

3 APR 1989

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SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

#7

April 1989 NO 7

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Hope you had a pleasant Christmas and a good start to the year.

In the September 1988 issues of the Bulletin I indicated that the next issue of the Bulletin would be produced by David Dell. That issue of the Bulletin due December 1988/January 1989 has been delayed. You should receive it about the same time as this issue.

Not Present

David Dell has indicated that he wishes to relinquish running the Club to others and will send the Club's records and finances to me to be sorted out. There are a number of matters that require urgent attention and these will be dealt with as soon as the Club records are transferred.

- a) Sending out Auction lots from the September 1987 auction if these have not been sent out.
- b) Producing a statement of the financial situation of the Club.
- c) Appointing a Secretary/Treasurer.
- d) Notifying members re their subscription and when they expire.
- e) Answering correspondence since 1987 for which no answer has been sent.

I am happy to remain the Club Editor at present should members have no objection.

David Andersen

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The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia. Until advised otherwise please address all correspondence to David Andersen
260 Hawkesbury Rd.
Winmalee, NSW 2777
AUSTRALIA

Subscriptions A\$10-00 per year (includes 4 issues of the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin)
-airmail postage to non Australian/
New Zealand members is extra (to
US/Canada add A\$2, to UK/Europe add
A\$3)

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SECRETARY/TREASURER

It is about time that we had a Secretary/Treasurer to spread the work of running the Club a bit. Any Volunteers? Quite a few members have offered to help over the last couple of years, such offers being much appreciated, but I thought it fairer to let

potential volunteers know what they are in for rather than approach those that have offered to help in a more general way.

The Secretary/Treasurer will need to be an Australian or New Zealand member of the Club. He/she will keep the Club's records, membership lists, accept subscriptions, pay Club expenses and reply to correspondence directed to the Club. An annual statement of income and expenditure will need to be produced. If you are willing to do this job for a year or so please let me know soon. Please check with your bank though, before volunteering, about setting up an account in the Club's name as I understand this can sometimes be difficult.

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MONEY and all that ...

The Club's funds are split between those that I have collected since June 1988 and those collected by David Dell previously. Of the latter I have no knowledge, but the funds remaining should be sent to me soon.

The Club has 44 members as at 1/2/89. Of these 21 are Australian, 18 from New Zealand, 4 from the USA/Canada and one from the UK.

Income from 1/6/88 to 1/2/89	\$235-50
(on behalf of 22 members -	
includes \$10-50 for airmail	
postage for Non Aust/NZ members)	
Expenses September 88 Bulletin	\$77-45
Balance as at 1/2/89	<u>\$158-05</u>

We need to produce more copies of the Bulletin than members. Four copies are due to various Libraries under NSW copyright law but of these four one, the University of Sydney Library, has indicated that they do not want their copy. In addition we need sample copies and, a few backcopies for new members.

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WANTED -ARTICLES

The bulletin is intended to be quarterly with each issue of about 12 pages. Thus for each issue 2 or 3 articles of 2 to 4 pages are needed in addition to quite a few smaller items. While I can produce a number of articles greater variety will be obtained if others will also contribute. Some of the areas that have been suggested as subjects for potential articles are the basics of perfin collecting, prices of perfins, the direction the Club could go, exhibiting perfins, background information about users and pattern variations.

Please give it a go and send all articles no matter how small to David Andersen, 260 Hawkesbury Rd, Winmalee, NSW 2777 AUSTRALIA.

PERFIN CIRCUIT MANAGERS REPORT

The Australian Perfins Circuit is well and truly in operation. Many thanks to all members of the circuit who have contributed to the success of the circuit by submitting the material and keeping the circuit flowing smoothly.

As of 10/1/89 the circuit had 12 members, four of whom are also active vendors. There were seven books passing through the circuit in January. To the 10/1/89 the total value of material which had passed or was passing through the circuit totalled \$680.50, with an average book containing material priced at \$85.07.

Circuit books from vendors are always required. Empty books are available from the circuit managers at 25c each or \$2.50 for twelve although you may use your own books if desired. The circuit is available to all Australian financial members of the Club and further details and registration may be obtained from the circuit managers, Jill and John Grant

P.O. Box 111
Weston Creek, ACT 2611.

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CURRENT LITERATURE

Pocock, Derek "More on the DJF perfin" Black Swan December 1988 p.47.

Recounts the discovery of the old DJF perforator in the mid 1970's. Details of the machine and of the 4 dies in the puncturing head are provided. Each issue of the magazine is PUNCTURED with a strike of the machine. Possibly a world first!

