
THE B.H. HOMAN COLLECTION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

FINDING GUIDE

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Rejected Essays for the design of the first New South Wales stamp, produced by Robert Clayton in 1849. The “Sydney Views” issue eventually became the colony’s first stamp design.



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COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT

The New South Wales collection comprises an album of about 575 philatelic objects, primarily die proofs, essays, trial color proofs and plate proofs, dating from 1849 – about 1880.

PROVENANCE

Mr. B.H. Homan of New York, New York, donated this 46-page album of New South Wales proofs to the Smithsonian's National Museum of History and Technology on December 19, 1957. (Accession Number 217932).

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

New South Wales, a state in the southeastern region of Australia, was the first area on the continent to be settled by the British. It originally contained Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, and the Australian capital city of Canberra. Before the unification of Australia in 1901, New South Wales was an autonomous British colony which, like other Australian states, issued its own postage stamps.

This collection showcases die proofs and plate proofs from nearly every New South Wales issue from 1850 through about 1880, as well as unaccepted essays, proofs from unfinished dies, vignette die proofs, trial color proofs with ink recipes, and a proof of an attempted forgery.

CONTAINER INVENTORY

Page 1: Proofs and a lithographed essay of the Sydney Views issue, featuring the seal of the New South Wales colony. Three proofs of 1850 one penny issue in red; one proof of 1850-51 three pence issue in black, noted as rare; three proofs of 1850-51 three pence issue in green, and a lithographed essay of 1850 one penny issue in red.

Page 2: Three objects from the rejected Clayton essays of the prototypes of the Sydney Views, and lithographed reproductions of the Thomas Ham engraved essays, both featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem (crown) in red and blue. Clayton essays one penny denomination; Ham essays two pence denomination. Date probably 1849.

Page 3: An unaccepted John Carmichael essay of the either the Sydney Views or Laureated issue, date unknown. Featured are the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem in black and in orange, one penny denomination; a crown framed by laurel leaves in black, six pence denomination; and, a crown and lion in a circular frame, one shilling denomination.

Page 4: Plate proofs of the Laureated issue, engraved by Mr. H.C. Jervis, and the Registered Letter issue, engraving by John Carmichael, both featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with laurel headdress. One of 1852-55 six pence issue in brown, noted as "Engraved Proof of Plate 1 / Fine background"; one of 1856 six pence issue with red inset and blue frame, noted as "Early impression"; two of 1860 six pence issue with orange inset and blue frame, noted as "Plate more worn."; two of 1852-55 eight pence issue in blue, one on white paper and one on blue paper; and one of 1852-55 two pence issue in blue.

Smithsonian National Postal Museum, The B.H. Homan Collection of New South Wales - Finding Guide (Accession #217932), p. 3.

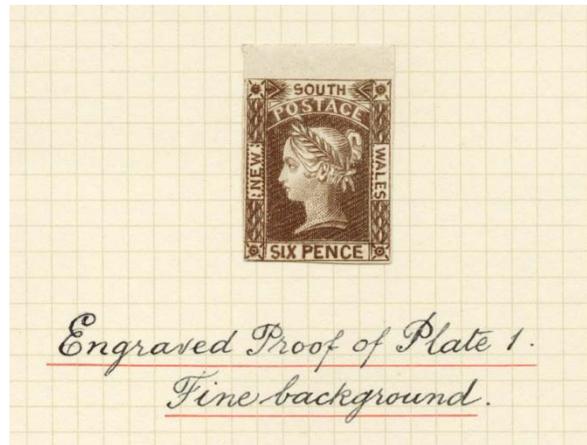


Plate proof of the six pence Laureated issue of 1852, engraved by Mr. H.C. Jervis

Page 5: Plate proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem. Two of the 1854-55 five pence issue of hexagonal frame in green noted as “Thick card” with cancel marks; two of the 1854-55 one shilling issue of octagonal frame in faded brown noted as “Thin wove”; and eight of the 1861-80 five shillings medallion-style issue, dated 1864: two in gray noted as “Thick card”, two in green noted as “Wmk: Large star”, and four in gray noted as “On the Large Star wmk. Paper of Queensland.”

Page 6: Die proof of attempted forgery of the Laureated issue featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with laurel headdress in black, along with accompanying illustration of a “crook-bearing hand” and a description of the image.



