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## THE PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

## BULLETIN ONE

Hullo! It's really hard to know how to start off the first ever Bulletin of 'The Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia'. One of the main reasons I find it so difficult is because the 'Club' is still only in its formative stages and it can only begin to take shape after its members have had a chance to contribute to its development. Nothing at this point should be taken as definite - even the name of the club is up for suggestions!

# MY CONCEPTION OF 'THE PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA'

I think that the best thing I can do is to outline my understanding of what the 'Club' is all about, and ask for your comments and ideas.

I became interested in forming a club for a number of reasons, some of which were outlined in the letter I sent to a number of people:

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- It would create a way for perfin collectors to meet with others who share a similar interest. I feel that many stamp collectors tend to look upon perfin collectors as somehow slightly 'abnormal' and it's good to be able to talk to people who can appreciate the significance of these tiny pieces of paper with little holes in them! Would I be being too pretentious to suggest that in some way or other we are helping to preserve a little of the past that may be of interest to the future generations? Hmmm, well it sounds good anyway!
- It would give collectors the opportunity to exchange material and information regarding perfins. Because perfin collectors are so thin on the ground in New Zealand and Australia, you would be very lucky to have had personal contact with more than one or two other collectors (if that) and the club can provide a platform for the sharing of ideas, information, material, enthusiasm etc!
- It would help with the qathering of information towards a book on New Zealand Perfins that Robert Samuel and I are working on. There has been nothing new written about New Zealand perfins since Robert wrote his book 'New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Initials' which was published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand in 1968. In the past 18 years there have been many new discoveries regarding the perfins of New Zealand and it would be helpful to all collectors if these could be shared.

## OTHER THOUGHTS

The club could cater for all perfin collectors. Judging from the letters I have received so far, the countries that more people seem to be collecting are New Zealand, Australia and Great Britain — although USA, Malaysia, Hong Kong and The World are also mentioned in particular by some collectors. As the club is based in the Pacific area, it would be good to see us promoting research on New Zealand and Australian perfins — there seem to be quite a few collectors around the world who are interested in them and we are in the best position to study and write about them.

Club Bulletin: It would be good if the club could circulate a regular Perfin Bulletin. While one Bulletin every 2nd month ie: early February, April, June, August, October and December would be worth aiming at, in the first year it might need to be one Bulletin every 3 months if article contributions from members are a little slow in appearing. The Bulletin could provide the following services:

- Keep members up to date with the latest discoveries in the world of perfin collecting.
- Provide a platform for people to share the things they have found through their collecting.
- Run a regular auction of perfins etc. that could be offered by any collectors who wished to dispose of excess material (either duplicates or perfins that are outside their field of interest). Each Bulletin could contain a new auction plus the results from the previous one (which would save postage on sending out invoices).
- Provide a place for collectors to advertise their particular wants.
- To help keep the members informed of club activities.

I would be quite happy to be the overall Editor of the Club Bulletin in the meantime. I have been in contact with David Andersen in Australia and he has agreed to take on the position of the Australian Section Editor — this will make it cheaper for Australian subscribers to send in articles and, as David knows more about Australian perfins, he is more able to edit the information and articles about them. It is planned that David will send the 'Australian Section' to me and I will put it together (on a computer) with the 'New Zealand Section' to form the whole — then the finished Bulletin will be distributed from here.

If we are to be able to do this competently, we would need a good amount of support from the members to make it a worthwhile use of our time. If we are going to attempt to edit a Bulletin every couple of months it would be really important that all the members put some effort into contributing to it - either by writing articles, sending in photocopies of interesting material, participating in the auctions (both buying and selling) or simply by writing a letter to either of us! Only time will tell if we will have enough support to keep a Bulletin going. We are willing to put in some time now - are you?

<u>Club Running Costs</u>: There are of course costs involved with running the club, printing and circulating the Bulletin, corresponding with members,

writing to new members etc. I have done some rough calculations and this is the result I get (on a per-member basis):

Australian and Overseas members (in NZ Dollars)
- Printing and posting (Airmail) 6 editions of the
Bulletin per year, general correspondence, paper, envelopes,
stamps etc.
TOTAL (per Australian and Overseas member per year)....= NZ\$17:00

There would also need to be a 'once only' joining fee of NZ\$3:00 to cover the initial correspondence and other membership costs.

The membership fee can always be altered at the end of the first year of operation if it is found to be too high or too low (a club financial statement can be circulated in the Bulletin). If however you are really unhappy about the membership fee as it stands at this point, then please let me know.

