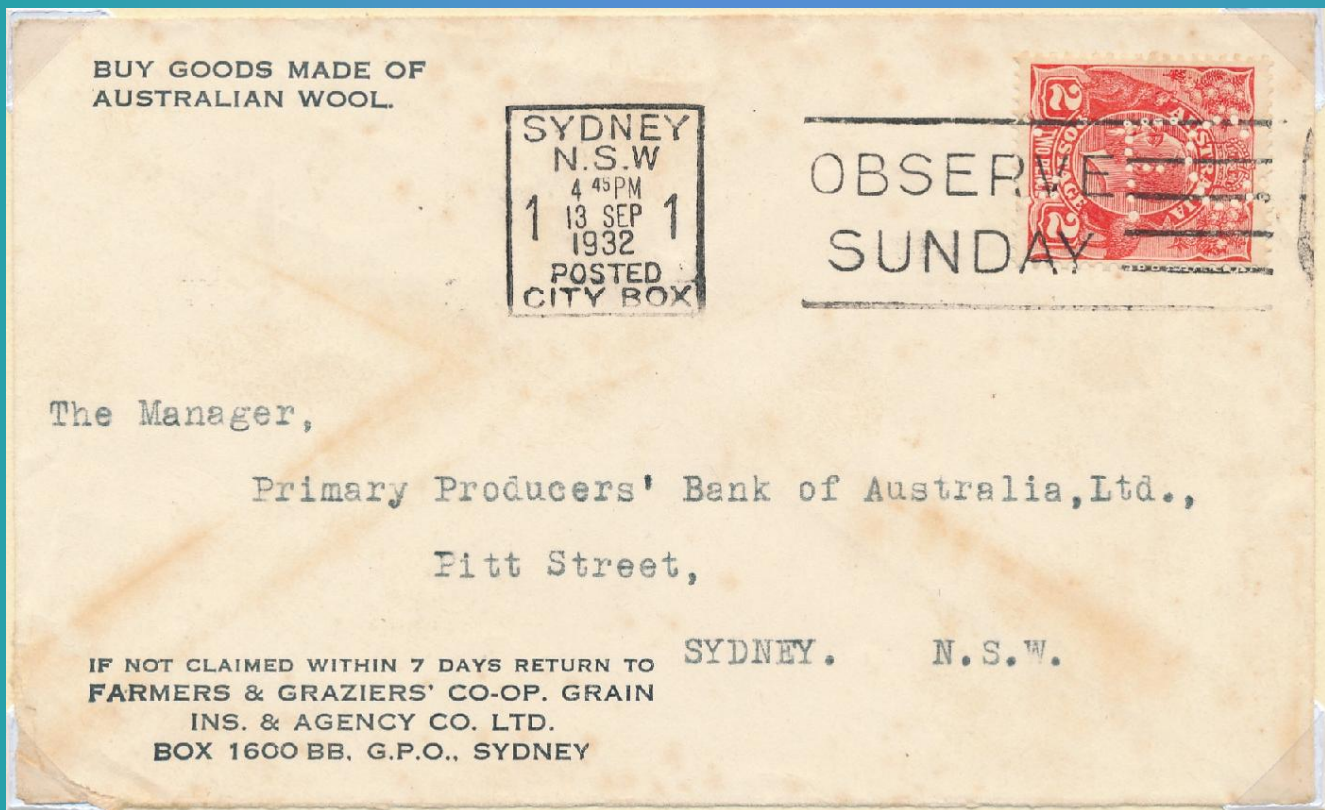


# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN



THE BULLETIN OF THE PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND  
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## FEATURE ARTICLES

- A Closer look at the 3rd Head of the VG by Jason Rowe and Neale Scott
- Auction Enclosed

The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia (PCNZA) four times each year. Club subscriptions (including payment for the Bulletin) are \$15.00 (A and NZ) per annum for New Zealand and Australian residents and \$25.00 (A) per annum for residents of other countries (including airmail postage). Worldwide emailed copy of the Bulletin is \$10 (A). Back issues are available from the Secretary in both hardcopy and on CD.

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## New Members

#315 Michael Nicholls (Sydney)

## Editors Comment

*By David Coath*

Welcome to the SPPB #110.

The Issue includes a further article on the VG's by Jason Rowe and Neale Scott. These will continue until all the 4 Heads have all been detailed, following this I understand that Jason and Neale are looking to update the VG Catalogue and make this available free to Members on Perfins.com.au

I would also like to thank Members who have sent postage to help defray our high mailing costs, these were Bill Register, John Amiet, Les Vincent and David McNamee. If you have any Australian, New Zealand, US or GB mint that you do not need, then please forward it to me and I will see it gets used in the PCNZA's mailings or is sent to our sister Clubs.

## Front Cover

*By Keith Small*

At the April Meeting in Sydney, Keith Small shared this rare cover which features a Proving cover for Farmers & Graziers' Co-Op Grain Insurance and Agency Co. Ltd. Now the proving cover itself is not rare but the slogan postmark is.

The "Observe Sunday" Slogan was used for only one week, commencing on 10th September 1932. It was quickly withdrawn as it was found that the slogan contravened the section of the Australian Constitution regarding religious liberty. For instance Jewish believers celebrate their Holy day, the Sabbath, on Saturday.

This slogan on cover is extremely rare and to have it on a Proving perfin cover is an amazing rarity.

## Club Auction – July 2015

*By David Coath*

In this issue of the SPPB you will find the PCNZA 2015 Auction Catalogue.

Once again it is a bumper Auction with a huge range of material on offer. Reserves have been set low to encourage bidding, so have a go.

Remember all material is offered by Members and the Auction is only open to bids from Members. All payments will be made through the Treasurers (Aust. and NZ) and Members can use Members credits, cheques, cash and PayPal to pay for lots in Australia, New Zealand or from Overseas.

I am certain that all Members still have Perfin items that they do not want. Why not submit them for Auction so that they can find their way into the collections of other Members.

## Subscriptions Due

*By Geoff Dane*

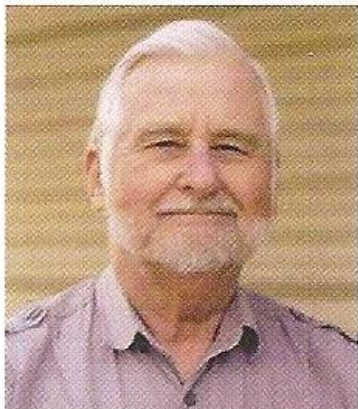
Subscriptions for 2015/16 are now due, see enclosed Subscription Form.

Please note that due to currency movements, particularly in the Australian dollar, the rate for Membership for New Zealand Members is now just \$15 (NZ).

If you are yet to pay your 2014/15 subscription, then there will be an Invoice in this Bulletin for that amount as well. Please pay this promptly as failure to do so will see your Membership terminated.

## Members Achievements

*By David Coath*



PCNZA Member Ken Scudder has received additional recognition for his recent publication, "Queensland Postage Stamps 1879 to 1912".

He has been awarded the Crawford Medal 2015 from the Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL). The Crawford Medal is perhaps the most prestigious Literature Award in Philately.