Die proof of an attempted forgery of the Laureated issue. Description on page reads: “Nothing seems to be known of this impression which purports to have some relation to the ‘LAUREATED’ issue of 1851. The workmanship is quite equal to that of Carmichael which it resembles. On the other hand we find the somewhat celebrated line-engraving forgeries of Jeffries occasionally surmounted – as in the Ceylon forgery above – by a crude imitation of the crook-bearing hand which is a feature of the black impression. Such an addition would condemn the forgery as something which was not a ‘stamp’. Yet the best work of Jeffries is much inferior to that of the black impression.”

Page 7: Die proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile Queen Victoria with diadem, all in black, along with description of “Type 1” and “Type 2” proofs. Of the Type 1 proofs: One of the 1856 one penny issue; two of the 1856 two pence issue, one on India paper; one of the 1856 three pence issue; and one of 1854-55 eight pence issue of octagonal frame on “India paper mounted on thick card” with denomination obscured by folding. Of the Type 2 proofs: one of 1854-55 five pence issue of hexagonal frame; one of 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame; one of 1854-1855 eight pence issue of octagonal frame; and two of 1854-55 one shilling issue of octagonal frame.

Page 8: Plate proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, all 1854-55 five pence issue of hexagonal frame, and two empty spaces marked “Trial Cancellation” and “Thick wove.” Two in blue noted as “Thick wove”; one in green noted as “Thick wove / Gummed”; two in green noted as “Thin wove”; and one noted as “Wmk’d / TH”.

Page 9: Trial color proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, no denomination printed, dated 1856. One in orange and one in purple noted as “Wove Paper” and “Type I”; six in red noted as “On thick wove paper / gummed.”; six in brown noted as “vertically laid” paper and “colour for Van Diemens [sic] Land.”; and six in red noted as “horizontally laid” paper.

Page 10: Plate proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem. Two of 1856 one penny issue, one in orange and one in black; two of 1856 two pence issue in blue marked “Specimen” and noted as “wmk single line” paper, “2”; six of 1856 two pence issue in black, one noted as being a plate proof on “thin card” with “engraver slip through neck”; and five of 1856 three pence issue in green, two noted as “Thick wove / Gummed.”



Plate proof of the 1856 two pence Diadem issue with an engraver slip running across the image of Queen Victoria's neck.

Page 11: Titled as “Official Die-Proofs of the ‘Five Shillings’ Issue of 1861” – One die proof and three plate proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem. Die proof of 1861-80 five shillings medallion-style issue in gray, noted as “India-paper on card”; one plate proof of 1861-80 five shillings medallion-style issue in gray; one plate proof of 1856 two pence issue in black; and one plate proof of 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame in black.

Page 12: One plate proof of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1856 issue in black, no date given. Noted as “Reprint - Transfer Master Roller for the 1d, 2d + 3d values with postage blank from which the Trial Plates were made.”

Page 13: Plate proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem. One of the 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame in red, noted as “On thick wove. paper”; two of the 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame in green, noted as “Gummed.”; one of the 1854-55 eight pence issue of octagonal frame in blue with trial cancellation; two of the 1854-55 eight pence issue of octagonal frame in yellow; two of the 1854-55 eight pence issue of octagonal frame in blue; and one of the 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame in brown, noted as “on thinner wove paper.”

Page 14: Two 5x5 sheets of reprints of the 1852-55 six pence Laureated issue featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with laurel headdress in brown, date unknown.

Page 15: 10x5 sheet of reprints of the 1852-55 two pence Laureated issue featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with laurel headdress in faded blue, noted as “Engraved by H.C. Jervis, Pitt St. Sydney”. Date unknown.

Page 16: 10x5 sheet of reprints of the 1852-55 eight pence Laureated issue featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with laurel headdress in blue, noted as “Engraved by H.C. Jervis, Pitt St. Sydney”. Date unknown.

Page 17: 10x5 sheets of reprints of the 1852-55 eight pence Laureated issue featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with laurel headdress in yellow, noted as “Engraved by H.C. Jervis, Pitt St. Sydney”. Date unknown.

Page 18: Partial sheet of reprints of the 1852-55 eight pence Laureated issue featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with laurel headdress in blue, noted as “Engraved by H.C. Jervis, Pitt St. Sydney”. Date unknown.

Pages 19-22: Several trial color proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1856 issue, no denomination printed. Colors represented are brown, yellow, green, red, orange, blue, and black; some colors are deteriorated/faded. A block of 6 in yellow on Page 19 is noted as “Thin white wove paper” and features an ink recipe; a block of 6 in green on Page 19 is noted as “Thick white wove paper” and “Ceylon” is handwritten at the bottom; Page 21 is noted as “1856 / unfinished” and the trials are grouped as “Laid” and “Wove”; and the trials on Page 22 are noted as “Vertically laid paper.” and are labeled as Types II-VI. Three have manuscript “specimen.”