<u>Club Get Together</u>: Another activity that I would be keen to see happen is a weekend get-together for as many of the members as possible. To keep the costs down it could be held in a fairly central location (maybe one in Australia and one in New Zealand) and would be a good chance for some of the members to meet. There would be opportunities for people to display and talk about some of their work, while also giving ample opportunity for general chatting and the buying and selling of material.

Final Comment: At this point I would be willing to organise the club and get it off the ground. Once it is up and running (after a few months) there will be a lot more potential for other people to be involved (so please make use of the Questionaire to let me know if you'd like to help in the future!). Please remember, if the club is to work it will need a good amount of support from all of the members.

## QUESTIONAIRE

I would be grateful if you could find the time in the next couple of weeks to complete the Questionaire that I have enclosed with the Bulletin - it will allow me to have your answers here all at one time, which means that in the next Bulletin I can include a survey of all the results. So please get them in quickly!

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

I have also enclosed a 'membership form'. As I receive each one back (along with the membership fee, which will be deposited into the 'Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia' account) I will issue membership numbers on a first in first served basis, and the list of members (and their numbers) can be included in a future Bulletin.

# PERFINS OF DAVID JONES LTD., SYDNEY By David Andersen

Some of the most frequently encountered Australian perfins are those used by David Jones Limited, Sydney. They have used various puncturing devices for both postage and fiscal purposes.

During the 1890's a punch 'PAID / D. JONES & Co / (date)' was used on documents to cancel duty stamps. As this is a large punch, frequently part only is found on the low value New South Wales issues used - a couple of examples are illustrated.





in 1906 they started to us

When David Jones became a public company in 1906 they started to use perfins on postage stamps. The 'DJ/LTD' Type A pattern was used from 1906-1949 and is found on New South Wales issues and Commonwealth issues postmarked 'Sydney'. It has also been reported on a Queensland issue with a 'Sydney' postmark and New South Wales stamp duties issues.

A larger pattern 'DJ/LTD' Type B is found probably used for a brief period in the 1920's.

The 'DJ/LTD' Type A pattern was replaced by the Type C pattern around 1950 and was in use till 1976. This machine produced by J Sloper and Co. has 6 dies in a 3x2 head as below:

D J	D J	D J
LTD	LTD	LTD
D J	D J	D J
LTD	LTD	LTD

This machine is still in existence held at David Jones archives Sydney. This pattern is also found on New South Wales stamp duties issues.

For a period in 1957 another puncture was used. The full pattern has not been determined but appears to be a document punch in the form 'DAVID JONES / (date)'. An example is illustrated.



Copies have been seen on cover indicating its usage for at least a short time on stamps intended for postage.

Various reasons have been given by David Jones for the decision to cease puncturing stamps: It was time consuming, stamps were no longer a standard size, the machine was often broken and the company altered its name to 'David Jones (Australia) Pty. Limited' in 1976.







DJ/LTD Type A

DJ/LTD Type B

DJ/LTD Type C

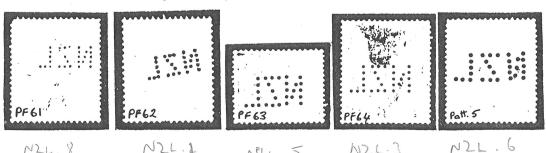
(Thanks are due to Arthur Taylor for information about the Type C machine)

# 'N Z L' PERFINS ON AUSTRALIAN STAMPS by David Dell

The 'NZL' perfins (which can be found on Australian and British stamps) were used by the 'New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency Company Limited'.

Over the past few months I have come up with a couple of new patterns (to add to the list published in the 'Tasman Catalogue of New Zealand Perfins' and Robert Samuel's 'New Zealand Stamps With Perforated Initials'). As I only have one or two stamps of each new pattern it is not possible to give too many details at this point with regard to their places or times of use - but maybe some of the Australian collectors can help with some information from their own collections.

Here are the original 4 patterns with the 2 new ones beside them:



NZL 8

NZL.1

NLL. 5

NZL.3

Convel. 1st Rdiffin

You will notice that pattern 5 has larger holes than the other patterns, the bottom hole on the 'N' crossbar is lower and the 'N' is slightly out of line with the other letters. I have two copies of this pattern - the first is used in 'Brisbane' on a 1914 KGV 1.5d red and the second is on a 1937 halfpenny orange.

Pattern 6 has a wider 'N' than any of the other patterns - it is found on a Queensland 1879-1905 Queen Victoria 1d red stamp (postmarked Queensland).

Anyone who may have information regarding where and when these new patterns were used (or any further patterns that might have appeared), please drop me a line.