The Crawford Medal has been awarded for the last 95 years and celebrates the contribution of James Lindsay (26<sup>th</sup> Earl of Crawford) who had assembled a huge Philatelic Library. The award is made to "the most valuable and original contribution to the study of philately published in book form during the two years preceding the award".

Photo and details compliments of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria who published the book.

## Web site Members area

*By Dave Elsmore*

This has been set up on [perfins.com.au](http://perfins.com.au) and is being tested and developed. More details in the October bulletin.

## Meet a "Member" – Joe Purcell

*By David Coath*

In May 2013 I attended a sale at Gary Watson's Prestige Philately (now Mossgreen).

The sale was Auction 180, "Australian Colonies" and it was held on Tuesday 7 May 2013. There were a number of significant perfin lots on offer including the accumulations of Bill Purves and that of Max Watson, but Lot 22 also caught my eye. It was described as:

"Folio of correspondence between English collector Keith Harrison with copy of letters to JRW Purves, Derek Pocock, Mogens Juhl, etc and original letters from them on a variety of subjects including commercial perfins."

Now the correspondence also included another collector who is not in the list of philatelic luminaries, that person is Joe Purcell. Now Joe would not mean much to Australian philatelists, but he could rightfully be called "The father of the study of Australian Private Perfins".

The following is an extract from a letter from Joe Purcell (Canada) to Keith

Harrison (UK) in response to Keith having forwarded over photocopies of his Australian private perfin collection. It is written in 1978 and was all in capitals, which seems to have been Joe's way, and I have removed some of his abbreviations and corrected some spelling. For instance Joe always spelt Xeroxes, referring to photocopies, as Zeroxes. This is an indication of the time that this work was done, with "wet process" photocopies and mailing examples and lists of patterns between collaborators in the study, being the only way to communicate.

*"Dear Keith*

*Your letter with 5 pages of Xeroxes arrived earlier in the week, and I have spent several long days working on it.*

*1st you need to keep that Circulating copy – for now at any rate. I may ask you to loan it to someone else later on. These Copies are over 2 years old now and 210 or more new illustrations have been added – 17 pages in all. 3 or 4 copies of text were prepared at a later date, but none are available for circulation.*

About 6 years ago the Perfin Club of US asked for volunteers to help catalogue foreign (non US) perfins. I volunteered and was assigned Australia to work under their (The US Perfin Club – Ed) Coordinator. I was nearing retirement and always intended to do something philatelic when I retired. I retired 5 years ago and have spent 5 enjoyable years messing with perfins, precancels, and various groups of modern Canadian cancels. About 4 years ago the Executive of the US Perfin Club changed and interest in foreign perfins evaporated at top levels. Most of us continued on with our projects. Some have been published e.g. Great Britain, and some smaller African and Asian countries – Hong Kong, China, Sudan, Egypt, Turkey, etc.. Ireland is due soon and much work done in other areas. Belgium, Italy, Portugal and Australia are some examples.

We hope to have Australia ready for publishing by end of this year (1978 – Ed). Many people are involved, Ed Williams (Professor of English) will coordinate printing, a paraplegic in California (John Needham) types the text. He can at times produce free Xeroxes. Jack Brandt (a Geologist) of Calgary, Alberta, does the photography and Derek Pocock (past PCNZA President – Ed), (a Pathologist) keeps digging up collections in Australia. E D Enschade looks after Europe.

You are the first in Britain to produce anything concrete.

You ask how most patterns in the worksheets are right side up. Well there are 2 Xeroxes of "contact" photos. Contact photos are taken in a special apparatus without a camera. The stamps are placed on the printing paper and color filters used when necessary. I'm no photographer and it's a bit hazy to me, but still is important. Jack Brandt has done the photography for past several years. Dr Tilles (a podiatrist), who produced the British catalogue did some early stuff and some was done by Canadian Armed Forces (unofficially).

One error that was made when I was given my instructions was, no one suggested that period of use be included. But I do keep track of postmarks. Incidentally the user of many patterns has been identified.

For a new boy at the game, you surely have a lot of patterns. All the errors you mention have been corrected. Many were

spotted previously. I have not been in touch with Purves myself. Some of us have been. When this first started cooperation was poor. I think they resented Americans doing it. But since we started using Canadian addresses, things have improved. But it will probably be printed in the US. But there is still some difficulty with Purves. I don't understand it, but believe it has something to do with an article in Australian Philatelic press. (More on this in next Bulletin – Ed)

By now, your eyes must be popping, trying to read this. So it is time to get to the point.

I want to see and have photographs taken of 189 of your stamps. You do not know me from Adam, so I enclose a list of people in England who know me, either personally, or through years of trading. I also include names and addresses of those who have loaned me material. So far I have not lost a stamp, but I have mislaid them for various periods of time.

I do the listing and prepare the text and then send them 2000 miles to Jack Brandt in Calgary for photo work. Sometimes he is away which causes a delay. On return I recheck for errors in text (of which I make many). In transactions of this magnitude, everything moves by Registered mail.

So, if you are agreeable, here is some British postage to help defray Registration.

Enclosed is a page of comments I made when I checked your stuff, a page of references, and the numbers (yours) which I do not want. This makes a shorter list. Most of the requested material is new, some are better copies, some I will not know if I really need them until after photography, and some will be too poor to identify properly, but it will be a big step forward.

Hope you can see your way free to help.

Joe"

So although Joe was not a Member of the PCNZA, his work, and those of his correspondents and indeed others, formed the basis of what became "Commercial Perfins of Australia" John Grant and John Mathews (1992).

The authors of CPA give glowing recognition to Joe and to a lesser extent his correspondents, in the "Forward and Acknowledgements" in CPA, Page 1.



# Reviewing Questionable Listings in HAPP

*By David Coath, Greg Howard and Dave Elsmore*

Given the recent discovery of the Eugene Rimmel pattern and the discussion about other listings in the Handbook of Private Perfins (HAPP) – 2003, we decided to do an analysis of all listings in HAPP, with the view to discovering other possibly erroneous, philatelic or forged patterns in the listing. To use a general term we will call them “misreports”, but we will provide a background explanation to each one.

To our surprise we found quite a few misreports, in fact so many that we will produce a series of articles in this and future Bulletins to cover this topic.

Most of the misreports date from Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) – 1992, and may have been in the initial Study of Australian Perfins by Joe Purcell and other Members of the US Perfins Club and others. However these have all been restated in HAPP and it is this more current listing that we are seeking to correct, as it represents the most recent statement on the ongoing study.

The various pattern misreports come in a few general types as follows:

- Reports of Security overprints as Perfin patterns
- Reports of Customised Queensland Railway stamps as Perfin patterns
- Reports based on partial strikes of larger patterns reported as different patterns
- Separate listings for patterns produced from the same device but with missing pins
- Overseas patterns on Australian stamps with no evidence of true Australian use.

