

Lot Type Grading Description

Est \$A

BRITISH EMPIRE SPECIMEN STAMPS

In recent years, 'SPECIMEN' and CTO stamps have become ever more popular. The relatively low numbers produced means that such material is generally very scarce. And a lack of care on the part of the UPU and/or the postal agencies means that defects - especially perforation problems - should be expected. Much of the material released by various receiving authorities is far from pristine: often the stamps have been soaked off ledger pages & in many cases fugitive inks have faded. The collection offered here, with strength in the Reign of KEVII, is by far the most extensive we have handled: note that further extensive selections are included in the 'Eureka' Australian Colonies catalogue. The quality generally is at least as fine as can be expected. Much of this material, from an unknown source, has full unmounted gum but also exhibits some tropicalisation. There is also some material that is truly superb! Such matters have been taken into account in our gradings. References are to the pioneering work by Marcus Samuel (1976), James Bendon's monumental "UPU Specimen Stamps 1878-1961" (2015) & "The De La Rue Collection" edited by Frank Walton.



Ex Lot 1648

1648 Ω*

GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS: 1911 Overprints on Fiji SG 1-7, the 1/- is very fine but the others are aged & have no gum; 1911 Pandanus Pines set; 1918 1d 'WAR TAX'; Cat £550. (11)

300