

# TASMANIAN PICTORIALS OVERVIEW

## THE LONDON PRINTING

The first issue of the Tasmanian Pictorial issues appeared from December 1899 and their use continued through the early federation period with the last printings in late 1912.

The first printings were the London recess print done by De La Rue in England. These can be identified by the use of paper with the 'TAS' watermark.



Designs were printed in both horizontal (½d, 2d, 3d, 5d & 6d) and vertical (1d, 2½d, & 4d).

All perforated 14.

## THE MELBOURNE PRINTINGS

In 1901, the decision was made to print all further stamps in Australia and the recess/engraved pictorial plates were shipped from London. Decisions were also made to print all Tasmanian stamps in Melbourne and change the print technique to lithography. In 1902, a decision was made to change to electrotpe printing and over time a number of the values (1/2d, 1d, 2d, 3d, and 6d) were changed from lithograph to electrotpe.

Up to 1905 paper with V over Crown watermark paper was used, later issues were on Crown over A watermark. As with many early Melbourne printings inverted watermarks were produced in equal numbers due to the print and turn system used.



Perforations were done in Melbourne, either 11 or 12½. Double perforations may be found on most values. Triple perforations may be found on several values.

On occasion a row or column of perforations was missed. When discovered the sheet(s) concerned were redone in Melbourne, sometimes using a different gauge resulting in the compound perforations (11 & 12½).

If a missing row or column was found on arrival in Tasmania the local perforator was used resulting in the rare 12 (aka 11.8) perforation.

### The ½d printings.



London recess

Lithograph

Electrotpe

The initial print was the London recess print, first issued in March 1900.

Identified by the TAS watermark and perforated 14. Very little work has been done to identify flaws on this printing, a number of stamps have coloured lines passing through them.

The second series released in September 1903 was the lithograph printing done in Melbourne. Two plates were used, watermark V over Crown and perforation 11 or 12½. Perforation 12 is known and compound perforations. A scarce printing with vertical watermark is known.

The third series, released December 1908, was electrotpe on Crown over A paper, perforation 11 or 12½, again two plates used. Perforation 12 is known and compound perforations. A scarce printing with vertical watermark is known.

The easiest way to tell the difference between lithograph and electrotpe is by watermark, lithograph being V over Crown and electrotpe Crown over A.

## The 1d printings.



London recess

Lithograph

Electrotypes

The initial print was the London recess print, first issued in mid December 1899.

Identified by the TAS watermark and perforated 14. Very little work has been done to identify flaws on this printing, a number of stamps have coloured lines passing through them.

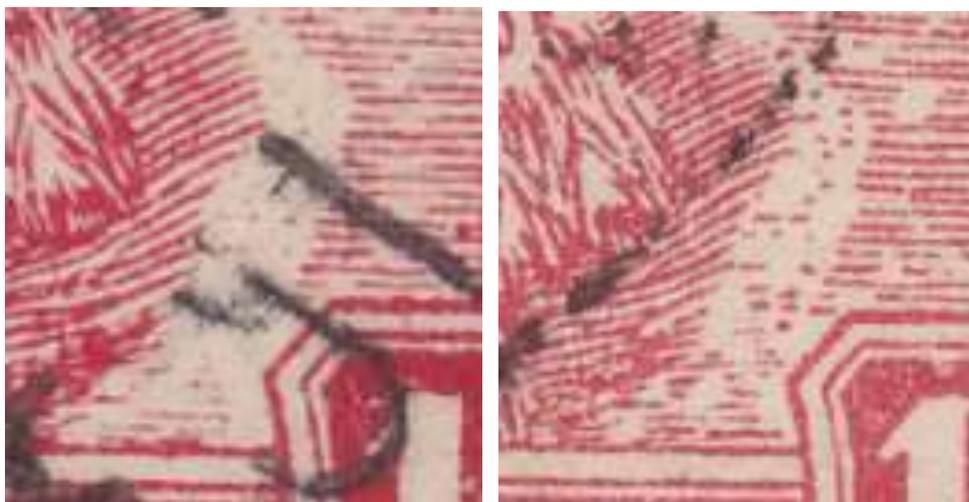
The second printing in 1902 was the lithograph printing done in Melbourne. Perforation 12½ on V over Crown watermark.

The third printings from late 1902 were electrotypes and 6 plates were used. Initial printings were on V over Crown watermark paper, this changed to Crown over A in 1905. Early prints (1902) on V over Crown watermark had the watermark horizontal as did some Crown over A printings in 1907 and 1908.

An emergency printing on thin paper was done in 1912.

Perforation 11 or 12½. Perforation 12 is known and compound perforations.