Many of these reports are listed in HAPP, and earlier in CPA, as “reported but not seen” and furthermore they then often feature confirmed users. Now we appreciate that the nature of the collection of information that formed the seminal study of Australian Private Perfins was done at a time when communication tools were less developed, but the mixture of an unsighted pattern and a confirmed user is a recipe for error. This fact will be borne out in this and later articles on this subject.

This article will cover just the letters A – C.

## ***A Patterns:***

A.5 – This report dates from CPA but it was reproduced in HAPP. It is described as “Reported but not seen” but with the additional information “12 pinholes, 9mm high” and usage stated as 1899 as well as the user confirmed as Tattersalls with reported usage on the postage stamps of Tasmania.

This is most likely a report based on a partial strike, see Bill Harley’s article on the A patterns in SPPB # 106. Given the number of pins, the height specified, and use in 1899, it is most likely a partial strike of one of the 6 dies of the device that is listed in HAPP as A.3 and A.4.

We believe that the evidence indicates that this listing should be deleted.

ACB.1 – This is listed without an image, the User details are incomplete and the stamp issues that it is found on, e.g. A for Australia etc., are not reported. However despite this the “pattern” is proved to ACB. This suggests that the report is from a list provided to the study group, rather than an actual stamp that has been sighted. The most likely basis of the report is the Customised Queensland railway stamp with “The ACB Ltd” (see image)

Accordingly we believe that this listing should be deleted.

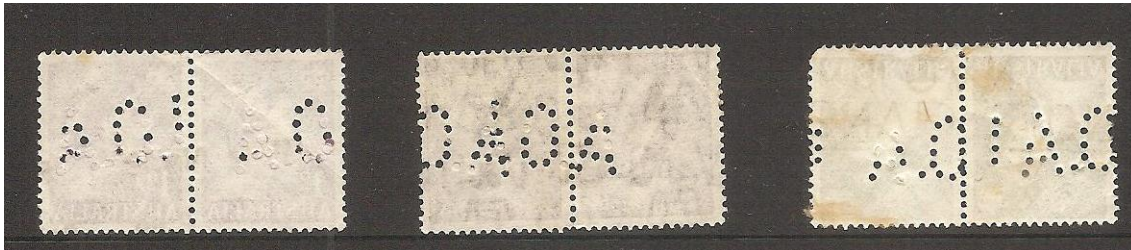


*The ACB LTD.*

A&ETCL.1 – As discussed in SPPB #107 and #108 this pattern is a GB pattern that appears to have been applied to a used Australian stamp. At best the strike is philatelic, but more likely bogus, and as such it does not represent legitimate use.

This pattern should be listed in a section for bogus patterns.

AOC.1 – Again this listing dates from CPA but it was reported in HAPP. This is an interesting report, again with the statement “Reported but not seen” and it is listed without an image or a user. Given the reported usage is in 1960, in the twilight of the perfin usage, it is unlikely to be a unique and previously unreported pattern or user. It is more likely to be a misreading of a partial or multiple strike of a pattern such as IOA.2 or indeed VOC inverted).



IOA.2 and VOC.4 were still in use at this time. The IOA.2 device was introduced in 1923 and designed to suit the KGV issues of that period. Later strikes on smaller format KGVI and later issues often produced partial and/or multiple strikes. By the 1960's the device was in poor shape and strikes often had missing pins which may have aided in this misreport (see image above).

We believe that the evidence indicates that this 1960 report is not a unique pattern but rather a misreport of a partial strike and therefore it can be deleted.

A&SLTD.1 – This is another reported pattern that has no image or issues that the “pattern” is found on. This suggests that the pattern has not been sighted but is rather from a list of reports from the Purcell, or other study. It dates from CPA but was reported in HAPP. Despite this uncertainty the pattern is boldly confirmed to Samuel Allen and Son and this seems to be based on the fact that Samuel Allen and Son made an application to use A&SLTD in January 1897. But this application was replaced in February 1897 by another application to use ALLEN.2 which dates from around this time and was later replaced by ALLEN.1. This report could have been further confused by the existence of a Customised Queensland railway stamps for Allan and Stark Ltd. (see below)



Accordingly we believe that the listing for A&SLTD.1 can be deleted.

AUSN.1 – Another odd report as it is provisionally confirmed to the “Australasian United Steam Navigation Co” in CPA and then again in HAPP. It is stated to be found on the postage stamps of Australia, which suggests that an example may have been sighted, and yet no “pattern” is shown. The report is most likely a report of the Security overprint for the “Australasian United Steam Navigation Co” that is only found on the stamps of Queensland. (see below). This Security Overprint is listed in the “Other” section of the Private Revenue Perfins of Queensland.



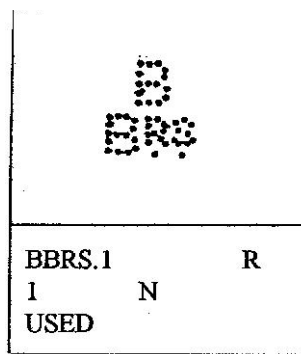
We consider that this is a misreport of a Security overprint as a perfin and the listing AUSN.1 can be deleted.



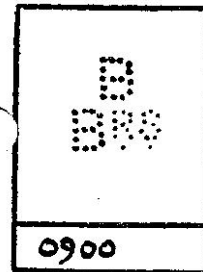
B&CO.1 – Another report that has no image, that suggests that it has not been sighted, but strangely confirms usage on Australian postage stamps. As with AUSN.1 above, it is most likely a misreport based on a security overprint, in this case the BI&QACOLD Security overprint that is only found on the stamps of Queensland. (see at left) The heavy and complex script makes the lettering hard to read.

We consider that this is a misreport of a Security overprint as a perfin and the listing B&CO.1 can be deleted.

BBRS.1 – The listing in HAPP features an image, but it is a known GB pattern and found in the GB Catalogue as B0900.01 with usage from 1873 to 1885 and a user confirmed to Baring Brothers Ltd.



*Image from HAPP*



*Image from GB Catalogue*

Cross over usage between Australia and England is possible and OK.3 and Y&CO.6 are both known used in both these location, but these companies were Australian based companies with London buying offices. This is not the case with Baring Brothers.

Baring Brothers was, at this time, one of the largest banks in the world but overexposure to bad debt in Argentina and Uruguay forced the bank to be bailed out by a consortium of English banks. The bank survived but never regained its status or market share. It was re-established as a Limited Liability Company in 1891 as Baring Brothers & Co Ltd but later became known simply as Barings. Barings collapsed in 1995 following unauthorised trading by one of its dealers in Singapore.

Importantly for our study and the status of this report, Baring Brothers have had no significant involvement in Australia and we can find no reasons to support the use of the BBRS device in Australia. What seems more likely is that the BBRS device was disposed of around the time of the companies restructure in 1891. GB usage is not reported after 1885 and the usage on a NSW stamp is most likely philatelic, as with the Eugene Rimmel pattern found on a small number of Victorian stamps of the same period.

This pattern should be listed in a section for bogus patterns.

B&K.1 – The similarity of the letter sequence to the questionable BKA.1 (see below) is perhaps just a coincidence. The pattern was not listed in CPA but was a new report made in HAPP. The pattern description carries a proviso “Status Doubtful” which suggests that John Mathews was not certain about the veracity of the listing. No “Note” with additional information is provided at the end of the B Section of HAPP.

