

The Australian Arms Series of 1948-1964

Commencing in 1948, the Arms set of 4 stamps was issued to replace the Robes high-value definitives (in use since 1938). It also re-introduced the £2 value, which had previously been discontinued from general sale in 1939.

The stamps were designed, and the dies engraved, by Frank Manley, and printed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne on paper watermarked "C of A". They were printed using the rotary recess method from plates of 180, and issued in sheets of 60 (5 rows of 12). Perforations were $14\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{2}$.

The stamps remained on issue until replaced by the 5/- Cattle in 1961, and the Navigator series in 1964.

Usage was predominantly for parcels, telegrams and bulk postage receipts, with limited scope for use on individual letters. The 5/- is found on cover, generally paying towards the airmail charge for triple the base $\frac{1}{2}$ oz rate, and other denominations can sometimes be found on large business envelopes.



Issued 11 Apr 49
Replaced 26 Jul 61
Mintage 31,255,920



Issued 3 Oct 49
Replaced 26 Feb 64
Mintage 10,617,890



Designer Frank Manley at work on the die for the £1 value



Issued 28 Nov 49
Replaced 26 Feb 64
Mintage 7,417,160



Issued 16 Jan 50
Replaced 26 Aug 64
Mintage 3,925,410