

# Australian Philatelic Expertising®

## Important terms and conditions – revised 17<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

### 1. Introduction

1. 'Australian Philatelic Expertising'® is a division of Simon Dunkerley Pty Ltd.
2. In the first instance, we will send you a copy of these terms and conditions, or alternatively, if you have access to the internet, these terms and conditions are available **on our website** at [www.simondunkerley.com](http://www.simondunkerley.com). We require you to inform us **in writing or by email** of your agreement to all of these terms and conditions *prior* to us accepting any submission(s) from you (the submitter). This agreement **will remain current** for future submissions from you until we receive advice from you that cancels that agreement.
3. **You must advise us of your intentions prior to sending any new submissions** and note that submissions *must* be sent **securely packaged** by **registered** mail. *All* submissions are only accepted on the basis that we provide all reasonable care; however, **you should organise insurance** for the item(s) submitted covering all risks if you require it. You must let us know if you require any assistance in this regard **before** you send each group of item(s) to us.
4. **The submission of any item(s) for expertising confirms that you completely accept all of the terms and conditions as contained in this document, particularly noting our statement as to liability below at item 9.** These terms and conditions **may be revised from time to time**, with the updated version coming into effect when it first appears on our website. Unless you notify us otherwise in *writing* in advance of submitting items, it is agreed that you completely accept and agree to our terms and conditions as they may be revised from time to time.
5. Our website includes a three part series of articles titled '**Aspects of philatelic expertising**', and this provides a broad introduction to and our philosophy on the concept of philatelic expertising. We recommend that you take the time to read it, together with the other articles that will appear on our website from time to time.

### 2. Submission of items

#### (a) Background to the item(s) submitted – these apply to *all* submissions

1. Always **advise us** of your intention to submit items in advance, so that we are aware of when to expect them. This is best done by email either directly to [simon@simondunkerley.com](mailto:simon@simondunkerley.com) or from our website at [www.simondunkerley.com](http://www.simondunkerley.com)
2. No submission form is required; however, please include a letter with a **brief description** of what you believe each item is, including the catalogue number as appropriate, and what you believe the condition of the item to be.
3. Include any known **provenance** of the item.
4. If the item currently carries any certificates or other useful documentation, the **originals** of these must be included with the submission. We will not mark or deface any such items, nor mark the item you are submitting in any way.
5. If the item was purchased at **auction on extension**, you are required to provide (i) the name of the auction house, (ii) the date of the auction, (iii) the lot number, and (iv) any deadline the auction house may have advised for the extension to be finalised by. If the latter is not detailed in their conditions of sale, ask them to advise you what time limit is applicable. In such instances, you can either send the item to us, or arrange for the auction house to send it to us directly. You should also **determine with them who is responsible for insuring the item**, and for paying the expertising fees. In such instances, please send the item promptly, so that all effort can be made to conform to the requirements of the auction house.

#### (b) If submitting from within Australia

Send by **registered mail** to: Simon Dunkerley Pty Ltd, PO Box 461, Blackburn, Vic 3130. Make sure that all items are securely packaged.

#### (c) If submitting from Overseas

1. Send by **registered air mail** to: Simon Dunkerley Pty Ltd, PO Box 461, Blackburn, Vic 3130, Australia. Make sure that all items are securely packaged.
2. It is important to make sure that you abide by any **customs regulations** and if a description is required on the form(s) or package, include a statement that these are '**Items submitted for expertisation and to be returned**'.

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3. Check the **insurance requirements** with your insurer in terms of stating a value and/or description on the package if necessary, and as a general rule, unless absolutely necessary, it is preferable to not state a value on the package as this is uncertain until the item(s) have been expertised.

## 3. Items expertised at this point of time *include* the following

1. **Australian Commonwealth and Territories** regular stamps, postage dues and cinderella's, including essays, proofs, errors, watermark variations, varieties, perforations, monograms, imprints and many of the shades.

2. **Western Australia** as above.

3. Items from the **other Australian Colonies** will be accepted for submission on a case by case basis.

3. **Other items** will be added to this list over time, and will be accepted as agreed to on a case by case basis.

4. **We do *not* generally issue certificates on perf 'OS' stamps**, with the main exceptions being those verified as having been sold in the Australia Post Archival sales (1986/87). There are some other exceptions to this rule, so ask prior to sending if you are in any doubt. In addition, **we do not generally expertise other 'perfin' stamps**.

