

Collecting Numbers and Special Prefixes is increasing in popularity at a rate of knots.

The enormous variety and choices available to Collectors either to form a complete collection of Special Numbers and Prefixes or just enhance their collection or portfolio, will put the enjoyment back into collecting. I read an article in a medical magazine where "people who collect" (I have to admit not just banknotes) "live ten years longer"! Quite a statement but it makes sense: Taking time out to do something pleasant has to be good for you.

The choices in collecting may be varied, but not difficult to decide. Every form of Special Prefix and Special Number has its own appeal, and many are very affordable. In fact, its one of the few areas that you can choose the road you want to take and then mould it to suit your budget. No more bread and dripping... "let us eat cake"! Another plus is most notes are either uncirculated or very close to it, so your collection always looks attractive.

First let's look at Prefixes.

Collecting prefixes is extremely popular. The most sought after areas would have to be the First and Last prefixes, in the Paper Decimal Notes. For example the First prefix of the Coombs-Wilson \$1 AAA, \$2 FAA etc. It is widely known that some of these have attained record prices. The Last Prefixes of the \$1 DPS, \$2 LQG etc., remain more affordable and are continually sought after.

Now let's take a look at the other areas that have been both underrated and overlooked. The first being the QE11 Predecimal notes. In this series there were more than enough notes printed to warrant a First and Last prefix in each denomination. Let's start with the Coombs-Wilson 10/- note. AC/00 is the First prefix on the 1954 "Commonwealth Bank" issue, which is printed directly under the "Coombs" signature. In the circulation notes, the Last prefix is AH/65 on the 1961 10/- with "Reserve Bank" also printed under the "Coombs" signature.

The £1 note in the QE11 Coombs-Wilson series has the First prefix HA/00 which is also found on the Commonwealth Bank issue. In the circulation notes, the Last prefix ends in HK/65, found on the Reserve Bank Issue.

As we go into the higher denominations the prefix range is not as large, but there are still sufficient quantities for Collectors to enjoy the chase for the First and Last.

"Let's Look at Other Areas of Collecting"



By Judy Shaw

The £5 note in the QE11 Coombs Wilson series has the first prefix TA/00 found on the Commonwealth Bank issue. In the circulation notes the last prefix is TD/09 on the Reserve Bank issue.

WA/00 is the first prefix of the £10 note found on the Commonwealth Bank issue. In circulation notes the last prefix is WA/62, found on the Reserve Bank issue.

One could also incorporate the First and Last prefix of the Commonwealth Bank and the First and Last prefix of the Reserve Bank issue if wished, but the major notes will always remain the First and Last in any series. Trying to find these notes will provide a real challenge, especially in the higher grades.

Another area which has merit and has been widely overlooked is the changeover from 'Common-

wealth' to 'Australia' on our paper decimal notes. These have already proven to be extremely scarce and are a very desirable addition to a First and Last prefix collection.

The Last prefixes for the paper decimal 'Commonwealth' series are the Phillips-Wheeler Commonwealth \$1 BLG; \$2 HBQ; \$5 NKG; \$10 TBB; \$20 XGY.

The First prefixes for the paper decimal 'Australia' series are the Phillips-Wheeler Australia

\$1 BLG; \$2 HBQ; \$5 NKG; \$10 TBC; and \$20 XGY. The \$50 note only came on the scene in 1974, with the YAA Phillips-Wheeler Australia being the First prefix. The \$100 note did not make its appearance until 1984 with the First prefix ZAA in the Johnston-Stone signature.

Another form of prefix collecting which is growing in popularity is consecutive prefixes with all notes having the same numbers. And why not, they look great! It is virtually impossible for the average Collector to locate these. To obtain a large run, there has to be access to many hundreds, even thousands of notes. An example in the paper decimal notes would be AAA/AAB/AAC or in the polymer decimal notes AB/AC/AD99 with the same six digit serial numbers. To add a further degree of difficulty, consecutive prefixes may be put together with special numbers, e.g., CL/CM99 666666 or CG/CH/CI 99666699. It is very difficult to find runs with more than a couple of notes.

ANDA recently produced six extremely attractive Folders containing the Federation \$5 with the six notes all with the same numbers and consecutive prefixes. These folders were issued at each ANDA Fair, being Perth in February, Hobart in March, Brisbane in May, Sydney in August, Adelaide in September and Melbourne in October. Each Folder is in full colour, has the relevant States emblem on it and the photo of the relative Pre Federation Banknote on it. These were well presented and reasonably priced at issue for only \$15 per note or \$90 the set of 6. They are now selling up to \$145 the set:

Again proving the popularity of reasonably priced and collectable consecutive prefixes.

Now onto Special numbers.

Most forms of collecting special numbers are self explanatory.

For example Solid numbers are serial numbers with the same six digits, such as GM96 888888.

They look terrific and collections can even be assembled with the solid numbers in consecutive pairs. There are a couple of numbers which sell at a premium, these are the 999999, as they are the first number to be printed, and the 888888 as these are considered to be a lucky number and highly sought after by collectors in Asian countries. Most find new homes overseas; this causes a high demand on the small supply available, which results in price increases.

The Semi Solid numbers are a much cheaper version but still look very attractive in a collection. These carry numbers such as 999666 or 000777 and are perfect

to collect with consecutive prefixes, when they can be sourced.

Radar numbers have had a dramatic increase in popularity with our Collectors who are enjoying the diversity these numbers can have. Radars can be rated into two major categories. The 8 digit (or complete) radar which can only be found in the polymer notes and include the date (the two numbers in the prefix). With the exception of the \$10 Bicentennial note and the Fraser Cole \$5 both of which had random prefixes.

The six digit radar only involves the six digit serial number. The most pleasing radars contain only two numbers, e.g., BM98 899998, these carry slightly more value than say BM98 856653. Radars which include numbers 1, 6, 8, 9 and 0, have generally been more popular. Collections can be formed in consecutive numbers i.e. 773377 and 774477, or 557755 and 667766. They also look good when you can find them with consecutive prefixes.

There are only ten 8 digit radars to every hundred 6 digit radars available. This is the same ratio in scarcity as the solid numbers. One of the best examples of an 8 digit radar to be found is CM 99666699 this is an excellent complete radar. A perfect example of the value which can be placed on quality radars is the \$5 Federation 8 digit radar AA 01000010 which sold in excess of \$1200, in the NPA Tender.

There are of course many other areas which we have not covered in this article, such as Repeater numbers, Low numbers, Descending numbers and Ascending numbers, 10000 numbers and the list goes on.

There are many fascinating areas in collecting which are open to Collectors. So have a good look and you'll see that, with such a variety of exciting ideas, you will never run out of new ways to keep your Collection interesting.

Happy collecting, and good health.