We have not seen an example of this pattern and there are no patterns of the same structure in either the GB or US catalogues.



The scale and structure of the pattern is somewhat like B&R.4 but this device was used in Melbourne in 1908 and the claimed usage for B&K.1 is in 1925 and in Sydney. If any Member has any thoughts or indeed a strike of this pattern then could they please share it.

With the qualified nature of the listing as “Status Doubtful” and in the absence of any example of the pattern coming from a Member, the pattern should be considered a misreport and deleted.

BAK.1 – BKA was reported in CPA with no image and usage in 1935. It was restated in HAPP.

We can find no Customised Queensland Railway stamps with a user that would be consistent with this letter combination. The BKA could be another misreading of the rather confusing BI&QACOLD Security overprint (see B&CO.1 above) but this seems unlikely given the 1935 use and the report being for postage stamps of Australia.

A BKA is not listed in either the GB or US catalogues so it could not be a “foreign” strike from either of these sources.

Given the lack of an image, the passage of time with none surfacing in the last 20 odd years, and the fact that the pattern was not listed in the Australian Census conducted in the late 1980’s, it seems most likely that this report is from one of the lists used to compile the Joe Purcell study and that it does not represent a known Australian perfin. If any Member has one or would offer any evidence for the existence of such a pattern then we would be pleased to hear from you and include your input in this ongoing process.

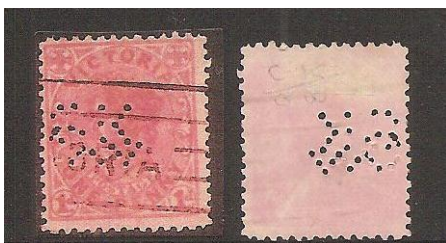
In the absence of a Member providing any information, on the balance of the available information, this listing should be deleted.

BP.8 and BPPL.1 – These listings were discussed at length in SPPB #107 and the bogus nature of the BPPL.1 pattern, reported as BP.8 in CPA and then BP.8 and BPPL.1 in HAPP was noted. This is supported by the excellent article by John Mathews in SPPB # 55.

This pattern was listed in CPA as BP.8 with a confirmed user of Beasley & Pike, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane, QLD, but carried the proviso “Reported but not seen”. This predates SPPB # 55. In HAPP, which postdates SPPB # 55, it lists both BP.8 which it cross references to a new pattern listed as BPPL.1.

From the article by John Mathews in SPPB # 55 this pattern can be considered to be a forgery and both BP.8 and BPPL.1 can be struck off a listing of true Australian Private perfins, but BPPL.1 should be listed in a section for bogus patterns.

CK&W – This is an interesting pattern and as a CK&W it would be a unique letter combination, which is unusual. It was not listed in CPA and appeared as a new report in HAPP. It is most likely based on the stamp shown below.



As you can see from the strikes this is not a clear strike of a CK&W but rather a strike of a CK.2 overlaid with a strike of CW.2. Such double strikes are rare but have been reported in previous SPPB’s, as well as page 28 of CPA (see below) and there will be a short article on them in the next issue of the SPPB.

### Multiple Punctures

There are instances recorded where a single stamp was struck with two separate perfins, known to have been used by separate firms. The example at right illustrates the perfins RRC.1 and GSC.1 on a one penny King George V stamp of approximately 1915.

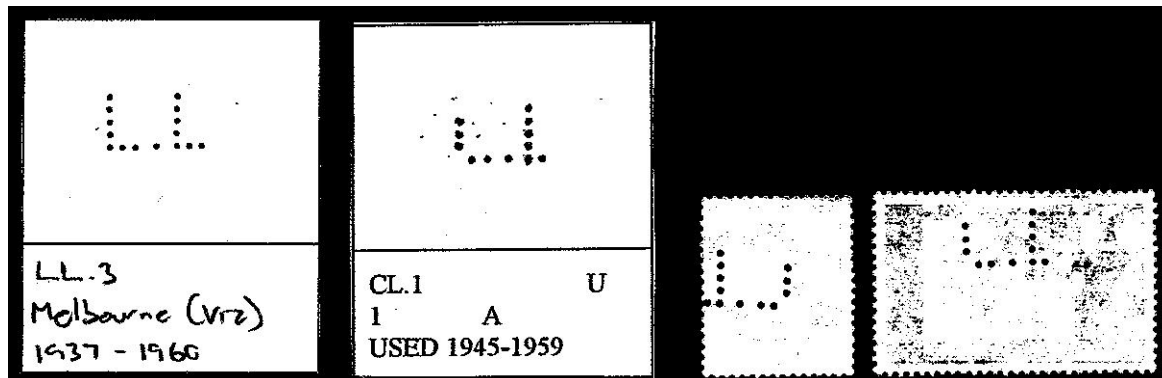
Presumably these multiple punctures occurred where a stamp punctured in a batch for a particular firm, was caught up in a separate batch for a different purchaser. These multiple perfins, while of little beauty, are of considerable interest.



Such oddities should be seen and reported for what they are, Multiple Punctures or Double strikes. They could be included in a separate listing at the back of the catalogue. They cannot and should not be listed in the Alphabetic section as separate patterns, as they do not represent a pattern at all, but rather multiple patterns.

According we consider that CK&W should be deleted from the listing in the C Section.

CL.1 - This pattern was reported in CPA and later reported in HAPP. The pattern carried a note in both CPA and HAPP that "it may in fact read LL".



This is clearly the case and the report CL.1 is false.

The LL.3 device came into service in 1937 and by 1946 it showed many consistent missing pins. The CL.1 is transparently LL.3 and it should have never been listed in either CPA or HAPP. If there had been no mention of LL.3 in the listing of CL.1 then you could have excused the error. But to note the similarity between the patterns and still list, and then relist CL.1 is difficult to understand.

Collectors can safely remove any reference to CL.1.

CP&CO.1 - This report follows the now familiar pattern of the misreporting of Security overprints as perfin patterns. CPA listed both CPCC.1 and CPCO.1 with CPCO.1 provisionally given the user, Charles Parbury & Co (Brisbane). In HAPP, CPCC.1 was dropped but CPCO.1 was retained and the listing retained the provisional user as Charles Parbury (Brisbane). Oddly the HAPP listing included the reference to the "pattern" being reported on the postage stamps of Victoria.

There is a Note in HAPP for CPCO.1 that suggests that the report may be based on an Overprint. This is correct and the misreport of CPCO.1 most likely stems from the security overprint of Charles Padbury, more accurately described as Received by/Charles Parbury Co Ltd/ per. (see below).



The misreport is consistent with other reports of Security overprints as perfins and seems to have been included from a list of "perfins" that included stamps with other security applications. Accordingly reference to CPCO.1 and CPCCO.1 can be deleted.