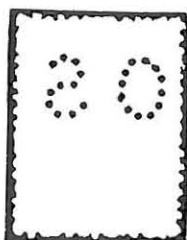
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OS VARIATIONS by D.W. Andersen

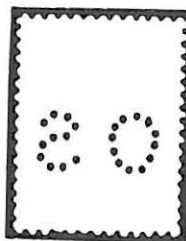
Forgeries of official perfins are reported from a number of countries, the Canadian OH/MS, British (Crown)/B.T and Guatemalan OFICIAL patterns come to mind.

In 'Our Commonwealth Corner' Australian Stamp Monthly September 1943 p.259 is a brief report of a number of forgeries discovered by a dealer in Melbourne. Included in this batch were a number of KGV 2d on 1 1/2d red issues perforated OS, presumed forgeries. Every now and then a stern warning is published to watch out for OS forgeries that apparently abound. Unfortunately I have been unable to obtain details as to the nature and extent of these forgeries.

I was therefore very pleased to be shown a couple of reputed OS forgeries by Arthur Taylor illustrated on the next page. The copy of the right certainly shows an O wider than normal and an unbalanced S. The letters in the other stamp do appear to be a bit malformed.



OS forgery ?



OS forgery ?

When something interesting turns up the natural impulse is to rush off to check ones own collection or accumulations for similar items, usually without success. Sometimes however this checking pays off as the copy below indicates.



on 1/2d green Kangaroo issue

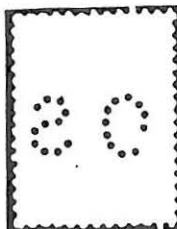
Is this a forgery ? Certainly the O is rather deformed.

Another interesting OS variety is the 'small hole variety' where the last hole in the S is smaller than the rest. This variety has been encountered on KGV sideface 1 1/2d red issues all watermarks, but also seen on a 1/2d orange single wmk issue.

As far as missing pin varieties go the only item that I have noticed was on a 1/- Kangaroo issue small multi wmk.



'small hole variety'



missing pin

What other varieties of these OS perfin exist on Australian Commonwealth issues ? How much do we really know about these issues, the perforating heads and about forgeries ?

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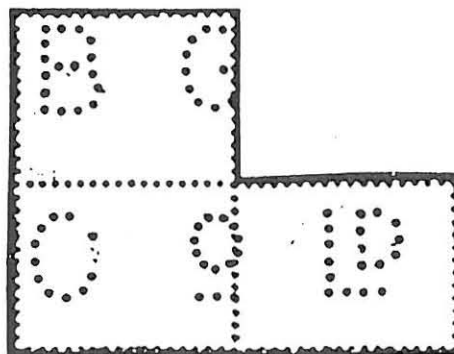
A PERFIN ? ON A FRAMA !

Most of us are familiar with the official status of the 'telegraph punctures' found on Western Australian stamps from last century.

Now a new 'telegraph puncture' has appeared this time from Queensland. The only copy that I have seen is on a FRAMA. Ken Humphreys the originator of this puncture relates that it is done on a BENE rusted punch-traces of rust around the edges. He avoids obliterating numbers or words on the issues. Yes it came through the post without incident.

WHAT IS IT ?

John Mathews has turned up this rather large and incomplete perfin. Can you identify it or complete the pattern ? The stamps are Australian 6d Kangaroo issues, 3rd wmk. A perfin this size could cause all sorts of strange reports.



#####

TS/F and Philatelic usage ?

Cliff de Goede mentioned that a cover with a Queensland issue perfin TS/F postmarked Melbourne came up for auction recently. It was marked "Only 20 copies of this perfin have been mailed". Possibly this cover may explain the appearance of this perfin on the issues of New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia all postmarked Melbourne. Somebody was making interesting covers but who, why and when ?

#####

WANTED QEII Castles with perfins...

Send offers with prices please The Lord Spens
Gould, Frittenden
Kent, ENGLAND

WANTED Perfins any country, any face value of Thomas Cook & Sons

Send what you have with requirements. B Pritt
27 Windermere Ave.
Ruislip Middx HA4 9RG
ENGLAND

WANTED Worldwide, Railway connected perfins, loose, on cover, receipt card or whatever. Please send details. Wm T Brown

230 Lake avenue East
Carleton Place,
Ont K7C 1J6 CANADA

WANTED details of Portuguese Colonial Perfins for Timor, Macau and Portugues India for publication R Everett

2 Coldnailhurst Ave.
Braintree, Essex CM7 7SJ
ENGLAND

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HOT PERFIN COLLECTION

Noticed the following description in a recent South Australian Stamp Co. advertisement in the January 89 Australian Stamp Monthly.

