

The Emu Cover: Prospect and Retrospect

The Emu is now a venerable "bird", nearly 62 years old, and some will question a "plumage change" so late in life. For that, the editor is to blame, in so far as he instigated the Committee, Mr. D. J. Dickison, Mr. M. C. Downes, and Mr. A. R. McEvey, who toiled, in splendid co-operation with the artist, Mrs. Betty Temple Watts, to design a cover that would, they hoped, maintain, if not enhance, the dignity of *The Emu*. The Committee now rests its case and awaits your verdict.

In retrospect, *The Emu* cover has carried eight different blocks, all, with one exception, apparently made from photographs. The first (vol. 1, pt. 1, to vol. 10, pt. 5) was a square picture, $3\frac{5}{8}$ in. x $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., of an Emu standing at its nest, with eggs. This is believed to have been a composite block of two photographs. This cover was varied twice: vol. 8, pt. 5 (a special part) showed the nest and eggs of the White-faced Robin, *Eopsaltria leucops* (photo. by S. W. Jackson); and vol. 10, pt. 3 (a special part to commemorate the Barrier Reef excursion) portrayed a nest of the White-capped Noddy, *Anous minutus* (photo. by A. J. Campbell).

The second (vol. 11, pt. 1, to vol. 21, pt. 2) was a circular picture of similar content (Emu, with eggs), measuring $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter. This was also varied twice: vol. 12, pt. 2, showed the nest and eggs of the Spotted Bower-bird, *Chlamydera maculata* (photo. by S. W. Jackson); and vol. 21, pt. 1, carried a picture (photographer not known), size $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. x $4\frac{1}{2}$ in., of an Emu with head and neck raised high.

The third (vol. 21, pt. 3, to vol. 62, pt. 4) was a new block, measuring $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. square, without border, and very similar in composition to the previous two long series of covers. This was varied only in vol. 26, pts. 2 and 3, which carried a sketch of an Emu (bird only), probably drawn by Neville Cayley, who at that time was assistant editor of the journal.

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Mr. Dudley Dickison, Hon. Librarian, and sometime Hon. General Secretary, for information on which the above historical sketch is based.—W.B.H.