CTLTD.1 - This pattern was reported in CPA along with CTL.1 and both the reports were restated in HAPP. In the Archival Records sections of CPA, "Chapter 6, Archival Records: Queensland" there is the following reference to these patterns:

23 Sep 1913

Cairns Timber Ltd - CTLTD

*(It would appear that the company chose to use the pattern "CTL", rather than that approved. Corresponds with CTL.1)*

This states that the pattern in the Application was CTLTD but that subsequently the company chose to use a simpler pattern. The date of the Application (12 September 1913) and Approval (23 September 1913) is consistent with the issues that are found with this CTL pattern. The pattern was used between 1914 and 1924 (see below).



Clearly at the time of writing CPA the authors were aware of the true status of CTLTD.1, and it is odd that it was included in CPA, but odder still that it was re reported in HAPP.

The Archival List of Applications and Approvals had first been published in SPPB # 11 of April 1990 in an article submitted by Kel Vicary. The fact that a company makes application for the use of a perfin is evidence to support a user id, and indicates that a perfin is likely to exist, but it is not, in isolation, good enough evidence to list a pattern.

Accordingly we believe that you can delete reference to CTLTD.1.

CWSLD.1 - This is another example of a pattern listed with the comment "Reported but not seen". Again this report dates from CPA and as shown in previous examples many of these unsighted reports were based on information that had been derived from Security overprints and the like.

CWSLD is a unique letter combination and such things tend to be rare, but the report is on postage stamps of Victoria, and these issues, due the presence of Temporary patterns are subject to the greatest variation of any stamp issues.

However CWSLD.1 is yet to be sighted. If any Member has one or would offer any evidence for the existence of such a pattern then we would be pleased to hear from you and include your input in this ongoing process. But on the balance of probabilities this pattern is at best doubtful.



# Some further thoughts on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Head of the VG Perfin –

*By Jason Rowe and Neale Scott*

Welcome to another instalment of the puncturing methods and positions of the VG perforating heads. In this article we will be looking at the 3<sup>rd</sup> head device, but firstly we would like to recap and clarify some of the points made in the last issue of SPPB (# 109) regarding the folding and perforating methods of the 2<sup>nd</sup> head, mainly relating to the smaller vertical and horizontal issues.

As mentioned in the previous article the complexity and diversity encountered by the operators when folding and puncturing these smaller type sheets created a collecting field of multiple positions and die types.

The Vertical type KG.V1. and Zoological issue are only found in position E,F,G,H and the horizontal issues in Positions A,B,C,D (see position reference Figure 4 SPPB # 109)

The majority of the KG.V1 Issues were folded and feed into the left hand side of the perforating head creating dies 1 to 6.

	<u>Iss Date</u>	Pos	Die1	Die2	Die3	Die4	Die5	Die6
1d Green Queen Die 1 (Light)	10.5.37	E	X	X	X	X	X	
"	"	F	X	X	X	X	X	
"	"	G	X	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	H	X	X	X	X	X	X
1d Green Queen die 11 (Dark)	1.8.38	E	X	X	X	X	X	
"	"	F	X	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	G	X	X	X	X	X	
"	"	H	X	X	X	X	X	

The above Table shows 2 examples, while Dies 1 to 5 are relatively common die 6 is extremely rare and not sited in several positions.

	<u>Iss Date</u>	Pos	Die1	Die2	Die3	Die4	Die5	Die6	Die7	Die8	Die 9	Die10	Die11	Die12
5d Purple Sheep <u>Perf 15</u>	17.12.45	A	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X
"	"	B								X	X	X	X	X
"	"	C	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	D			X				X	X	X	X	X	X
9d Grey Platypus <u>Perf 15</u>	12.9.43	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	B	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
"	"	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	D	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

The 5d purple Sheep is interesting as the operator has fed the sheets into the right hand side of the perforator Dies 1 to 5 exist but once again are extremely rare. The 9d Platypus all 12 dies were used.

	<u>Iss Date</u>	Pos	Die1	Die2	Die3	Die4	Die5	Die6	Die7	Die8	Die 9	Die10	Die11	Die12
3d Brown KG.V1	10.12.41	E	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
"	"	F	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
"	"	G	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
"	"	H	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
21/2d Red KG.V1	12.4.50	E		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
"	"	F		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
"	"	G		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
"	"	H		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X

On the above 3d brown issue the operator folded and feed the sheets either left or right hand side of the perforating head no Die 7 has been sighted.



In the original makeup of the puncturing head there were 2 guide rails located left of die 1 and right of die 12 and the folded sheets would be placed against these rails and manually fed into the head. This allowed stability and an even horizontal puncture.

In contrast to this are the die types found on the 1950 2 1/2d red KG.V1.(Above) While Dies 2 to 6 and 8 to 12 exist dies 1 and 7 are not found on this issue.

	Iss Date	Pos	Die8	Die9	Die10	Die11	Die12
3d red KG.V1	28.2.51	E	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	F	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	G	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	H	X	X	X	X	X
3d red Barton	1.5.51	E	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	F	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	G	X	X	X	X	X
"	"	H	X	X	X	X	X

*Above 3d Red KG.V1 & 3d Barton Dies 8 to 12*

From 1951 to the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> head in 1953 the majority of the issues perforated only appear from dies 7 to 12. It is unclear why, but one factor could be the extensive use and wear of the perforating pins (dies 1 to 6)

After 18 years' service and 125 different issues punctured it was decided to replace the 2<sup>nd</sup> head, in August 1953 the 3<sup>rd</sup> puncturing head was commissioned and unlike its predecessors it was vastly different.

## A Closer look at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Head of the VG Perfin –

*By Jason Rowe and Neale Scott*

As stated above the 3<sup>rd</sup> Head of the VG Perfin was indeed different. As discussed in earlier Bulletins the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Heads were designed to be used on KGV Heads issues of Australia. By careful operator use, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Head device was also used on Kangaroo and other early 1930's issues and later on the smaller format KGV1 issues and various contemporary Commemorative issues.

Given the range of formats of modern postage stamps the 3<sup>rd</sup> Head was designed to suit a variety of stamp issues. It was made up of 10 identical dies with a 7 hole "V" and a 11 hole "G". The pins were placed into the head in a vertical format, in lieu of the previous horizontal layouts, with the dies 16mm apart with the "V" facing Right as follows:

V G V G V G V G V G V G V G V G



The small format Zoological series was the first to be punctured with this head. The sheets comprised of 160 stamps divided into 2 panes of 80 with a vertical gutter margin the sheets were then fed under the head sideways.

*Figure1 Showing the direction the sheet was fed into the head*

When the final row was left to punch the sheet was removed rotated reinserted into the head this created an inverted puncture on the end row of every sheet

Figure 2 3d Blue –Green Queen showing 4 rows punctured in position “G” as they would have been fed into the head and then flipped over and punched gum side up creating a row in Position “H”.



Figure 2 – 3d Blue Green Queen

Once again it was up to the operators discretion as to how the sheets where folded and fed into the perforator.

Multiple strikes are more common than the 2<sup>nd</sup> head and are extremely collectable.



