

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: HOLES IN STAMPS 1862 – 2021

Some Western Australian stamps were punctured with holes that were officially sanctioned to serve a recognised postal purpose. This display is arranged in chronological order

SECTION A : Imperial puncture 1862 – 1886

SECTION B : WA PWD 1903

SECTION C : Commonwealth WA on colonial stamps 1903 - 1905

SECTION D : Commonwealth OS on colonial stamps 1905 – 1913

SECTION E : Commonwealth OS on kangaroo stamps 1913 – 1933

SECTION F : Commonwealth OS on KGV stamps 1914- 1933

SECTION G : State WA on current stamps 1933 – 1966

SECTION H : Private perfins 1895 – 2021

As these stamps were not on sale to the general public, mint examples are much scarcer than used. For a long time, collectors tended to regard these stamps as 'damaged' and so the survival rate is lower than for postally used stamps generally. Private perfins were not an official issue (although officially sanctioned) and so were less likely to be collected than the official punctured stamps. Multiples are uncommon. With the recent rise in popularity of these stamps, some official punctures have been forged.

1905 penny rose-red
watermark
Crown A upright



Perforation
shift top row
bottom left corner

Significant items highlighted in red

Reference

Hamilton, M. and Pope, B. (Eds), (1979). *Western Australia: The Stamps and Postal History; A Guide to its Philately*, Perth, Western Australian Study Group

SECTION A

IMPERIAL PUNCTURE 1862 – 1886

"For the purpose of preventing the improper use of postage Stamps provided for Imperial Service, in future each stamp will be perforated in or near the centre, the hole being about one-sixth of an inch in diameter, and all persons are requested not to receive any Stamps so perforated which may be offered as money."
Peth, 31st July 1861 (sic) J.W. Bovell, Deputy Commissary General *Guide*, p. 203

The correct date was 1862. Some refer to these stamps as 'Commissariat Stamps' as they were issued by the Imperial Commissary but they were used by all Imperial Departments, including Convict, Military, Lunatic, Enrolled Guard, Chaplaincy and Police.

The dates given below for Imperial Puncture stamps are the general date of issue of the stamp – not the date printed or punctured.

1d black swan was obsolete in 1862.

3mm hole

1854



Vasse



Fremantle



Bunbury



Perth



Perth



Albany



Perth

1860



York



Perth



Fremantle



Gejelup

NB Use at towns other than Fremantle and Perth

IMPERIAL PUNCTURE
3mm hole

1861
Perf 14 -16



Perf 14



1863/4



1864/5



1874



1876

IMPERIAL PUNCTURE
4mm Hole

1861



1863



1864/5



IMPERIAL PUNCTURE
4mm Hole

1864/5



Largest recorded block of Imperial puncture stamps

1872/5



1871



1882



?



Puncturing stamps for the Imperial departments ceased on 31 March 1886

IMPERIAL PUNCTURE

3mm

In 1874 a trial sheet of the One Penny was overprinted with a typeset 30 block double print once and triple print three times and subsequently punctured and distributed to Fremantle.

4 stamps recorded by Juhl



4mm

Major C. Finnerty O.I.C. Fremantle to Lieut Col. Harvest, Commandant, Enrolled Pensioner Force Fremantle 21 February 1878, Perth 21 February



Fremantle 31 May 1877
indistinct Perth

Not all official correspondence was franked with Imperial Puncture stamps
Reference: Juhl, M. (1992). *Philately from Western Australia*, Author, pp. 32 - 33

SECTION B

STATE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 1903

On 21 October 1901, Commonwealth Departments were directed to use stamps perforated OS. It was two years before supplies were available in WA. This Department perforated stamps PWD for its own use in 1903.

As stamps were folded so that multiple stamps could be perforated at a time, the perforations on adjoining stamps may be reversed or upside down.

W Crown A



V Crown

V right

V left



COMMONWEALTH WA 1903 - 1905

MINT

Stamps perforated WA were available for use by Commonwealth and State departments.

Crown CA



W Crown A



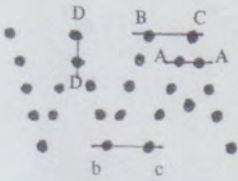
V Crown



W A PERFORATOR

Dr Derek Pocock identified the distinctive features of the ten dies of the single line perforator used in 1903 to puncture stamps for use by WA State departments. Evidence for a single line perforator is found on vertical pairs where the perforation is the same type but may vary in location on the stamp (see vertical pair on previous page).

Die 4



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
AA	—	/	/	\	/	\	—	/	/	—
BC	3.5+	2.5+	2.5+	3.5+	3.0+	3.5+	2.0+	3.0+	3.0	3.0+
bc	3.0+	2.0+	2.5	3.0	2.5+	3.5	1.5	3.0	2.0	2.5
DD		\					\	\		
A--W	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5

All measurements in millimetres

4

3

2

1

5

4



6



7

8



9

10

Pocock's identification neatly explains the differences found in the perforation on these stamps with the exception of the 'long leg A' shown below. No satisfactory explanation is currently available for this variety.