Three trial color proofs for the 1856 Diadem issue featuring the manuscript “specimen”

Pages 23-24: Trial color proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1856 issue with no denomination printed and 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame, in various shades of red and blue, noted as Ex. Mann Collection. This color process is noted as “B” printing, which is described on the page: “These are printed dry in varnish and paper gummed and prepared previously and the colors dusted on.” Date unknown.

Pages 25-26: Trial color proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame, in red, green, blue, brown, black and yellow. Date unknown. Ink recipes for each color are featured and a description notes that these were done in “A” printing on thick wove paper.



A blue trial color proof for the 1854-55 six pence hexagonal frame Diadem issue. The exact recipe for the colored ink used in this trial proof is written beside it.

Page 27: Trial color proofs and one plate proof of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame, in green and black with various stages of color deterioration due to “chemicals experimented with to test the fugitive qualities of the colours.” Dates unknown. Some of the chemicals used are noted, and two trials feature a handwritten marking. It is noted that “The handwriting on the documents... is that of ‘Mr. L de Nicholas’, the clerk of Messrs Perkins Bacon & Co.” Plate proof is 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame in black.

Page 28: Trial color proofs of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame, in red, green, brown, and blue. Dates unknown. Three are noted as “Thick wove,” one as “thin wove,” one as “Thick vertically *laid* (Not on wove as described by B. Hull)”, and one as “On soft toned wove”.

Page 29: Trial color blocks of four of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame, in a very deteriorated blue. Dates unknown. Four feature a handwritten marking, and the sheet is described as “on thick wove paper, strongly ‘bleute’ – [The first block of four] ‘A’ being impressions before, and [the second block of four] ‘B’ after chemical experiment.”

Pages 30-33: Titled as “Complementary Head Dies” – vignette die proofs of the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, likely used as an inset for multiple stamp styles. Colors featured are black, green, red, brown, orange and purple. Dates unknown. Proofs on Page 30 are described as “Finished State of the Die” and “Finer in Detail than Any that Follow, Particularly in the Lower Curls of the Hair”; two on Page 31 are described as “Die State 1”, “On smooth hard wove” with “incomplete

Smithsonian National Postal Museum, The B.H. Homan Collection of New South Wales - Finding Guide (Accession #217932), p. 7.

modeling of the ear”; also on Page 31 are two impressions (one green, one black) described as “Die State 2” “On coarser, slightly toned wove. The modelling [sic] of the ear is complete.” The green impression features “two impressions in albino”. Page 32 is described as “Die State 3a”, “Practically the same state as the last, but Impressions less fine particularly in the want of detail in the lower coil of hair.”; and Page 33 is described as “Die State 4”, where “a fine scratch appears on the Die, passing diagonally through the central Maltese cross, though not always easy to be detected.” It is noted that one example “is on thin wove” and the other four “belong to the ‘8-Colour Series,’ and are on the usual soft thin card.”

Page 34: Titled as “Modern Impressions from Defaced or Unfinished Dies.” – three objects from the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, dates unknown. One stamp of 1854-55 one shilling issue of octagonal frame in red with manuscript signature; one stamp of the 1854-55 eight pence issue of octagonal frame in yellow with cancel mark; and one proof of 1854-55 one shilling issue of octagonal frame in black with denomination not printed due to being “in the intermediate stage of alteration for making the 8d Die, hence the top inscriptions are intact, but the ‘ONE SHILLING’ at foot & the fleur de lys [sic] at the sides are removed.”

Page 35: Titled as “Modern Impressions from Defaced or Unfinished Dies.” with the last four words crossed out and replaced with “TRANSITION”; and also titled as “DIE STATE ‘A’ (contd) – Upper tongue with a centra[l] line.” Shown are seven examples of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame with denomination and side detail not printed, in black, brown, green, and orange, with notation “On white or tinted papers with sunk mount”. Date unknown. One example at top of page is noted as “Thin and slightly meshed wove paper”; and another at top of page is noted as “Medium strongly meshed wove.” One stamp of 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame in brown and a pair of stamps of 1854-55 five pence issue of hexagonal frame in green are included at bottom of page.