Figure 3 shows various multiple strikes

263 issues where perfined over the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heads lifespan of 19 years with the various methods of folding and perforating creating a variety of perfin positions (see position reference Figure 4 SPPB No 109)

With the introduction of the large type issues 7c, 15c & 20c AISA in 1971 then followed by the 1974–79 paintings series the first “VG” double strikes where produced. Below figure 4 \$1 Painting in positions “A” and “B”.



In the next article we will look at the final 4 head VG perforating device.

Any queries, question or added information please feel free to contact Jason Rowe at [buddahboy10@live.com](mailto:buddahboy10@live.com) .



## NBA on GB Machins

*By Peter Haynes*

Peter Haynes shared this item at the recent PCNZA Meeting in Sydney in April 2015. It is a series of parcel tags from England that carry some stamps with the perfin NBA.

The GB Society inform us that this pattern is provisionally assigned to the National Bank of Australia.

Peter Haynes added that these came from a former employee of the National Bank and that he is very confident that these have been used by the London office of this company.



If anyone has some additional evidence or issues with this GB strike then please share it as it may lead to a confirmation of this user or at least some more issues confirmed with the pattern that we can hand over to the GB Society.

## Members Wants

*By Gordon Monk, Stellen Swenson, Bob Littlehales and Robert Dedecker*

Most of these were noted in recent Bulletins and are summarized as follows:

Gordon Monk is seeking a KGV, 1d Red (Die 3) Perf T. He can be contacted at: [acharman@chariot.net.au](mailto:acharman@chariot.net.au) or 4 Kinnear Cres, Rostrevor, SA, 5073.

Stellen Swenson is looking for examples of the AICO.1 pattern and a small proving cover. Stellen can be contacted by mail at: Odonbarsvagen 32, SE - 293 41 OLOFSTROM, SWEDEN.

Bob Littlehales would like proving covers of Toowoomba based users such as MCP.1, MCP.2, and others, Bobs address is PO Box 7414, Toowoomba, Qld, 4350, or on email at [bob\\_benny@bigpond.com](mailto:bob_benny@bigpond.com)

Robert Dedecker from France wants a cover with a French perfin that has been sent to Australia, Roberts address is 4 Les Gericles, 60520 POTARME, France, or on email at: [dedeckerr@yahoo.fr](mailto:dedeckerr@yahoo.fr)

If you have some particular perfin interest that you need help with, then please contact the Editor and we can arrange a Members Want advertisement for you.

## Officials with Missing Strikes

*By David Coath, Colin Clark-Hutchison, John Graham and Michael Kino*

These items were submitted by Michael Kino and we felt that they were interesting items and worthy of study and sharing.

### The 1928 Kooka with Missing Strike



1928  
*Kookaburra with  
Missing strike*

The 1928 Kooka was printed in 2 formats, a mini sheet and in sheets of 120 (12 rows of 10). Only the sheets would have been punctured OS, as the mini sheets would have been very difficult to strike.

The OS used on the 1928 Kooka was the OS (type H) (refer page 37 of Australian Official Perfins by David Andersen Edition 2 - 2007). That is the Commonwealth OS used on the Kangaroos and KGV issues.

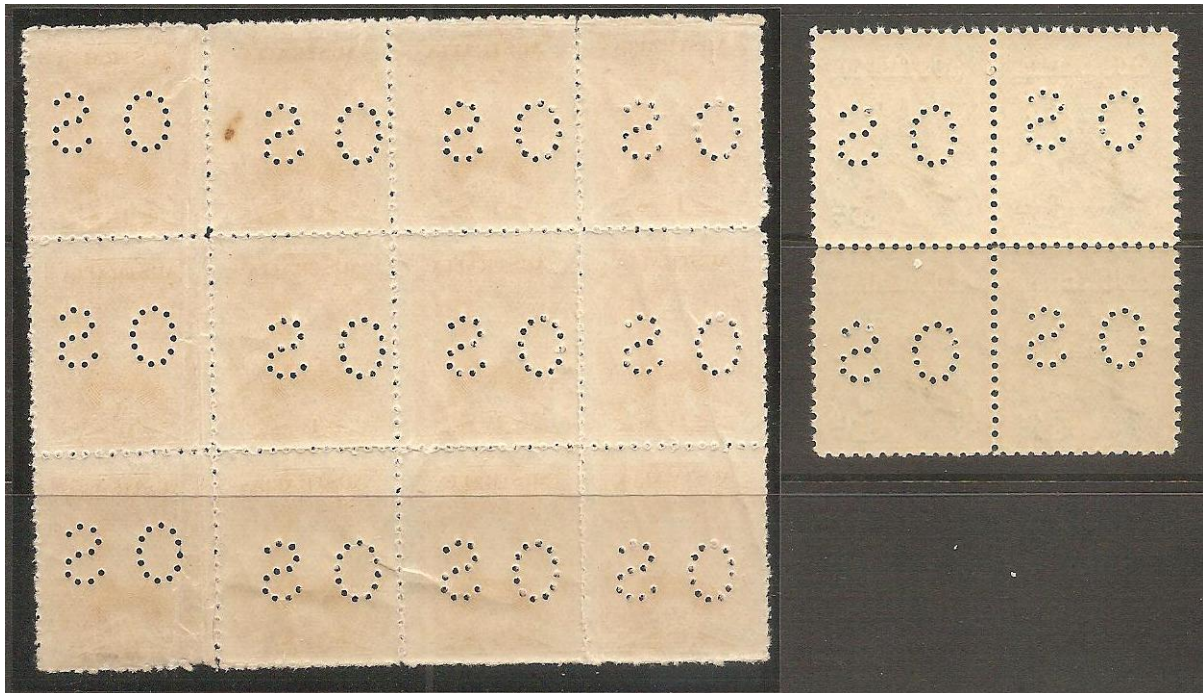
There were actually 2 different devices, one for the Roos and the other for the KGV. This was due to the fact that the stamps had different widths.

The OS Type H devices had the same basic format, which was a horizontal punch head with 12 dies in the form of 6 dies, a gutter space, and then 6 dies, to match the layout of the stamps.

Now the 1928 Kooka was more similar to the KGV in width, so we would suggest that it was most likely struck with that device. You will note that the spacing in the block of 12 (below) matches the KGV spacing, this is actually a block of 2d Sturts but they are of the same size and similar layout as the 1928 Kooka. The block of 4 on the right are 1928 Kooka, note the similar shift between the vertical strikes which is also present on the Sturts.

The Type H device has a gutter space between the 6th and 7th dies, to match the centre selvedge of the KGV, but this selvedge is not present in the 1928 Kooka, or the 1930 Sturt for that matter. So how did they strike the 1928 Kooka with the KGV OS Type H device?





Note that there is a shift in the relationship between the first 3 columns and the last column (viewed from the front) in the Block of 12 of the 2d Sturt. This suggests that the operator only used the 2nd bank of 6 dies (dies 7 – 12) and he punctured the first 6 (out of 10) Kookas and that he then used this same bank of dies to puncture the remaining 4 Kookas with dies 7 – 10.