Long Leg A

Original research

W.A. USED

WA Government request to overprint stamps for departmental use was refused in September 1902 as contrary to Post and Telegraph Act 1901. Commonwealth departments were instructed to use perforated stamps in October 1902 but the Government Printer was unable to provide those stamps in time. June 1903 the WA Government was informed there was no objection to perforating stamps WA. Earliest recorded date of use 22 September 1903.



Crown CA



Manuscript markings may indicate revenue use.

Crown CA

Newspaper rate was 1d first 4 oz, 1/2d every 2 oz.

Indistinct postmark, addressed to USA.



The five pence watermarked V Crown was not issued until 1905. So this stamp must be the Crown CA watermark issued in 1892.

Oval R cancel, Perth 4 March 1904, Bridgetown 15 March, boxed Unclaimed, Bridgetown 4 April, Dead Letter Office Perth 5 April, chamfered boxed DLO

W Crown A



ON HIS MAJES



St Leonards St
Cottesloe Beach

Mr J. Robinson
~~Mr J. Robinson~~

Probably an attempt to use surplus stock before introduction of OS punctures.
Perth 17 May 1905, M R Room Perth 19 May, Perth 19 May, Cottesloe 19 May

V Crown
Watermark sideways

crown right



Mulwarrie

watermark upright



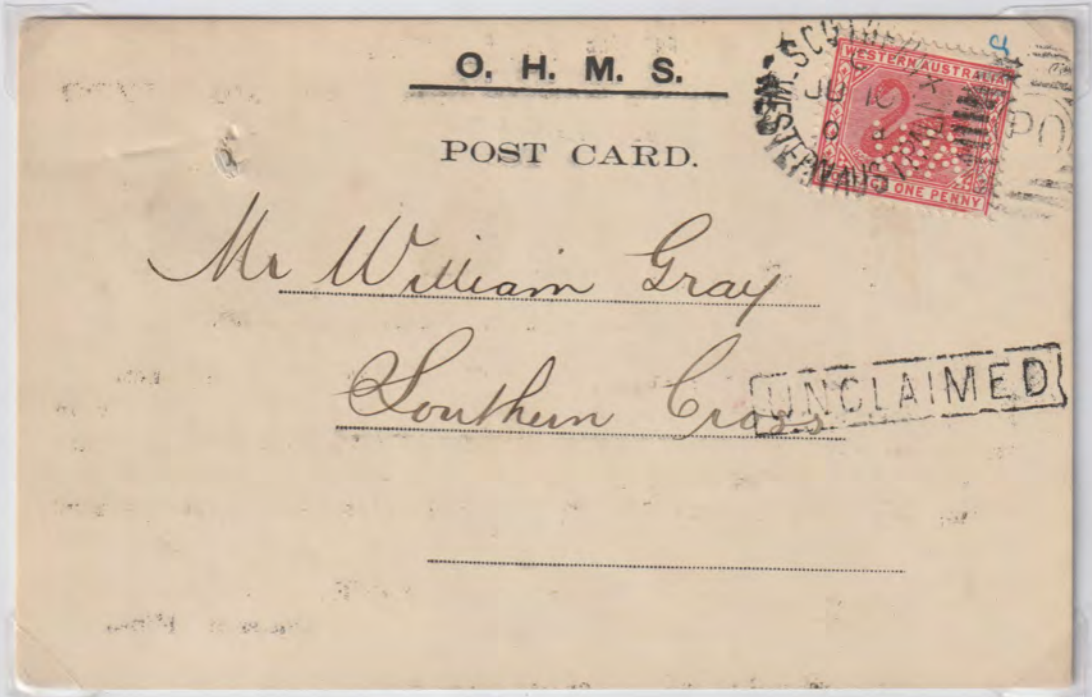
Fremantle Town Hall

crown left



Value missing

watermark upright inverted



V Crown
Watermark sideways

crown right

crown left



Northampton

watermark upright



9
pins
missing



watermark upright inverted



Manuscript markings may indicate revenue use

V Crown
Watermark sideways

crown right

crown left



Watermark upright



Revenue?

Telegraph

Perth 22 July 1904, Killerberrin 23 July

V Crown

On His Majesty's Service.



*M^r. J. Robinson
Kangerinan*

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.



8656

9618

UNCLAIMED

M^r. C. R. Yowten

S. P. O.

Perth

Builder

~~UNKNOWN BY LETTER CARRIER~~

CL.



*Cancel 1319
03*

Oval R cancel, Registered Perth 30 December 1903, Unknown by letter carrier cachet initialled and struck out, boxed Unclaimed, Dead Letter Office Perth 5 February 1904, chamfered boxed DLO