

THE BULLETIN OF THE PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED - A42434
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#### **FEATURE ARTICLES**

- Reviewing HAPP Part
- PL&B Customised patterns

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) per annum. Back issues are available from the Secretary in both hardcopy and on CD.

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## **New Members**

#319 Michael Behm (Ontario, Canada)

## **Editors Comment**

### By David Coath

Welcome to the SPPB #113. This Issue was to have included the final article on the VG's by Jason Rowe and Neale Scott, however this will now be issued with a later Bulletin, as Jason is yet to settle into his new accommodation and get his collection out of storage.

This edition features another instalment of "Reviewing Questionable Listings in HAPP" as well as an article on the Customised patterns of Paterson, Laing & Bruce (PL&B etc) and we Meet a Member - Arthur Taylor.

As always if you have any thoughts or feedback please, do not hesitate to share them.

As stated before, one of the keys to keeping Membership costs down is access to discounted postage, as postage represents the major cost of Membership. So 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 in Australia and New Zealand, or is sent to our "Sister" Clubs, SAS/O (in the US) and the GB Perfin Society.

I would like to thank Members who have sent postage to help defray our high mailing costs; they were John Amiet, Les Vincent, Harold Waite, Bob Szymanski and David McNamee.

## Front Cover

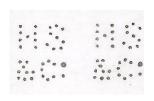
#### By Malcolm Brown and David Coath

The front cover features an amazing new report from Western Australian Member, Malcolm Brown.

It is a superb and fairly clean parcel tag that carries a 9d WA Government Railways stamp with both dies of the WS&CO.1 (WA/&CO.a). It is the first report of this pattern on a Railway or Revenue stamp. See Revenue perfins of Western Australia which is a free online Catalogue which can be accessed via Perfins.com.au

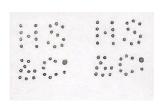
This pattern was the subject of an article in a recent SPPB (#104 of January 2014).

There were two HS/&Co devices, one located in Perth and the other in Adelaide and these were both two-die devices in a horizontal array.





Perth device - Used 1908 until 1922





Adelaide device - Used 1907 until at least 1919

The patterns made from the dies across the two devices are very similar, but with comparisons of clear strikes you will note slight differences that will allow you to at least separate out the two remotely located devices. The main characteristic of the HS/&Co. devices is the large pin that forms the main part of the 'O' of 'Co.'

In about 1920 the Adelaide device was altered with the removal of the '&C.' and it became HS/O (HS.3/4 or HS/O.a) Later in about 1922 the Perth device ceased to be used.

The example shared by Malcolm is a Parcel tag and clearly cancelled 8 Jun 1921 and interestingly, the receiver is another perfin user Millars Timber and Trading Co in Yarloop, WA. (MK.1).

Another piece of information from the Parcel tag is the sender's address, which was previously unreported, and that is Murray St, Perth.

A great find and an amazing survivor.

# Subscriptions Due

#### By John Mathews

Subscriptions for 2016/17 are now due and in this Bulletin you will have received a personalised Subscription Invoice.

Please note the payment options on the back of the invoice as there are options for Australian, New Zealand and Overseas payments.

The Subscription rates are set below the actual cost of producing and mailing the Bulletin, so early payment would be appreciated and if no payment is received then you will no longer receive Bulletins.

## Vale - Max Stern

### By Michael Kino

The PCNZA, Perfin collectors, along with philatelists in general are saddened by the recent death of the unique, Max Stern AM, who was a major force in Australian and world philately and numismatics.

It is not a cliché to say he made his "stamp" on many people, and in many fields, including playing soccer well into his nineties.

A Holocaust survivor by virtue of his stamp dealing ability, he established one of the major new issue services in the world and was trusted by many countries postal authorities as their International agent. His ever expanding retail premises in the Port Phillip Arcade in Melbourne were an essential visit for stamp and coin collectors alike.

Max always had a wonderful sense of humour and was a powerhouse of energy throughout his long life. He received and deserved many local and overseas honours for his contributions. Whether you were an experienced collector or a child, Max always showed a keen interest and had a witty anecdote to share.