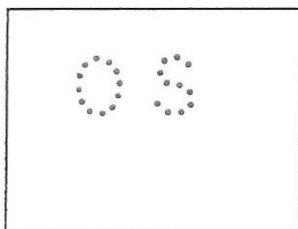
A similar technique was used by the Operators of the 1st and 2nd Head devices of the VG to puncture the smaller format KGVI and Zoological issues and others. These VG devices were constructed in the same format as the OS Type H devices.

Now given that the OS Type H had the same format as the 1st and 2nd Head devices of the VG, it is therefore possible that the error of the missing row shown in the 1928 Kooka and the 1st Head VG device on the cover of the recent SPPB could occur. The missing row is possible.

Now let us look at the strike of the OS on this 1928 Kooka.

- 1 Note that many of the holes are elongated, particularly in the S, this is not a characteristic of true strikes,
- 2 The top and the bottom holes in the O are in line, although this looks “normal”, it is inconsistent with the Type H in which these are offset. See true pattern below.
- 3 The bottom two holes of the S are offset and this matches the shape of the top of the S and makes it look more curved, but again this is not a characteristic of the true pattern which tends to be flat bottomed.

The item has been submitted to the Forgery Detection Sub-Committee for an Opinion and this will be included in the next Bulletin.



OS type H

## 1927 Canberra with Missing strike



There was a similar item featured in SPPB # 101 page 13 in the article by Colin and David as an example of this "Missing Strike" had been listed in Dr Geoff Kellow's book "Australia: The 1927 Canberra Commemorative".

The one in Geoff's book was deemed (in the SPPB #101 Article) to be a forgery and on first impressions this one does not look good either.

The OS used on the Canberra was the OS Type F or Melbourne OS. The device had previously been used on the State issues of Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia and then was later used on the issues of Papua (from 1912). Then they used it for the 1927 Canberra, 1929 Airmail and the 1929 WA Centenary.

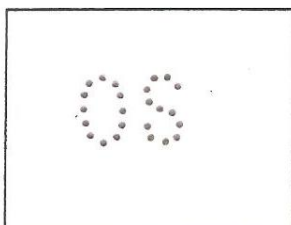
The device was a sound one as it lasted over a long period of time. Unlike the OS Type H device, the OS Type F had a vertical array of 10 dies. This was a contrast to most perforating devices that had dies in a horizontal array.

The advantage of the vertical array is that it can put single, central strikes into stamps of varying widths. The Canberra, 1929 Airmail and WA Centenary, as well as the earlier Papua issues, were wider than the Kangaroo and KGV issues and if you used the existing Commonwealth OS Type H devices on these wider stamps, you would have got multiple strikes or part strikes in these issues.

Now let us look at the strike of the OS on this 1927 Canberra.

- 1 The OS looks odd, the S is low and this is inconsistent with the true die in which all letters were very even.
- 2 The O is oval and fatter at the top and these Type F's were consistent top to bottom
- 3 The sheet layout of the Canberra was 8 rows of 10. Now when you are punching 8 rows with a 10 die device it is very hard to see how the operator could miss a stamp. However if he did then you would expect that it would be either the top or as in this case, the bottom stamp.

The item has been submitted to the forgery Detection Sub-Committee for an Opinion and this will be included in the next Bulletin.



OS type F

# Report of the Forgery Detection Sub Committee

*By John Graham*

The Forgery Detection Sub-Committee (FDSC) of the PCNZA was set up in August 2014, with two immediate aims:

- To try and reduce the number of forged perfin in the marketplace, with a particular emphasis on Ebay, and
- To build a database of details of Australian official perfins, with the intention of being able to certify perfins.

The group is composed of five PCNZA members from around Australia, each specialising in a particular subset of the Australian Official perfin issues, and most with 20 or more years' experience in their specialised area.

We use specialised software, commissioned by PCNZA from an expert in the spatial imaging field, to enable us to examine perfins at a level never before attempted. The results to date are extremely encouraging. We now have a reliable scientific method of determining whether a given perfin is consistent with others of the same issue.

Our analysis has been given a huge boost by Richard Juzwin, who was able to source for us scans of complete sheets of 120 of both the large OS roos and KGV OS.

Operations against Ebay sellers of forged perfins have been very successful. So far in 2015 we have reported lots offered by six different sellers. Four of the sellers have now been deregistered, and a fifth has not offered any perfins since being warned by Ebay. The sixth continues to sell perfins, and is being closely watched. Our work here has been helped enormously by the team at Stampboards.

The PCNZA certification service has been well-received by the philatelic trade. In our first few months of operation (to 30 June 2015), we issued 38 certificates and a further 20 opinions. I also took the opportunity at Sydney Stamp Expo in April to visit all the APTA dealers present, to ensure they were aware of our service.

While the certification service is primarily aimed at dealers, it is also available to PCNZA non-dealer members at a 50% discount (ie \$10 for an opinion, \$25 for a certificate.) At this stage, we can only certify:

- Kangaroos, both large and small OS
- KGV heads OS
- OSNSW punctures on Commonwealth stamps (this database is still very preliminary)

Other punctures will follow as we build up our database.

We in the FDSC team are very pleased with our results to date, and are now working on building the next stage of the database, covering OSNSW and VG punctures.

## Backprints

*By Danny Jurd, David Coath, Dave Elsmore, Murray Lawson, Ross Ewington, John Mullavey and Ken Scudder*

The following possible Security backprints were in the recent Velvet Collectables Sale #34, see lot 746. Velvet Collectables Director, Danny Jurd, had sent a scan of them to PCNZA Member Murray Lawson for comment. Murray forwarded the scan David Coath and he forwarded it on to Members Dave Elsmore and Ross Ewington (Tasmanian Stamp Auctions) for comment.

They were featured in an article in the last SPPB.





Most of the content of the Auction lot were Tattersalls backprints and as a result the article encouraged a number of Members to provide input on the subject, but most of these Tattersalls backprints are well reported. But I share some of the input here because it is worthy of further study. Furthermore it confirms that the method of application of the backprint to the Tattersalls examples was consistently the same with the word Tattersalls reading from left to right, in contrast to the Tewanin etc. examples that read in reverse, right to left.

Murray Lawson contacted the Noosa Museum and asked if these reverse “backprints” were known to them, and they responded that they could not explain them and had no records that could be of assistance.

One of the more ingenious methods of detecting these backprints is reported by John Mullavey who collects Tattersalls, particularly on cover. This presents a difficulty when looking for backprints, but John has overcome this by using a light source and camera so that he can see the backprint as shown in the scan below.



John also reports that the backprints may not have been applied to all mail as he says that he has four covers all addressed to the same person, all postmarked Hobart up to 1937, but only one has a backprint.

Ken Scudder reported this accumulation of backprints from Prestige Philately Auction 129 of July 2007 that featured this amazing multiple. By the way these old Prestige Catalogues are available on line at <http://www.prestigephilately.com/> and they have their original searchable content.



This lot featured over 100 examples of the Tattersalls backprint, many in multiples, (see below) and sold for just \$230. Note the variation in layout consistent with a multiple typed format transferred via a Mimeograph device.



Furthermore these are by no means new reports as there have been many articles about them in previous SPPB's and you can read articles from as early as SPPB # 14 (January 1991) and a follow up in SPPB # 15 (April 1991) with input and reports from Members, Colin Salt, David Andersen, John Fordham and Brian Toop.