5. **In most cases where submissions conform to our requirements, a certificate will be issued; however, we reserve the right to *decline* items for expertisation, or to *not* issue a certificate or an opinion on a particular item at our discretion.**

6. **We also reserve the right to forward items to *other suitable parties* at our discretion in order to seek further opinion(s) and will notify you ahead of time in such instances.**

7. We believe that **cooperation between philatelic expertisers** is paramount, so in instances where we believe it to be appropriate, we will refer you to another expertising body or issuer of certificates that we recommend for particular items. This referral is best made ***before you send the items***; however, in instances where such items have been sent to us, our only fee for such items will be for the return or sending on by registered mail and packing of \$10 for submissions that we send within Australia and \$20 for submissions that we send overseas.

## 4. Certificates issued

### (a) Expertising results and/or opinions expressed

The expertising results and/or opinions expressed on our certificates are the result of a careful examination of the item(s) submitted. All opinions expressed either verbally and/or in writing are made in good faith and to the best of our knowledge, and are based on our extensive research and experience, in conjunction with suitable comparisons that are made as appropriate with reference material that we either have on hand or have access to.

### (b) We issue *two* main types of certificates

1. Where the item is determined to be **genuine**, a '**certificate of authenticity**' will normally issued, with the proviso that at our discretion, we may choose not to issue a certificate for an item of insufficient value.

2. Where the item is determined to **not be genuine**, or to have been **altered, repaired or treated** in some way, a '**certificate of opinion**' will normally issued.

### (c) All certificates issued include the following

1. A **description** of the item(s), including any additional information that is deemed appropriate. This may also include a comment on the rarity of the item in certain cases.

2. The **catalogue number(s)** from the relevant volume of the ***Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue*** (ACSC) and/or ***Stanley Gibbons*** (SG) catalogues as appropriate. The date of the catalogue volume used will also be noted so that if the catalogue number(s) are subsequently changed, they can easily be referred back to the original volume quoted from. If we believe there is an error in the catalogue, or an important variation to the catalogue listing that should be noted, this will also be included – any such statement will normally be checked with the appropriate catalogue editor before we issue the certificate.

3. A statement as to the **authenticity or otherwise** of the item.

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4. A statement as to the **condition** of the item, including the status of the gum or otherwise, together with repairs or other faults, if any. It is important to note that this is based on an examination of the item(s) **at the time** of expertising and provides no guarantee that the condition of the item will not subsequently deteriorate or change.

5. A **scan** of the item in colour.

6. A statement that **the certificate is issued in accordance with these terms and conditions**. We refer you particularly to **item 9**. in these terms and conditions.

## (d) Confidentiality

The certificate does *not* state the name of the submitter, and this is kept confidential in all cases unless permission to do otherwise is granted by the submitter.

## (e) Valuations

Any request for an estimate as to the **market value** of an item submitted will be answered separately to the certificate, with an **additional fee** charged if deemed appropriate. We do not include any indication as to such valuations of the item on the certificate, as this is subjective and will most likely change over time. In rare instances where the editor of the catalogue used agrees that there is a **typographical or other error** in the catalogue price we reserve the right to refer to this on the certificate and to what the intended catalogue price for that item in that volume was.

## (f) Disagreements or differences of opinion

Should a difference of opinion occur with respect to a certificate that we have issued, the **onus is on the submitter** to prove that the opinion expressed on our certificate is incorrect, and to present us with any supporting evidence that might be available. In such instances, we will reconsider the item, which may also be submitted for expertisation to a suitably recognised *body* or *individual* expertiser as appropriate, at our choice. These include *BPA Expertising Limited* (UK), the *Royal Philatelic Society of London* (UK), the *Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria* (Aust), *Chris Ceremuga* or *Michael Drury*. In such instances, the submitter to us will be charged the **actual cost** of submitting any item(s).

## 5. Treatment of items submitted, certificates or other documentation

1. Any **used or unused** (without gum) stamps that are submitted to us for expertisation **must be clean of any hinging or other remnants** in order for us to be able to sufficiently examine them in reference to their authenticity and condition.

2 **We will never soak, immerse in any fluid or otherwise treat any item submitted to us without first obtaining permission from the submitter in writing.** If we believe that an item needs to be soaked, immersed in water or in watermark fluid in order to undertake an accurate examination and assessment of its genuineness and/or condition, we will advise you in the first instance and seek your permission in writing to do this. In such instances if you agree to this, all reasonable care will be taken; however, it will be done at the sole risk of the submitter. If we request to take such action and you exercise your right not to agree to this, no certificate will be issued, and the item will be returned in accordance with condition 7.5. below.