## 'A PERSONAL NOTE' or 'A LITTLE ABOUT MYSELF'

My interest in perfins began about 17 years ago when I was given an 'RG/N' perfin (Ross and Glendinning Limited, Napier, New Zealand) on a 1d Universal - I remember that the retired policeman who gave it to me had a whole page of them (although I'm unsure now whether they were in blocks or separate stamps placed close together). I knew nothing at all about perfins at that stage but I hung onto the stamp anyway as it interested me. I came across some more perfins over the next few years, during which time I also got a copy of 'The Tasman Catalogue of New Zealand Perfins'. Since then my interest in perfins has grown into my main hobby and I get a lot of pleasure and relaxation out of my collection.

I specialize in New Zealand and Australian perfins, and although I also have a collection of British and World perfins, most of my time seems to be spent on the N.Z. and Aust. ones. I find them particularly interesting because, in so many ways, there are still many discoveries to be made in the perfins of both countries and you never know what you might find!

Other than collecting 'holy' stamps, I have just completed my training as a Presbyterian Minister (at Knox Theological Hall in Dunedin). At the end of this year my wife (Brenda) and I will move into our first parish in Napier (though all correspondence should still be sent to me c/o 9 Hildreth Street, Upper Hutt, NEW ZEALAND). There seem to be a lot of ministers involved in stamp collecting — I'm not sure why, but it seems a pleasant way to separate oneself from the hassles of the world for a few hours. I'm sure that many of you, like me, have found that in a busy lifestyle it is good to have some form of relaxation like stamps.

# STAMP AUCTION RULES

BIDDING:

- Only club members can bid in the auctions.

- All bidding and payments are to be in New Zealand Dollars.
- The lot will be sold to the highest bidder (at no more than 10% above the 2nd highest bidder or the estimate, whichever is higher). Where the highest bid is below the estimate (and as long as it isn't below the reserve price) then the bid price will be the selling price.
- If two identical bids are received, then the first will take precedence.
- Bids should be <u>clearly written</u> on a single piece of paper with your <u>name and address</u> (including the Auction number!) and sent directly to: David R S Dell, c/o 9 Hildreth Street, Upper Hutt, NEW ZEALAND they MUST be in my hand by the closing date.
- Results of the Auction will be published in the next Bulletin (ie: prices realised), and an invoice covering any successful bids will also be included.
- Payment must be made within 7 days of the invoice date (14 days for overseas bidders) or the lot will go to the second highest bidder this will help us to pay-out to the vendors as quickly as possible. At this point we have NO FACILITIES for Bankcard or Visa etc. We can however accept personal cheques from overseas (see the special note to Australian collectors later in the Bulletin)
- All lots will be posted AIRMAIL unless advised otherwise (upon receipt of payment).
- Incorrectly described lots MUST be returned within 7 days of receipt of goods no claim can be recognised after this time.
- PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK YOUR BIDS WE CAN'T BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR MISTAKES!

#### **VENDORS:**

- Those wishing to place lots in an Auction should send them directly to: David R S Dell, c/o 9 Hildreth Street, Upper Hutt, NEW ZEALAND.
- All lots should be correctly described (including information regarding any defects). Also include your RESERVE PRICE and your idea of a fair estimate. This will save on a lot of extra work for me!
- To cover the Auction costs, a charge of 10% of the sale price will be retained by the club.

PLEASE NOTE: The Auction is being run for the benefit of all the club members. Please help by following these rules as this will cut down on unnecessary work for me and expense for the club.

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# STAMP AUCTION NO 1 closes 31st January 1987

LOT	DESCRIPTION (in NZ\$) E	STIMATE
1	AUST: Private perfin types, all different (35)	\$5
2	AUST: SG127 KGV 2d red, CofA wmk, 'OS' (NSW Type),	
	used, this is SCARCE (1)	\$5
3	AUST: SG77 KGV 1&1/2d red, single wmk, 'OS/NSW',	
	mint hinged (1)	\$2
4	BURMA: SG31 KGVI 2R brown & purple with 'CBI' and	
	SG29 KGVI 8a green with 'N.B.I.' (1 of each used)	\$1
5	CANADA: KGVI 'OH/MS' issues, 1c - 50c Munitions, used (22	) \$3