Page 36: Seven examples of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame with denomination and side detail not printed, in green, black, brown, and red. Date unknown. A continuation of the die proofs from the previous page.

Page 37: Titled as “Modern Impressions from Defaced or Unfinished Dies.” and also as “DIE STATE ‘B’ – No central line in the upper tongue.” Shown are six examples of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame with denomination and side detail not printed, in green, black, red, and orange. Date unknown. Also featured is a drawing of the hexagonal frame design. The first three examples are noted as “On medium slightly meshed wove paper”; the fourth as “On very thin semi-laid paper”; and the last two as “A variation of State ‘B’, differing in the absence of certain marks –i.e.– (1) – A dot in the value-scroll: (2) – A dot in the outer frame below and to the right of neck, and (3) – Of the fine line running into the lowest angle of the hexagon (marginal).”

Page 38-39: Four examples of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame with denomination and side detail not printed, in black, green, red and blue. Date unknown. A continuation of the die proofs from Page 37. Noted as “DIE STATE ‘C’ – Large re-cut lower tongue” and “From the ‘4-Colour’ series.”



One of only a few known examples of the 1854-55 six pence hexagonal frame Diadem issue in black.

Page 40: Titled as “Modern Impressions from Defaced or Unfinished Dies.” and also as “DIE STATE ‘C’ (contd) – Large re-cut lower tongue.” Shown are nine examples of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1854-55 six pence issue of hexagonal frame with denomination and side detail not printed, in black, red, purple, green and blue. Date unknown. Description at bottom notes “A Complete Set of the Modern ‘8-Colour Series’ Shewing [sic] All the Colours. It Includes Two of the Only Three [Known] Copies Printed in Black – (Possibly the Only Two). Die-State as Last, with Over-Lapping Tongue Through Value-Label.”

Page 41: Titled as “Modern Impressions from Defaced or Unfinished Dies.” Shown are five examples of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1856 issue with no denomination or text “POSTAGE” printed, in black, green and orange. The first two are noted as “‘A’ – Impressions shewing [sic] no traces of erasure from the labels, and which may therefore be from the matrix in which the labels were left blank originally.” The first of these is noted as “On soft card / From the ‘8-Colour’ series” and the second as “On thin wove and defaced by an engraved right-angle.” The next two are noted as “‘B’ – The above are from defaced, and not matrix dies, as proved by traces of erasure in the upper (postage) label. These erasures are identical both in (1) and (2) and the latter (with oval) is therefore a later die-state.” The first of these is noted as “On stout wove paper and void labels. The head is not surrounded with any oval as in No. 2” and the second as “On hard medium-wove paper. From a working-die in which the head is surrounded by a trial engraved oval. Similar proofs occur in Ceylon (qv).” The final example is noted as “Labels with engraved fancy-patterns. (‘Orange and Green Series’)” and features a design where the word “POSTAGE” and denomination normally would be.

Page 42: Die proofs and plate proof of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, all in black. One die proof each of 1862-65 one penny issue, 1862-65 two pence issue, 1867 four pence issue, and 1867 ten pence issue. Plate proof a 6x2 sheet of 1862-65 one penny issue.

Page 43: Plate proofs on card of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem. One of 1862-65 one penny issue in black, dated March 20, 1867 with notation “AFTER STRIKING”; one of 1867 four pence issue in black, dated May 1, 1867; and one of 1867 four pence issue in red, no date given.

Page 44: Plate proofs on card of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem. One of 1862-65 two pence issue in black, dated January 10, 1870; one of 1862-65 two pence issue in blue, date unknown; and one of 1867 ten pence issue in black, dated January 10, 1870.

Page 45: Four trial color plate proofs on card of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, 1871-84 six pence issue, in green, brown, yellow and pink. Date unknown.



Die proof for the 1885-86 Revenue stamp issue in an unused 15 shillings denomination

Page 46: Unissued essay frame die proof and vignette die proof for 1885-86 one pound Revenue stamp issue in black; unissued essay die proof for 1885-86 one pound Revenue stamp issue with green frame and gray inset; die proof for 1885-86 unissued fifteen shillings Revenue stamp with red frame and gray inset; two unissued essay plate proofs in black on card of the Diadem series featuring the profile of Queen Victoria with diadem, one in nine pence denomination dated June 15, 1880 with notation "BEFORE HARDENING" and one in three pence denomination dated May 21, 1880 with notation "AFTER HARDENING"; and one trial color proof of 1888-89 eight pence Lyrebird issue in yellow.

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