KGV, glamour collection of perforated OS/NSW, OS, T, G/NSW, VG, OS & private perfins. Also includes Roos, KGVI, QEII Govt perms all annotated in stockbook. Retail \$1700++ Instant HOT collection \$750.

PRIVATE PERFINS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The private perfins of Western Australia have been described and investigated by a number of Western Australian collectors including Derek Pocock, Ivor Stockwell and B Pope. They have done an excellent job. An incomplete listing of a few of their articles is provided at the end of this listing. To bring some of this information together and to examine a couple of extra facets of this area such as the perfins on revenues, worksheets were sent to a number of interested collectors and the following information compiled. Of course it is not the last word as far as the private perfins of Western Australia go so please report any additional patterns or information to the Editor.

Postal Issues

Pattern	Identification	Postmarks
B&A	Brown & Allen	1895-1899
B&N		Victoria
CD/&Co	Courthope Drummond & Co.	1895-1898
DJF	D&J Fowler	Fremantle 22/4/1911-1912
D&J/F	D&J Fowler	Fremantle 1899-1911
F&G	Foy & Gibson	Perth 1909-1912
GDCo	Goode Durrant & Co.	Perth 2/9/1903-1912
GDCo/P	Goode Durrant & Co.	Perth 23/11/1900-1904
G.W.F.	George Willis	Fremantle 8/1904-1912
GW/S/&Co	George Wood, Son & Co.	Fremantle 7/1908-
HSCo	Howard Smith & Co.	Fremantle 1/8/1907-1912
H.S/Co.	Howard Smith & Co.	
HS/&Co.	Harris Scarfe & Co.	Perth 1908-1912
MK	Millars Karri & Jarrah Co.	Perth 8/1907-1912
PWA	P.W. Armstrong	
RI/Co/LD	Royal Insurance Co.	Fremantle 1912
TS/F		Victoria
VOCO	Vacuum Oil Co.	Fremantle 30/11/1906-13/4/1911
WS/&Co.	Willian Sandover & Co.	Perth, Geraldton & Fremantle 8/10/1908-1912

Revenue Issues

Pattern	Identification	Issues
F&G	Foy & Gibson	Revenue Duty 1950's series
GDCo/P	Goode Durrant & Co.	Duty stamp 1899 series
PWA	P.W. Armstong	Duty stamp 1909 series
RI/Co/LD	Royal Insurance Co.	Duty stamp 1904 series
VOCO	Vacuum Oil Co.	Revenue Duty 1950's series
VOCO.	Vacuum Oil Co.	Duty stamp 1909 series
V.O/Co	Vacuum Oil Co.	Duty stamp 1909 series
WS/&Co	William Sandover & Co.	Railway Parcel Stamp 1907-51 series

Western Australian private perfin

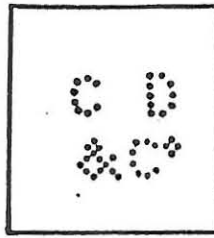
POSTAL



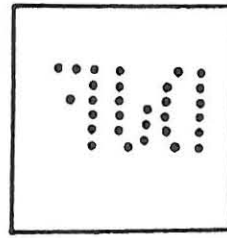
B & A



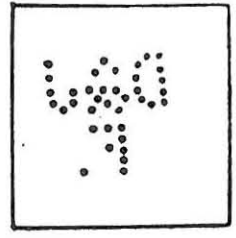
B & N



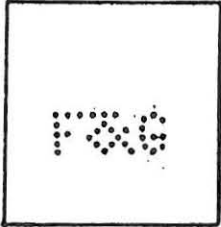
CD/ & Co



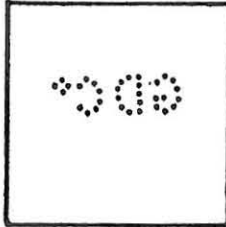
DJF



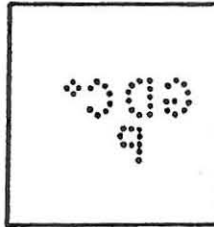
D & J/ F.



