South Australian Colonial Customs flag

Flying the flag

Further research on State Colonial flags has turned up a distinctive South Australian Colonial Customs flag. In an official South Australian Customs Handbook, dated 1889, a definition of a flag is given:

"The proper Customs House flag or ensign is blue, with the Union Jack in the upper canton, and the letters C.H. and a crown in red above in the fly; and the proper pendant is blue with a crown in red."

It is interesting to compare this flag with the NSW colonial flag of 1832 for which no written description of the flag colours has been found.

CORRECTION
In the last edition of Manifest (winter 2005), an article on Customs flags contained an error. The 1901 flag had a seven-pointed Commonwealth star when it should have had a six-pointed star. It was not until 1908 that the extra point was added in recognition of the status of the Territories. Thanks to the sharp eyed-reader who picked up the error.