Personally I knew Max for nearly 60 years as my father sold stamps to him and some of my earliest memories are going into Max's shop, and visits continued throughout my life and later with my children. Three generations of collecting with Max.

He was greatly admired by all who dealt with him and knew him and will be greatly missed by his family, all who knew him and the soccer and collecting communities.

## Nominations for Committee Positions

#### By David Coath

The new Committee is in place and the handovers of the positions of Treasurer and Circuit Manager are progressing well.

The new encombants are, John Mathews (Treasurer) and Greg Howard (Circuit Manager – Australia). John has included a note about Subscriptions (above) and Greg has written an article in this Bulletin about the Circuit.

There are still vacant positions on Committee and if anyone is interested then please contact me and we can co opt you into the Committee. The positions of Vice President, Auctioneer and Committee person are all vacant.

# Club Auction –July 2016

#### By David Coath

This is the last call for items to be submitted for the Club Auction that will be issued in the July SPPB.

We are looking to build an Auction with about 300 lots so if you have anything to offer to your fellow Members then please send it to: David Coath, 4 Fleming Crt, Research, VIC, 3095.

Remember all material is offered by Members and the Auction is only open to bids from Members. All payments are 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.

# A note from the New Circuit Manager (Australia)

### By Greg Howard

Hoping all on the Circuit have had a chance to get some new books which are now making the rounds. We now have three circuits comprising around ten Members in each.

Following me taking over this role and the Club becoming Incorporated, we now have a new bank account for the Circuit. The Account allows direct deposit payment for those who wish to use that option, alternatively cheque payments are still accepted, please make cheques payable to the PCNZA, or Perfin Club of New Zealand & Australia. NO CHEQUES IN MY NAME PLEASE. Cash is also unsafe in mail.

Purchase slips can be scanned and emailed to me, or Posted. We do not carry a credit system with the Circuit as small amounts can easily be paid via bank transfer (direct deposit).

Coming soon to the circuit will be a new cover for the books. This will include the new Club Incorporation details as well as a statement on the Circuit books that they always remain the "property of" the PCNZA, as well as details of my return address as Circuit Manager.

Any vendors wanting to make new books available can contact me on the details provided at the end of this article and empty books will be sent to you.

On the subject of books, please remember the books you receive are other people's property and in fairness to others please ensure all items are accounted for when making purchases, remit the correct amount and move books on as quickly as possible to the next Member. All books must be sent via "Registered Post" and please retain the Registered Post slip for reference. I am happy for you to include the registered post reference on your payment slip when returning via scan or post.

On another note with Australia Post, I am finding that some books are getting very close to weight and size (thickness) limits, so every now and then two books will be sent to avoid Australia Post being over bearing with cost of postage.

Any members with collecting requests can leave me their interests and where possible I will attempt to send books to suit.

An important point to note - the more members who can supply material for books the less times we will need to send old, tired books around the circuit, thus enabling a fresh viewing and buying experience for all.

A last point, we are all philatelists so when forwarding the books on please consider using postage stamps and preferably ones that are perforated PCNZA.

Circuit Manager Details are: Greg Howard Email: dhow3371@bigpond.net.au

Postal Address: Greg Howard

PO BOX 31

Blackmans Bay TAS 7052

Telephone: 0418 135 351 (anytime)

## New Website of Danish Perfins

### By David Coath

I have been contacted by Jan Krolak from Denmark who has created a free website on Danish perfins that can be accessed via two links as follows: <a href="www.perfins.dk">www.perfins.dk</a> or <a href="www.perfiner.dk">www.perfiner.dk</a>

It is in Danish, but this can be addressed through using Google translator and other similar tools.

It is an excellent site with a great deal of information about perfin users, equipment as well a high quality images.

# Canberra Stamp Show 2016

#### By John Mathews

Six members met for an informal gathering at the Canberra Stamp Show on Saturday 18 March 2016. They were Harold Waite (NZ), Dennis Sonter (NSW), Mark Saxby (NSW), Kevin Keast (Vic), Michael Tonta (Vic) and myself (ACT).

