stock of the preceding issue and it is comparatively rare. The impression was often very worn, and some show damage caused by blistering of the plate and were never retouched: they are of equal rarity to the retouches." The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps - Vol. IV.

Sydney 29. Nov. 1860.

Dear Sir,

I have just received your letter of the 19th instant and have no hesitation in saying that if I were in the circumstances in which you describe your friends, I would proceed to Queensland & take advantage of the prospects held forth to agriculturists in that colony rather than wait in New South Wales till some new & better order of things arises out of the present confusion.

The climate of Queensland is highly salubrious, & although hotter than that of N.S. Wales in summer, farming operations can be carried on there as well as here. At least there are no hot winds there such as we have occasionally here.

The land, that is what is fit for cultivation, is quite as productive as any in this colony & the range of production is much more extensive. Cotton & the sugar cane can both be cultivated there with perfect success, & wheat has pro



Plate II Blue SG 114
Cancel '85' Drayton.

THE PROVISIONAL PERIOD (26.1.1860—31.10.1860)

Queensland was proclaimed a separate colony on 10th December 1859 but continued to use NSW issues until 1st November 1860.

From the 1st of February 1860 all stamps were perforated by authorisation of the Honourable Treasurer in New South Wales.

However, only *imperforated* stamps were supplied to Queensland from NSW until they issued their own stamps on 1st November 1860.

Thus, during this "*provisional period*" only imperforated stamps were available in Queensland and only perforated issues were obtainable in NSW.

Queensland 1860



SG 1 Large Star



SG 3 Large Star

21st February 1860 piece with 6d Registered imperforate orange and Prussian blue (hard paper) and pair of 2d diadems blue *imperforate* tied by very fine "96" with Maryborough NSW above. A fine and very scarce proving piece of the 'Provisional Period'.

Plate 2 Diadem retouches

In 1860 the replacement plate which had been so eagerly awaited arrived and was immediately put into use. It was thicker than the previous plate (7/16th" compared with 3/16th") so it was expected to last longer. In the event this was not the case and over the short period of eight months retouching was necessary on certain positions. It was believed that this wear was due to the fact that this plate had not been thoroughly tempered. The most dramatic example of the retouching can be seen in position 57 below. This stamp is illustrated in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogues



44

Position 44.



45

Position 45



56

Position 56

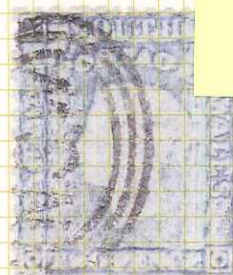


57

Position 57



A line partly redrawn above "TWO PENCE"



A line redrawn above "PEN"



A line wholly redrawn above "PENCE"



Lines added on both sides of the Queen's head

↑ Illustrated in the SG catalogue

Plate 2 Retouches

In 1860 some positions of Plate 2 were retouched due to the excessive wear of this plate.

Before retouching:-



"81

Retouched line above "two pence"

Dramatic retouch.

45

44

56

57

Illustrated in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue.

Renewed Plate 1

Some very worn impressions given and the last printing had brown gum



1861



1862



1871



Dark blue

Compound Ref 12x13

NOTE:

Type 4 "Specimen" overprint. 240 were prepared & 120 half were overprinted

Perforated

1860-62

Following the arrival of a new 2d plate (Plate 2) authorisation to adopt a system of perforation from February 1st 1860 was made, probably encouraged by the greater space and regularity between the impressions on this new plate.
The perforated issue became available on the first of February in New South Wales.



*J. Baptist Esquire
St. Thacker Daniels
McCormick
Sydney N.S.W.*

Orange-Red. 12p. 12.



10 "Fenella"