3 **We will never mark, deface or alter any existing certificates or other documents** included in the submission in any way, even if we believe them to be incorrect, unless we first obtain the permission of the submitter in writing.

4 If any certificate issued by us is altered or endorsed in any way other than in pencil that can be easily erased, it will be invalidated from the time that the alteration is made.

## 6. Estimated turn around time

**Generally 2 to 4 weeks from the time we receive the submission.** All effort will be made to adhere to this time frame, however, exceptions *might* occur in instances where we are away, have other commitments, or where an item requires further research or opinion(s) before a decision is made as to whether a certificate is issued or not.

## 7. Fees for issuing certificates

1. **Our fees are all in Australian dollars (\$AU).** These include the *Goods and Services Tax* (GST), with the only exceptions being the charges noted at condition 3.7 and below for the return of item(s) submitted from **overseas** which are exempt from GST on the cost of posting.

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2. Where a 'certificate of authenticity' is issued, **for single stamps, or ordinary multiples up to blocks of four:** (a) our minimum fee is \$60 per certificate covering items up to a catalogue value of \$3,000 or equivalent; (b) for items catalogued at above \$3,000 or equivalent, the fee is 2% of catalogue value, up to a *maximum* of \$275 per item; and (c) in instances where the condition of the item is **less than fine**, the fee for items catalogued above \$3,000 *may* be reduced at our discretion.

3. **For other items**, including sets, larger multiples of stamps, multiples of stamps worth a premium, or items not catalogued, the fee is set on a case by case basis, and will generally be between 2% and 3% of our estimated market value, with a minimum of \$60 and a maximum of \$350 per certificate.

4. **In addition to our fees above, the cost of returning the item(s)** on which certificates have been issued is \$5 within Australia and \$15 for submissions from overseas. This covers the return by registered mail and is added to the final invoice – making this **a fee per sending and not per item**.

5. **Where the item is determined to not be genuine** or to have been altered, repaired or treated in some way, and a 'certificate of opinion' is issued, **or where no certificate is issued**, there is generally a fee of \$40 per item, plus a one-off cost of packing and returning the complete submission by registered mail, which is \$5 per submission from within Australia and \$15 for submissions from overseas.

6. **For items where we refer you to another expertiser** and no certificate is issued by us (refer to condition 3.7), the fee charged for returning the item(s) to you or sending on by registered mail is \$10 within Australia and \$20 overseas.

7. **If a certificate is lost or damaged** and you require a replacement, the item will usually need to be resubmitted for a new certificate to be issued, with the appropriate fee being charged. This is *firstly* because copies of certificates or new certificates will not be pre-dated, and *secondly* because the condition of the item may have *changed* during the interim, so it will need to be reassessed in order for a new certificate to be issued.

## 8. Payment

1. **Credit card:** With regard to all of our expertising services, our preference is for payment to be made by Mastercard or Visacard. There is no additional charge to you for payment by this method. If you intend to pay by this method, **please include your credit card details at the time of submitting the item(s)**.

2. **Cheque:** Payment by cheque should only be made **once we have invoiced you for the total amount due**, and must be made out to Simon Dunkerley Pty Ltd. Payment by cheque is only accepted in **\$AU drawn on an Australian bank**. If you do not have an Australian account, then a **Bank draft** in \$AU drawn on an **Australian bank** is required.

3. **Money order:** Payment by an **Australia Post** money order (in \$AU) should only be made **once we have invoiced you for the total amount due**, and must be made out to Simon Dunkerley Pty Ltd.

4. **Except by prior arrangement, payment will not be accepted by any other methods.**

## 9. Liability

All submissions, including stamps and/or related items, are submitted and accepted in accordance with these terms and conditions, and at the owner's risk. Neither 'Australian Philatelic Expertising' ®, Simon Dunkerley Pty Ltd, Simon Dunkerley, nor any associated organisations or persons can accept liability, either collectively or individually, for the loss or damage of any item(s). Where an opinion is expressed on a certificate (or otherwise if we decline to express an opinion), liability in regard to the expertising and/or opinions expressed (or otherwise) is limited to the extent of the fees charged, if any, for that expertising.

## 10. Contact details

Simon Dunkerley Pty Ltd, PO Box 461, Blackburn, Vic 3130, Australia  
Phone 03 98781142 or 0419 872951

Email [simon@simondunkerley.com](mailto:simon@simondunkerley.com) Web site [www.simondunkerley.com](http://www.simondunkerley.com)