Three of those attending had joined the Club relatively recently, and were able to see examples of our circuit books. Those present told of their particular collecting interests. Items displayed included a large mint block of 'T' perfins showing the progressive shift in the cross-bar of the 'T', and a large mint block of "G/NSW" perfins with more holes than paper remaining. There were also some GB covers and cards with "CofA" and "C/of/A" perfins, and some postcards and trade cards showing the premises of perfin users.

# Catalogue of Australian stamps with the PCNZA Perfin

### By Peter Simpfendorfer

On 1 November 2013, I emailed David Coath to enquire if such a catalogue existed, as the number of PCNZA perfins in my personal collection was steadily growing. David promptly replied in the negative, although he stated that some lists existed. He offered to make photocopies of the PCNZA perfins in his own collection and send them to me.

I offered to do a short article for a future bulletin and David replied "I am delighted that you want to take on this study...." and so the project commenced.

Well, little did I know what I had gotten myself involved in! I simply did not realise how many Australian stamps bore the PCNZA perfin. David and Arthur Taylor each sent me over 30 photocopied pages.

It was agreed that a Word document was the best format and Australian Stamp Catalogue numbers used where available. The catalogue includes both sheet and self adhesive stamps, mini sheets and International stamps. There are even a couple of Cinderellas included.

My interest "waxed and waned" over the next two years with work on the catalogue happening in bursts and eventually there was light at the end of the tunnel. The last update was done on 5 April 2016. So, the project took a little over 29 months.

The catalogue comprises 23 typed pages and it is intended that the catalogue will be available on Dave Elsmore's perfins.com.au site. Thanks Dave for allowing this to happen.

It is my hope that members will check their personal collections of PCNZA perfins and advise details of any stamps not listed. However, to include them in the catalogue I will need to sight an image of the stamps. This can be either by snail mail (PO Box 2029, Wagga Wagga NSW 2650) or email (simpy19@bigpond.com)

I can email a copy of the catalogue to individual members or mail it free to Australian members.

Future projects include a similar catalogue of Australian Territories stamps and New Zealand stamps with PCNZA perfins.

Finally, thanks to David Coath for his ongoing encouragement and to both David and Arthur Taylor for their assistance with the project. Happy collecting

PS I now have 793 Australian PCNZA perfins in my personal collection.

# Meet a Member - Arthur Taylor

### By Arthur Taylor and David Coath

Editor's note: Arthur has recently had an operation on his wrist and was unable to write this piece himself, so it has been conducted over a series of long and entirely pleasant telephone calls.

Arthur was born in Bagshot, Surrey, England, on 3 January 1932 and later moved to nearby Camberley until 1939. The family home was the subject of a burglary and Arthur's mother was traumatised to the point of needing permanent medical care.

Arthur was an only child and due to his mothers illness he was in the care of his father, who was a Supervisor in a Building business. When the War started, Arthur's father was called away by the Ministry of Labour to camouflage Airfields and other military locations. This meant that Arthur was moved to various Aunts, mainly in Surrey, but finally to Epping in Essex.

He recalls vivid memories of the Blitz, that include evenings sheltering under the stairway of his Aunt's home as German planes flew overhead. They were not bombing Epping, more likely targeting nearby North Weald Airbase or parts further north, but the anti aircraft guns hidden in Epping Forest put so much Flak into the air that it was almost constantly raining down onto the houses in Epping. He was later moved to Guilford but this was also bombed.



In 1942 Arthur was placed at the Royal Albert School for Orphans in Bagshot and he stayed there until 1948 when he was 16 years old. The school presented many challenges to the diminutive Arthur, but it was also his first experience with collecting and swapping postage stamps with other boys at the school.

After leaving school his father got him a job as "Tea boy" at the local "British Gas & Torch Ltd". Arthur reports that the "tea" part was only a small part of it as his duties were varied and included running errands, sweeping, going down to the shops to pick up cigarettes and meals for the workers.

In April 1950 he was conscripted into the Army and began National Service training at Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire.