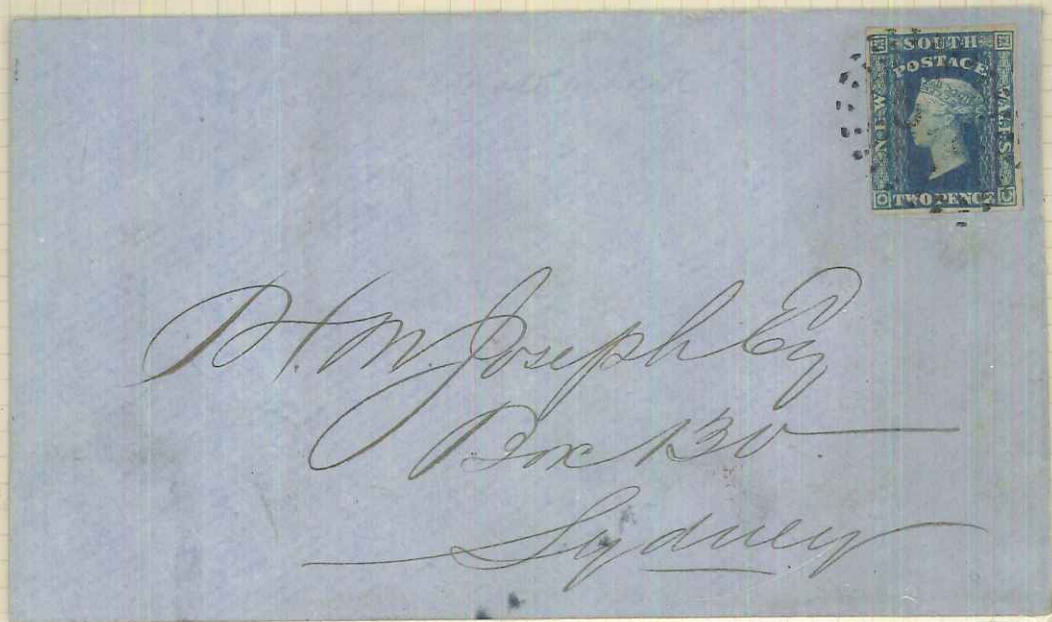
*George Sharke Esq
Worrowsolgen
Casino*

18/4/60

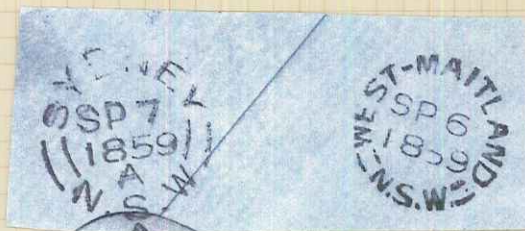
Richmond River

British Blue. 2p. 12.

On February 1860
the 2d dradens was
issued with perforation
for the first time in
NSW.



Back Stamp:



Imperfate
Plate I



Remaining stocks of Plate I were also perforated and continued to be
issued for postal usage after 15 Feb. 1860.

February 1860

Perforated 11½ to 12 -

Deep
Bright
Blue



Early



Intermediate

Prussian/Turquoise
or Greenish Blue



Early



Intermediate

Vivid
Bright
Blue



Early



Intermediate



Worn



Deep Bright blue
- Intermediate
(Wakeman's inverted)



Vivid Bright Blue - Worn.
(pre-retouch)

Note:

(Worn examples of Deep Bright blue and Prussian blue are
not found.)

1861-88



1897 Perf 12
Deep red purple mint



1897 Perf 11x12
Deep red purple

ORIGINAL SKETCH

FOR

N.S.W. 5/- STAMP



By G. H. Corbould?



Rose lilac mint Perf 11



Rose lilac Perf 10



Dull violet Perf 13



Purple 179 Perf 12



Royal Purple Perf 13



Deep Rose lilac Perf 13



Perf 13



Deep rose lilac P 13



Deep Purple P 13



Reddish Purple P 10



Purple Perf 13



Perf 10



Perf 10



Rose Lilac Perf 11





Jeffries sketched at his trial. First reproduced in Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal 2: 170 (1892).



Genuine



FORGERY.
note chin
& hair on nape
of head.

The most notorious forger of these issues was GEORGE KIRKE JEFFRYES (Jeffries, Jeffreys, or Jeffreyes), who from the age of sixteen in 1883, started by faking overprints on genuine stamps of Columbia, Equador, North Borneo, Sarawak, Sungei Ujong, and Zululand.

Later Jeffries turned his talents to the forging of classic stamps amongst which included the New South Wales 1850 1d. (both plates 1 & 2) and 2d Sydney Views: most of the 1851-55 diadem issues: and the 6d registration stamp.

The chief outlet for his work was the firm of Benjamin and Sarpy whose proprietors were leaders in postage stamp forgery and fakery in London in the last decades of the 19th century.

In 1891. Jeffries was arrested with Benjamin and Sarpy, ultimately found guilty of conspiracy to defraud, and sentenced to 6 months hard labour.

1862-65
 Part 14
 Surfact paper



hmk "1" 186



hmk "1" 188

1862
 Part 13
 hmk
 double-lined "3"



187



187



hmk "5" 190

1864-65
 Part 13
 hmk "1"



195



195

1865-66



Dark Red Brown



Brownish Red
 201 (deep)



Brick Red
 Two pages 202



Brownish Red
 (pale)

Watermark varieties "1"



Reversed



Inverted



Marginal



Reversed



Inverted



Marginal

Torn →



Mint Wmk "2"



Watermark "1" reversed



Wmk "2" Specimen

1863-69

Wmk "2"

Perf 13



Wmk Inverted



Wmk.



Pale Red.



Pale Blue



Cobalt.



Prussian.

1865-66

Thin Wave paper

No Wmk.

Perf 13



Brick Red



Pale Blue.



Brownish Red

1863-69



Watermark reversed '2'



Reversed watermark '2'



Inverted watermark '2'

1867



Watermark



SG 2055



Watermark.



1880



Ref 12x11
206a (at 150)



SG 018ac

Perforation 10
Wmk 35 (at 400)



Blistered Plate

In 1858 the plate was damaged by over-heating which caused it to blister in places, and a number of the stamps were imperfect. The plate was repaired from time to time by local workmen, who touched up the defective designs and various frame lines. In doing this they made various graver slips causing minor varieties.

A number of the imperforate 2d diadems remaining were perforated and used from 1861, but these cannot be reliably distinguished from the reissues from the plate which had been sent to Perkins Bacon in London for repair and from thence returned. During the process of this repair fourteen subjects were re-entered.

In summary, therefore, *retouches* were made on the imperforate and perforated issues which are well described in the Robson Lowe "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Stamps Volume IV", *re-entries* were made at Perkins Bacon when repairing the plate used to produce the perforated issues, also in addition to the above the plate became progressively more *worn* with use.