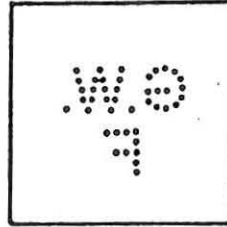
F & G



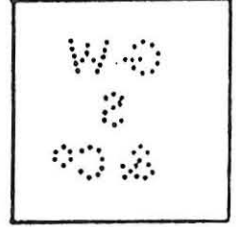
GDCo



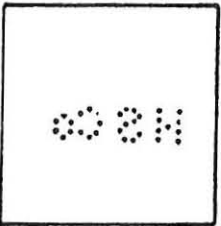
GDCo/P



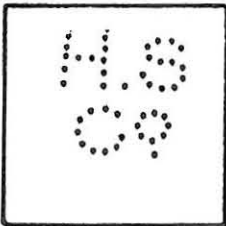
GW/ F



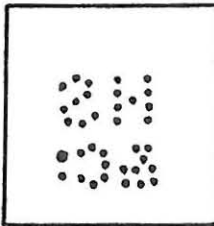
GW/ S/ & Co



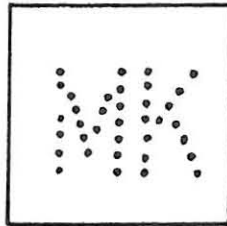
HSCo



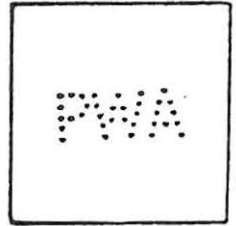
HS/ Co.



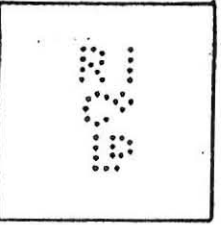
HS/ & Co.



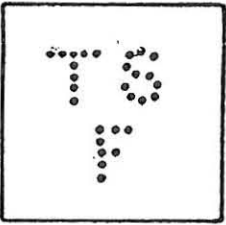
MK



PWA



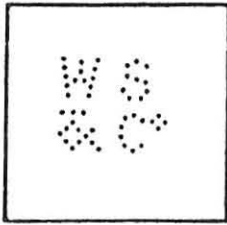
RI/ Co/ LD



TS/ F

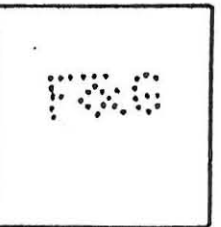


VOCo.



WS/ & Co

REVENUES



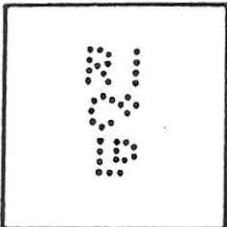
F & G



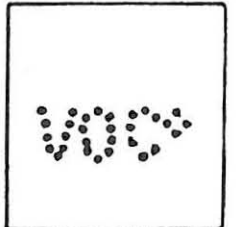
GDCo/ P



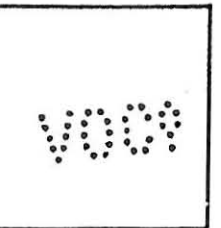
PWA



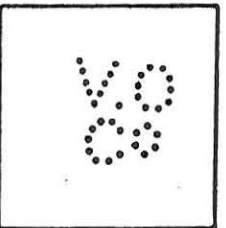
RI/ Co/ LD



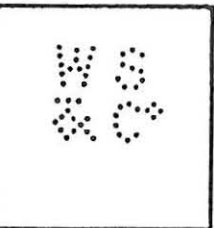
VOCo



VOCo.



V. O/ Co.



WS/ & Co

ASC	Description	B&A	B&N	CD/&Co	DJF	D&J/F.	F&G	GDCO	GDCO/P	G.W./F	GW/S/&Co	HSCO	H.S/Co	HS/&Co	MK	PWA	RI/Co/LD	TS/F	VOCO	WS/&Co
15	3d brown Swan	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19	1d red Swan 1885-1912	X	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-
20	2d grey "	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20a	2d yellow "	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	4d brown "	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	6d violet "	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	1/- green "	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	1d red Swan 1902-1912	-	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X
30	2d yellow "	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	X
31	4d brown "	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
33	9d orange "	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	6d violet Swan 1906-1912	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
41	1/- green "	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
42	1d on 2d yellow 1912	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	X
F6	2/6 purple (postal fiscal)	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

