

Official Stamps of South Australia

Part B – General

In 1874 the Postmaster General recommended that the system of Departmental Overprints which was proving somewhat cumbersome be replaced by a general series of "O.S" overprints. This recommendation was set in place and separate accounting for the Departmentals ceased on 30th June 1874. Existing stocks continued to be used, however and it is believed that much of the residue was passed to the Government Printer to pay postage on copies of the Government Gazette.

South Australia had been a prolific user of overprinted official stamps prior to 1900, and so they asked to continue this practise after Federation. The Postmaster - General advised that this was not possible and the overprinting of stamps "O.S" ceased as from 4th November 1902.

Examples of the three types of "O.S" overprint applied during the period 1874 to 1902 are shown below:

Type O1



Type O2



Type O3



Information in this presentation has been sourced mainly from the Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue – Australia and the Robson Lowe Ltd auction catalogue of 12th September 1978 for The Harry Napier Collection of South Australia Departmentals.