These 3½d Royal Visit (above) were posted on the Tasmanian Philatelic Society Bulletin Board by Ross Ewington.

He added the comment that "To the best of my knowledge, Tattersalls didn't continue with security underprints after they relocated to Melbourne in 1954 ... there is a strong possibility that the 3½d Royal Visit stamp pictured above may have been the last stamp to receive the backprint."

All of this is interesting and tells us a lot about these Tattersalls backprints, but it sheds no light onto the real mystery of Danny Jurd's Auction lot, that is, how did the Tewantin and Laguna Bay (possibly Laguna and L.Bay) "backprints" get onto the KGV issues he showed, and why are they reversed when compared to the only confirmed backprints, that is those used by Tattersalls



And indeed that was how this article was to end but then I found this, above, which turned up while I was sorting some perfin's that I picked up at a local stamp show.

As with the mysterious ones in the Velvet Collectables lot, this example is reversed but in lieu of Letters it is a series of Numbers, it looks like a postcode, if so 5045 is for Glenelg (SA).

Importantly it shows that a spurious image can be ghosted onto the back of a stamp from another source, be it the envelope or the content. There is no evidence of the numbers being typed onto the front of the stamp.

I asked VG expert Jason Rowe about this and he has advised that he has not seen anything like this on other VG's but is confident to say that it is not related to the VG puncturing process.

He suggested that Delivery Cards may be the way that this "transfer" occurred.



These cards were used when sending out musical instruments, books or films from various Victorian Government Departments. The card was inserted into a sleeve in the outside of a standard box or container. Sometimes for despatch these carried Red Ink Meters. For returning the item the user simply inverted the card and placed the appropriate postage onto it. Sometimes this was directly over the Meter and this could cause part of the image to “bleed” through.

## Auction Watch

*By David Coath, Dave Elsmore, Ray Roberts, Jason Rowe and John Amiet*



Ray Roberts (Bairnsdale - Vic) reported that he had been shown a mint block of 20 of the 5/- Cattle perf VG (3<sup>rd</sup> Head). The item sold for \$200.

Jason Rowe reports the following high value VG that was offered in Phoenix Auction # 38 of 30 May 2015, Lot 748. It is a Die 1 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Head and it was listed at \$150 and sold for \$115.

While talking about 10/- Kangaroos, this one was sighted on ebay by Dave Elsmore, it sold for about \$105 after some spirited bidding. This is VOCO.5 which is a Perth device, in this instance confirmed by the postmark. In HAPP the pattern VOCO.5 is reported on the Postage stamps of Australia as well as the revenue stamps of Queensland and the postage stamps of Western Australia. These are most likely to be incorrect reports based on strikes of VOCO.7 which is actually four remote devices located in Adelaide, Fremantle, Sydney and Brisbane from around 1904 but later in Sydney (1906) and Brisbane (1907). The distinct feature of the VOCO.5 pattern is the bend in the bottom of the O.



I have seen a PAC.1 on a 10/- Roo, but that is the highest value Roo that I have seen with a Private Perfin. If anyone else has another 10/- Roo or indeed a higher value with a Private then please share it, it would make a great front cover.

John Amiet sent in some amazing listings of New Zealand proving covers from “Classic Stamps” recent Private Treaty List of 15 June 2015. These proving covers of New Zealand perfins are very rare and they were as follows:

- KGVI 1d on 1/2d KGVI with “VOC” perfin on VOC (Vacuum Oil Company) cover \$300
- KGVI 1d KGVI green with “VOC” perfin on VOC (Vacuum Oil Company) cover (1945) \$325
- KGVI 1d KGVI green with “MGM” perfin on MGM (Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer) cover (1945) \$325

To Australian collectors these would seem to be huge prices but given the relative rarity of most NZ patterns, the associated proving covers are very rare indeed.

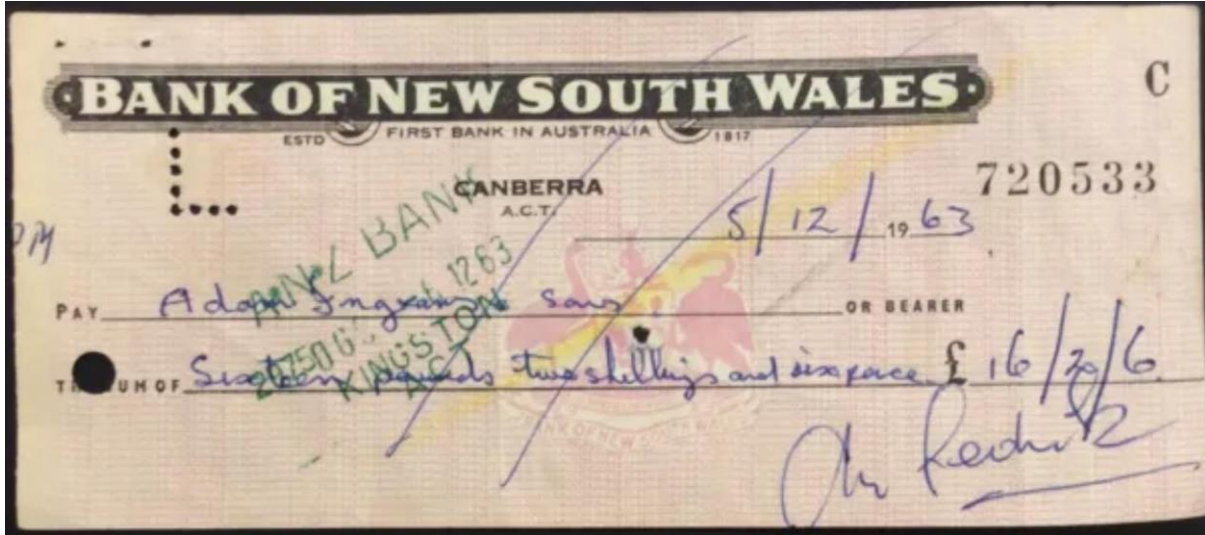
If you see something special in an Auction or Dealer’s stock then share it with other members by sending a scan or description to the Editor.



# New Reports

*By David Coath, Dave Elsmore and Greg Howard*

This is another example of a perfin in a cheque. They are listed in the "Other" Page in the various State Chapters of the Revenue Perfins of Australia. These have now been found on cheques both used and unused in all of the States of Australia except Tasmania. If anyone has any idea why they would be struck with a perfin in this way then please share it.



This is a new report of the pattern EBLTD.1 (EBLTD.a) from NSW. This is quite a common pattern on postage stamps but it is very rarely found on revenue stamps. This is the first report of the pattern on a railway stamp. It sold for about \$150 A.



*EBLTD.1 on NSW Railway*



This is a new report of a security overprint. It is smudged as many of these rubber stamp based ones can be, but it seems to read "John McIlwraith Industries Ltd".

It has been added the Other Page of the Revenue Perfins of Victoria, scroll down to the bottom for an alphabetic listing of Security Overprints.

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