X -issues reported

Articles on Western Australian Private Perfins

- Hamilton M & Pope B ed. Western Australia-the stamps and Postal history Private perfins p286-7
- Pocock D.A. 'Further notes on WA perfins Black Swan no.2 1975 p.11
- " 'More on the DJF perfin' Black Swan December 1988 p.47
- " 'More on the GW/F perforator' Black Swan 1988 p.32
- " 'Private perfins 'MK' and 'HS/&Co' Black Swan v.5 no.2 June 1985 p.19
- " 'WA private perfins' Black Swan no.1 1975 p.10
- Pope B 'DJF perfin' Black Swan 1988 p.32
- " 'Private perfin GW/F confirmed' Black Swan v.5 no.11 Sept 1987 p.132
- Stockwell I 'History of the GW/F perforator' Black Swan v.6 no.1 March 1988 p.10

Postal issues with Western Australian private perfins

PERFIN PRICES - PURE SPECULATION ?

by D.W. Andersen

One of the most frequently asked questions about perfins is 'how much are they worth'. Anybody trying to answer this question is likely to be 'shot down in flames'. Because of this difficulty we often hear the truism 'as much as someone is willing to pay for it'. Not a very useful statement when you are trying to work out a price.

All the thoughts that follow are my own, if you disagree it is hardly surprising. I would be interested in hearing your comments and methods of working out a fair price for perfins.

There are a few aspects to consider when putting a value to perfins.

- A) the rarity of the perfin
- B) the rarity of the stamp on which the perfin is found
- C) likely demand
- D) the 'imperfect market' for perfins

That some perfins are rarer than others is quite obvious. Some scarcity ratings are available and are a useful guide where they exist particularly when you are just starting to collect.

All scarcity ratings are relative despite some of the claims made. To suggest that X copies of a particular perfin exist has been shown to be wrong in numerous cases. There are large numbers of collectors who will not report the existence of items when surveys are carried out as well as an even larger number of collectors who do not have links with the groups carrying out such surveys. Many philatelists/stamp collectors have accumulated piles of miscellaneous items such as perfins that they do not sort etc. and sometimes very rare items turn up from such sources..

The perfin literature is full of articles suggesting and implying that the perfin is more important than the stamp on which it is found. I have always assumed that the higher the face value of the stamp on which the perfin is found the more likely it is that the perfin is common. Rarer perfins in general are found on the letter rate issues. In order to test this idea the South Australian and Queensland data from the survey and census were used. The percentage of patterns with each face value for each scarcity rating A to F was calculated. As an example a figure of 50% indicates that half of the patterns with that scarcity rating were reported on a particular face value stamp.

The figures in the tables on the next page were worked out fairly quickly so that there may be a couple of errors in the result. However they show the trends expected and so are of some interest.

Queensland

(all figures are % of patterns)

face value	Scarcity rating (rarer --->)				
	E	D	C	B	A
1/2d	50	40	9	20	8
1d	100	100	100	100	93
2d	100	100	85	70	30
2 1/2d	50	20	9	-	-
3d	50	20	60	10	-
4d	100	40	9	30	-
5d	50	40	9	10	-
6d	50	60	34	20	8
9d	-	-	9	-	-
1/-	75	40	9	20	-
2/-	75	20	9	-	-
2/6	50	-	-	-	-
5/-	50	-	-	-	-
10/-	25	-	-	-	-

On the basis of these statistics for Queensland only 1/2d,1d,2d and 6d values are found with the rarest perfins. Perfins on 2/6,5/- and 10/- values are likely to be very common perfins and those found on 2 1/2d,9d and 2/- values are unlikely to be scarce or rare perfins. Of course most perfins found on 1/2d,1d,2d and 6d perfins are common.

South Australia

face value	Scarcity rating (rarer --->)				
	E	D	C	B	A
1/2d	50	40	15	-	-
1d	100	100	100	100	75
2d	100	100	100	70	25
2 1/2d	65	40	30	-	-
3d	75	20	60	30	8
4d	85	40	60	45	8
5d	25	40	-	-	-
6d	75	60	85	15	-
8d	35	20	-	15	-
9d	50	40	15	-	-
10d	12	-	-	-	-
1/-	75	100	30	15	-
2/-	-	-	15	15	-
2/6	12	60	30	15	-

South Australia shows a different pattern to Queensland as to which face values are found on the rarer items. Rare perfins are reported only on 1d,2d 3d and 4d values. Perfins found on 5d and 10d values are likely to be very common and those found on 1/2d,2 1/2d,9d and 10d values are unlikely to be rare or scarce.