After finishing 10 weeks training he was sent home for 6 weeks leave because his unit, at the time, was slated to go to Kenya to address growing tensions that would later climax in the Mau Mau Uprising. Arthur was placed in many units and spent an enjoyable time guarding Centurion tanks as they were being shipped around. He finished this duty and returned for more leave prior to heading to Malaya with the Devons but was moved to the Wiltshires who had been sent to Hong Kong. But with the growing conflict in Korea Arthur found himself moved again, this time to the Glosters (Gloucestershire Regiment) who were in Japan and very soon in the thick of battle on the Korean peninsula. The Glosters formed part of the

29th Brigade which was in turn part of the 1st Commonwealth Division, which included troops from Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

By early 1951 the UN Forces had started to push into North Korea, but on 22 April 1951 the Chinese entered the conflict and they crossed the Yalu River and attacked the UN line in what was to become known as the Battle of the Imjin River. The UN line had been rather thin and in the area of the Glosters just 2000 (approx) men were covering a front of some 12 miles. As a result the numerically superior Chinese attack breached the defensive line and some units, including the Glosters, became isolated. They fell back to a hill position at Hill 235 (later Gloster Hill). Here they continued to come under sustained attack and after repeated efforts to relieve them had failed, they were ordered to break out and try and make it back to the 29th Brigade lines. Only one of the Companies of the Glosters broke out and the balance of the Battalion, including Arthur, was captured.

For the next 2  $\frac{1}{4}$  years Arthur was a prisoner of war and he was finally released in August 1953 after the Armistice which was signed in July 1953.

Arthur returned to his job at the "British Gas & Torch Ltd", but his life started to move at a quicker pace. By the end of 1954 he was married and soon had a family on the way, so thoughts of stamps took a "backseat".

In 1965 Arthur, with a wife and 2 children (Graham and Brian) became what we Australians affectionately call "10 Pound Poms", which was part of an Immigration drive by the Australian Government that offered cheap travel to Australia for immigrants from England. Arthur arrived in Sydney and work was easy to find and he secured a position as a Tool Maker working for "Aristocrat Pty Ltd", making Poker machines. But life kept moving fast and after 12 months in Australia, Arthur's wife left him and the Children.

In 1968 Arthur met his current wife, Helen, and they later married and moved to Bondi Junction where Helen had a partnership in a TAB business. Arthur and Helen had a young family, Graham and Brian from Arthur's first marriage and Helen had a young daughter Toni from hers. So Arthur took odd jobs that gave him time to help manage the family. He mainly worked as a gardener and handyman but would turn his hand to most things.

In the late 1970's Arthur spent most of the week down in Berrara (near Nowra) building a house on a block of land that they had. Arthur had found the block when he had first come to NSW. Now he commuted between Berrara and Bondi Junction. By 1979 the house in Berrara was finished (or nearly so), so Helen retired from her TAB business and they went on a trip to Europe, and back to England for a total of 5 months before they settled down into the Community life in a rural seaside town. They both got involved with supporting the local Fire Brigade, as well as RSL, Square dancing and most importantly the local Stamp Club where Arthur could finally rekindle his interest in philately.

Arthur became keen on his stamps and joined PHILAS and started out helping with the Auctions, something he still does to this day. While working at PHILAS he encountered perfins and with the help of David Collyer he gained access to the wealth of information that the PHILAS library had on Official Perfins. David also introduced Arthur to Australian perfin pioneer David Andersen. David Andersen was one of the prime movers in Australian perfin collecting and together David and Arthur became founding members of the PCNZA.

Arthur's perfin collecting interests are vast, they started with Australian Official perfins (GNSW, WA etc) and then expanded to Australian Private perfins and then to World perfins on all issues. Not to mention overprints, documents, covers, his interests are global.

Arthur chooses to mount his collections on "hagners" as he says that this allows for the flexibility to expand when new material becomes available, and there is always new material on the way.

Editors closing note: I met Arthur in the early 2000's when I was a visiting the Canberra Stamp Show. Moving around the dealers I asked one if he had any perfins, Arthur was sitting nearby and overheard this and you would have thought that he had found a long lost friend. He immediately took me under his "wing" and has been a great help to my collecting ever since. The photo of Arthur was taken when he visited me in Melbourne in 2013 and captures him doing 3 of his favourite things, working, smiling and talking, all at the same time. Arthur has lived a challenging life of adventure, danger, hardship, and family tragedies, but on meeting him, you would never know.