The easiest way to tell the difference between lithograph and electrotpe is by looking at the path:



The lithograph path (left) is relatively clear whilst the electrotpe path (right) has multiple colour spots.

**The 2d printings.**



London recess

Lithograph

Electrotpe



Stereotype

Stereotype Overprint

The initial print was the London recess print, first issued in late December 1899.

Identified by the TAS watermark and perforated 14. Very little work has been done to identify flaws on this printing, a number of stamps have coloured lines passing through them.

The second printing in 1902 was the lithograph printing done in Melbourne. From 1902 to 1907 a total of 28 plates were used. Plates 1 to 22 were printed on V over Crown watermark and plates 23 to 28 on Crown over A. Perforation 11 or 12½.

Perforation 12 is known and compound perforations. A small number from plates 5 and 6 (rare) and plates 11 and 12 were done with the watermark vertical/inverted.

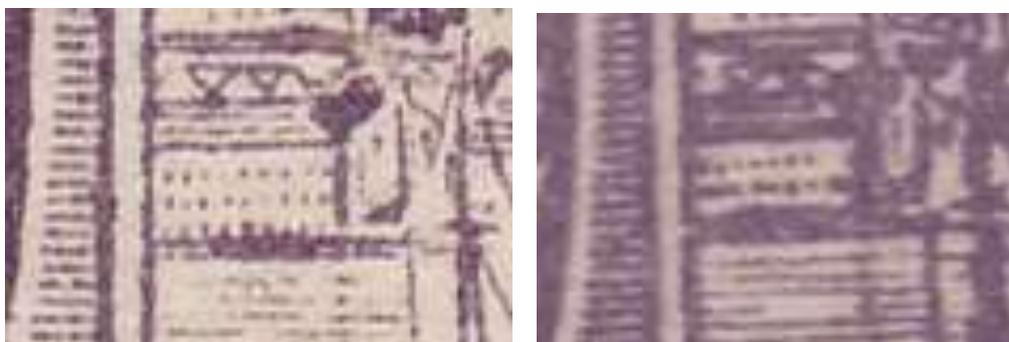
The third printing in 1907 was electrotpe on Crown over A paper, perforation 11 or 12½. Perforation 12 is known and compound perforations. Printings with vertical/inverted watermark were done in 1908/1909.

A fourth printing in 1910 was again electrotpe, also referred to as stereotyped. Again Crown over A and perforation 11 or 12½. Perforation 12 is known and compound perforations.

The main difference to the third printing is the width of the stamps, these are wider at 33 to 33.75mm wide compared to the third printing at 32mm.

Many of the fourth printing were over printed 'ONE PENNY' in red.

The easiest way to tell the difference between Lithograph and Electrotpe is by looking at the left building windows:



The lithograph (left) has three rows of windows and the electrotpe (right) only two.

### The 2½d printings.

For this value there was only the London print.

Little work has been done on the print and only two minor flaws identified.

Reversed watermarks (printed on wrong side of the paper) may be found.



### The 3d printings.



London recess



Lithograph



Electrotype

The initial print was the London recess print, first issued around May/June 1900.

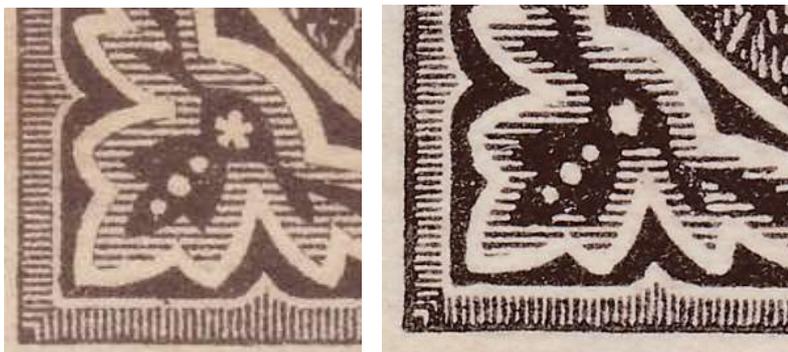
Identified by the TAS watermark and perforated 14. Very little work has been done to identify flaws on this printing.

The second printing released in May 1906 was the lithograph printing done in Melbourne. Two plates were used, watermark Crown over A and perforation 11 or 12½.

The third series, released March 1909, was electrotype on Crown over A paper, perforation 11 or 12½, again two plates used.

An emergency printing of the electrotype was done on thin paper in December 1912.

The easiest way to tell the difference between lithograph and electrotype is by the stars in the corner ornaments. The spokes of the star in the lithograph (left) are more prominent than those on the electrotype (right).



### **The 4d printings.**

There are two printing types used for the 4d, the first being the London print. First issued June 1900. Identified by 'TAS' watermark and perf 14.