These sets of figures indicate that rarer perfins are found on the most commonly used postal issues and that perfins on unusual or higher face value items are most likely to be on the common side. Due to the small sample size ie number of patterns in each scarcity bracket, there are a few anomalies but the trend is quite evident.

The demand for a perfin is hard to quantify. In general officials are collected on an issue basis so that the value of the stamp on which the perfin is found is relevant, the perfin in most cases being very common. Private perfins are less often collected on an issue basis so that the stamp on which the perfin is found is not as important.

Some officials in particular have gained an aura of desirability through the perfin literature indicating their scarcity. As an example the Australian KGV 5d on 4 1/2d issue with OS/NSW perfin is reputed to be a rare item, indeed it is quite scarce. However at least 40 copies of this item are known, most mint, some in blocks. Copies of these items have been sold in the price range \$65 to \$125 each in the past couple of years. Would you pay this much or more for any of the following, KGV 1/4 single wmk. perfin OS/NSW, KGV 7d blue with perfin G/NSW, E1 Navigator with perfin G/NSW or New South Wales 2/6 Lyrebird with the Melbourne OS perfin? All of these items are probably much scarcer than the 5d on 4 1/2d issue mentioned above, but have not been reported widely in perfin literature as scarce.

The market for perfins is rather distorted towards demand affecting the price inordinately. As there is as yet no group of dealers or auctions dealing with large numbers of perfins in Australia it is very hard for the normal supply / demand equation to establish a price through competition. Perfins tend to surface as accumulations from few sources and frequently most of a particular rare item surfaced from the same source. There are also large amounts of perfins in collectors duplicates and held in accumulations by many bowerbirds that may surface at some stage and thereby alter the known rarity of some rare or scarce items.

In consequence of this imperfect market the prices charged for perfins vary from the sublime to the ridiculous. Frequently they are underpriced and often overpriced. Most of us have seen very common G/NSW perfins (on common issues) at a price of \$2 to \$4 each and it is still quite possible to pick up rare items for less than \$1.

I once came across a dealer who had a range of thirty or so British perfins on low to middle range QV Jubilee/KE values. All were standard fairly common perfins. This dealer would not even consider selling these unless he was provided with a price list or catalogue to value them in case there was something rare in the group. The same dealer had a block of four of the 6d Kookaburra (1932) with T.B.S. perfin, the stamps with inverted wmk. for \$40. Wonder what price list he used for this item!

Based on my comments above my own approach to determining a fair price is as follows

A) Private types - if the face value of the item is higher than

the then current letter rate I would put a price on it below the normal retail value of the stamp without a perfin as such perfins are likely to be fairly common. The higher the value of the stamp the greater the discount from retail value.

- if on a Common or low value stamp I would put a price on it at or just above the normal retail value of the stamp unperfinned unless the scarcity is known in which case for scarce or rare items the price will be considerably higher.

B) Officials - a price close to the normal retail value of an item is probably fair except in the case of items with known scarcity.

If the price is higher than I think is fair I will not purchase the items. The attitude that you should buy at any price seems to me an open invitation to escalate prices beyond reasonable levels.

The only ways to move towards a fair market price for perfins are to catalogue items scarcity and to encourage a market mechanism to operate by providing opportunities for it to operate e.g. circuit books. I hope the Club can provide some help in this area.

I am sure not everyone agrees with my thoughts so would welcome any comments, alternative methods, suggestions on pricing perfins. These would be invaluable to other collectors.

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STATE REVENUE OVERPRINTS

D.W. Andersen

Australian State revenues with private overprints turn up at times, the overprint presumably to prevent misuse, as an alternative to use of a perfin. Those that I have seen are:

- New South Wales
 - AGL
 - Amalgamated/Retailers/Limited
 - AUSTRALIAN/MUTUAL/PROVIDENT/SOCIETY
 - A.M.P. Society.
 - G.I.O.
 - N.M.L.A.
 - NESCA
 - S.C.C.
 - Received for/W.E. SMITH/Stationer/SYDNEY
 - WALTONS/STORES/LIMITED
- Victoria
 - CCC
 - COLES & /GARRARD PTY LTD
 - M.M.B.W.
 - THE/MYER/EMPORIUM/LIMITED
 - THE/MYER/EMPORIUM LTD
- Western Australia
 - A.M.P./SOCIETY/PERTH

With the exception of the G.I.O. issues all are on 2d or 3d values. Is there any interest in this material from Australia? Any other types known? Any ideas on how to record these as some do not reproduce very well?