# Reviewing Questionable Listings in HAPP (Part 4)

### By David Coath, Greg Howard and Dave Elsmore

Further to the articles in SPPB #110, #111 and #112 here are some more listings from the Handbook of Australian Private Perfins (HAPP) - 2003, which we consider questionable. But as with the earlier articles we make a case for each with the evidence that is available.

As we stated in the introduction to the previous articles, 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 our 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 separate 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.

Reports based on Applications to use Perfins that were not followed up by the purchase or use of a Perfin

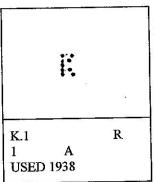
Many of these reports are listed in HAPP, and earlier in CPA, as "reported but not seen" and furthermore they then often feature confirmed users. We consider that the mixture of an "unsighted pattern" and a "confirmed user" is a recipe for error. This fact will be borne out in this and other articles on this subject.

### <u>K.1</u>

K.1 dates from CPA and is confirmed to Kodak (Australasia) in Adelaide and it was restated in HAPP, as follows, see right.

Kodak where frequent users of perfins in their offices in Australia and indeed around the world, so when you see a single "K" pattern, it is a good chance that it is a Kodak.

But this K has some interesting aspects to it that make us wonder if it is really what it appears to be as follows:



Kodak (Australasia) Pty Ltd., Adelaide SA

Photographic supplies & services

- . The usage is confined to a single year which is odd for a Customised device
- . The usage in Adelaide is peculiar as there is already a K device in Adelaide during this period, see usage of K.4 below:



Ignore the "v" indicating use on Victorian Revenue stamps and the reported use of K.4 in Melbourne and Perth, these are miss reports based on the similar K.8 pattern. All postmark evidence we have seen for K.4 is Adelaide.

- . The Kodak office in Adelaide was small, and most likely just a retail outlet.
- . The small K is an exact fit for the K of the OK pattern OK.2, .3 and .4 which were most likely all made by the same device, see below:



Furthermore in and around the time of the stated use of K.1 the middle pin in the K of OK.4, is often found missing.



Perf 14x14 ¾ 1938 - 1945

K.1's



(....)

Note in the left hand stamp of the K.1's in the enlarged image above, that there are the vestiges of an O and indeed in the right hand stamp the O is not visible at all.

So OK.4 exists in and around 1938, the usage period of K.1, in a form that sees it have exactly the shape and size K of OK.4, complete with missing pin in the centre of the K, and that OK.4 is found with partials in which the O is faint and sometimes missing. Therefore given the odd usage of K.1 listed above, it seems more likely that K.1 is just a partial of OK.4.

The user of the OK device is Colton, Palmer and Preston of 53-59 Currie St, Adelaide, SA, which is consistent with the K.1 being reported in Adelaide.

All very well to speculate but all you need to prove us wrong is a proving cover of K.1 on a Kodak cover used in Adelaide. If anyone has such a cover then please share it.

Until then we believe that on the balance of probabilities K.1 is a partial of OK.4.

#### LAMBS.1

LAMBS.1 follows the pattern of some earlier miss reports in that it is listed without a pattern image and yet it has been given a proven user. It was listed in CPA with a provisional user of Edwards and Lamb, but with no details about what stamps (postage or revenue) it was found on and no usage date. Amazingly by the time HAPP was issued it was assigned two proven users in Edwards and Lamb (Drapers) and Parbury Lamb & Co (Merchants and Agents) both of Brisbane and was stated to be found on the postage stamps of Australia with usage circa 1920.

In an earlier article in SPPB#110 we stated that similar reports AUSN.1 and CP&CO.1 where most likely based on reports of the Security overprints "Received by/AUSN Co Ld/per" and "Received by/Charles Parbury Co Ld/per" that are found on the revenue stamps of Queensland. Therefore we would suggest that this LAMBS.1 is actually based on the similar security overprint "Received by/Parbury Lamb & Co /per" that is also found on the revenue stamps of Queensland.