6	COSTA RICA: SG 0 232 3c black and brown, Official,	
	star perfin, Mint unhinged (1)	\$1
7	GB: SG490 1937 3d pale violet, 'NZ' (Pf53), used (1)	\$1
8	GB: SG477 1939 5/- red, 'NZ' (Pf53), parcel creases on	
	the back, OK from front, used (1)	\$2
9	GB: SG478 1939 10/- dark blue, 'NZ' (Pf53), light parcel	
	stain at top, used (1)	\$4
10	GB: SG575 1952 3d lilac, 'NZ' (pf53), used (1)	\$1
11	MAURITIUS: SG250 12c 1937 Coronation, 'MCB/M', used (1)	<b>5</b> 0c
12	NZ: 1898 Pictorial 1/2d green, 'N' (Pf19 - Chrystall & Co),	
	stamp centered to left, used (1)	\$3
13	NZ: 2nd Sideface 2d mauve, 'S.S.E.' (Pf29 - Sargood, Son	
	& Ewen), stamp rough at bottom, used (1)	\$4
14	NZ: 1901 1d Universal, 'VOCo' (Pf31 - Vacuum Oil Co),	
	stamp centered to top, used (1)	\$3
15	NZ: 1915 GV 1/2d green, 'VO/Co' (Pf34 - Vacuum Oil Co),	
	used (1)	\$2
16	NZ: 1926 Admiral 1d red, 'VO/Co' (Pf34 - Vacuum Oil Co),	
	used (1)	\$2
17	NZ: 1935 Pictorial 1/2d green, 'VO/Co' (Pf34 - Vacuum Oil	
	Co), used (1)	\$2
18	NZ: 1938 GVI 1d green, 'VO/Co' (Pf34 - Vacuum Oil Co),	
	used (1)	\$3
19	NZ: 1926 Admiral 1d red, 'W&T/W' (Pf37 - Whitcombe & Tombs),	
00		1.50
20	NSW: Officials 1907-76, used, all different, some better,	446
	(150)	\$12

### END OF AUCTION

<u>PLEASE</u>: Support the auction with your bids to make it a worthwhile exercise for the vendors and the club - and how about sending your spare perfins for entry in the next auction.

## SPECIAL NOTE FOR ALL AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS

Whenever you need to send money to the club (either your membership fees or a payment for auction material) there is a simple and cheap method that is considerably cheaper than sending a bank draft and far safer than sending cash. I have checked with the Bank of New Zealand and it is OK for you to send your personal Australian cheque to NZ - that way you don't have to pay the cost of a bank draft. As all the club charges are calculated in New Zealand dollars and as you would be sending Australian Dollars, you would need to check with your local bank as to what the exchange rate was currently at (as we in New Zealand have a floating dollar!) and allow for that in your calculations. Hopefully the exchange rate won't change too drastically between the day you write your cheque and the day we clear it.

## NEW ZEALAND PERFIN COLLECTORS

Starting in the next issue of the Bulletin will be the first in a series of articles by Robert Samuel of Christchurch on all the different perfins of New Zealand - including many new patterns that have never been into print before!

### STOP PRESS!

I apologize for the fact that, other than the articles on the 'DJ/LD' and 'NZL' perfins, this Bulletin has been taken up by 'housekeeping' things - hopefully in the next issue (when we have received some written contributions of relevant material from the members!) this imbalance can be rectified.

To make it clear regarding where different things can be sent to: All articles and letters concerning Australian perfins can be sent to - David W Andersen 11/15 Bank Street
Meadowbank
NSW 2114
AUSTRALIA

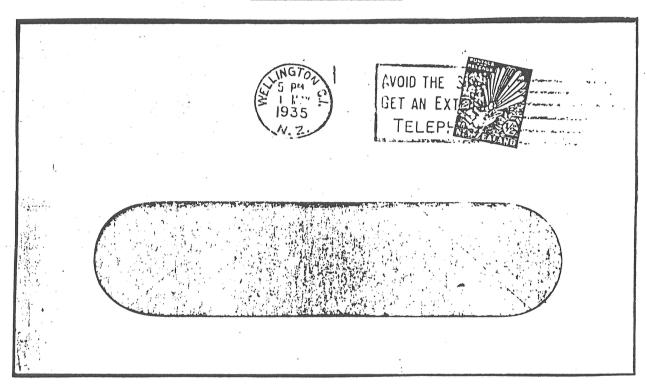
All membership forms, questionaires, Auction bids/material/payments, and any articles and letters concerning New Zealand perfins should be sent to David R S Dell
c/o 9 Hildreth Street
Upper Hutt
NEW ZEALAND

Both of us look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

# **BULLETIN FORMAT**

What do you think of this format for the Bulletin? Do you like the idea of us sending them to you in a loose-leaf form so that you can punch the pages on the left-hand side and insert them in a ring binder of your own choice? It certainly saves on printing time and costs.

# A COVER OF INTEREST



This cover is a FDC of the 1935 Pictorial 1/2d green used in Wellington on the 1st of May 1935. The stamp is perforated with Pf37 (Whitcombe and Tombs Limited, Wellington). As far as I'm aware, this is the only FDC in existence bearing a New Zealand perfin. Thanks to Robert Samuel for sharing this cover with us.