The second issue were the lithograph plates, a total of 6 plates were used. The plates can be differentiated by colour, date and watermark position.

SG describes the colours as:

Plates 1 & 2 pale yellow brown issued March 1907.

Plates 3 & 4 orange buff issued May 1909.

Plate 5 brown ochre issued June 1911.

Plate 6 orange yellow issued March 1912.

All are watermark Crown over A both vertical and inverted except plate 5 which only has the watermark sideways, both left to right and right to left. It is only found perforated 11.

Perforations on the other plates are 11 or 12½.

Flaws on plates 1 to 4 are few and more work is required. Plates 5 & 6 have multiple flaws.

The colours shown are in plate order from Plate 1 to plate 6, as colours on computer are not reliable, I have only included them to give an indication of the difference.



**Plates 1 & 2**

**Plates 3 & 4**

**Plate 5**

**Plate 6**

### **The 5d printings.**

For this value there was only the one London print.



## The 6d printings.



London recess

Lithograph

Electrotpe

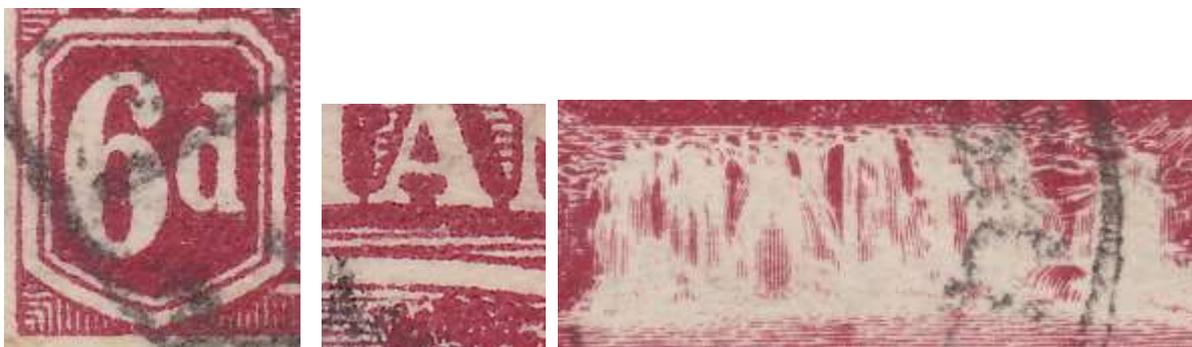
There are three separate printings for the 6d, the first being the London print of 31 March 1900.

The second print released in July 1908 was the lithograph printing done in Melbourne. Two plates were used, watermark Crown over A and perforation 11 or 12½.

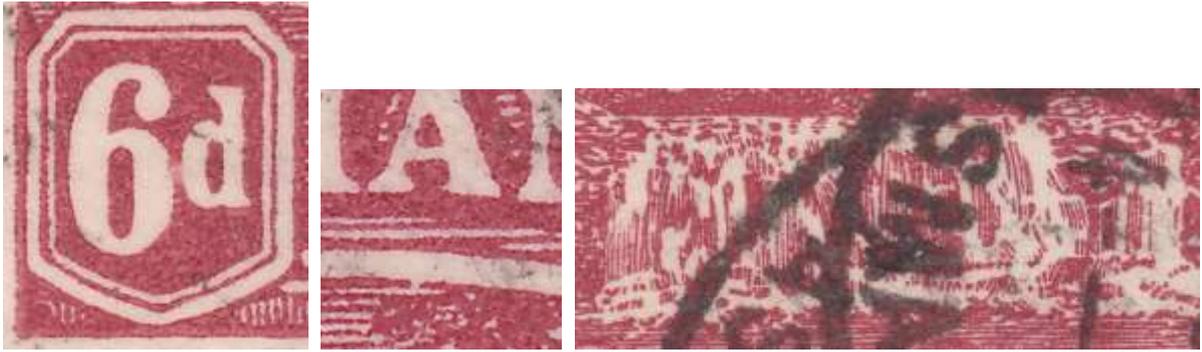
The third print, issued at the end of 1910, was electrotpe on Crown over A paper, perforation 11 or 12½, again two plates used.

Key differences between the lithograph and electrotpe issues are:

1. The frame of the left and right value tablets, there is a thicker colour line between the value tablets and the outer frame line on the electrotpe.
2. There is a small break in the inner vignette frame below the second 'A' of 'TASMANIA' on the electrotpe.
3. The colour dots at the base of the waterfall are not so pronounced on the Lithograph.



Lithograph



Electrotype

Please send any queries or suggestions to [r1single@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:r1single@yahoo.co.nz).