With these miss reports we have speculated that they had been included on lists of "perfins" that had actually included other security measures such as security overprints or less commonly, customised Queensland railway stamps.

Now in recent times these articles on Miss Reports in HAPP have been criticised, that is fine with us, informed debate is a vital part of any hobby or study and we welcome this.

Equally it is good to receive supporting evidence, and we noted that our position in respect to the group AUSN.1, CP&CO.1 and LAMBS.1 was covered in an earlier issue of the SPPB. See the extract below.

Extract from SPPB #36 of January 1997:

-5-

#### A PERFIN MYSTERY SOLVED John Mathews

In a 1930's edition of "Australian Stamp Monthly" magazine, there was a report of perfins on Queensland stamps for "AUSN", "CP&CO", and "LAMBS". None of these had been seen by the authors of "Commercial Perfins of Australia" when that publication went to print.

Since then I had bought copies of fiscal overprints on Queensland postage stamps for "AUSNCoLTD" and "Parbury, Lamb & Co", and began to wonder if there had been a connection.

Now in a book recently submitted by John Amiet for the exchange circuit, there are other examples of these two overprints, together with one for "Charles Parbury & Co Ld". The sight of the three of them together was almost two much- were these examples of what had been the basis of the report as "perfins" 60 years ago?





Received by Parbury Lambers. Der

This extract was written by John Mathews and predates the issuing of HAPP by 6 years. The article agrees with our position in respect to the AUSN.1, CP&CO.1 and LAMBS.1 group and what is more it confirms our suspicion that the reports came from a "list" in this case a "1930's edition of "Australian Stamp Monthly".

Now the title of John's article is unequivocal as it states that it is "A Perfin Mystery Solved". But in his last sentence he makes a more qualified statement, which has a more questioning tone, "were these examples of what had been the basis of the report as "perfins" 60 years ago?"

In the end he chose to have "a bet both ways" and the listings for AUSN.1, CP&CO.1 and LAMBS.1 all carry a Note that states that they may be based on a report of a security overprint. In particular the Note for LAMBS.1 states that the report is based on "a Queensland one penny red (1882–1895)".

So the question remains why was LAMBS.1 stated to be found on the postage stamps of Australia with usage circa 1920. Proof of such information could only come from sighting the "pattern", on an Australian Commonwealth postage stamp with a postmark, or on an issue that was contemporary with the usage period (circa 1920). But if you have this information then you would be able to display an image of the pattern and you would not need to make any qualifying reference to the possibility that the report is possibly based on security overprint "Received by/Parbury Lamb & Co/per".

Our position is that the LAMBS.1 is a miss report based on a security overprint and that the details provided in HAPP as to usage on postage stamps is an error or a fabrication. Accordingly this listing can be deleted.

#### L&L.1

This pattern L&L.1 is based on an Application for the use of a perfin device. This information was obtained from the Queensland archives by PCNZA Member Kel Vicary and published in SPPB # 11 of April 1990 and later (this extract) in Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) in 1992, page 21.

16 Dec 1911

Stewarts & Lloyds (Australia) Ltd - L&L

(The L&L pattern was in fact a trademark used by the company - see below. The trademark is based apparently on the name of the original company, Lloyd & Lloyd Ltd of Birmingham, UK, prior to the amalgamation of Stewarts. No perfin corresponding with this pattern is known.)



Stewarts and Lloyds are known perfin users in England with S&L, L&L and SX patterns confirmed to this user. The 1911 Application is an indication of an intention to use a perfin device, but it is by no means proof of the existence of a perfin pattern. As John Grant and John Mathews say in this extract above, "No perfin corresponding with this pattern is known" and that is as true today as it was in 1992.

Not all Applications lead to perfin patterns and in the absence of an Australian L&L in 1992 and more importantly today, it is perhaps time to accept that this Application was not proceeded with. Notably all Queensland devices were customised devices and if such a device had ever existed it would have almost certainly left examples of perfins.

We think that you can draw a line through L&L.1.

#### **M.8**

M.8 is transparently a partial of MK.1. It was reported as a separate pattern in CPA but in HAPP there was a proviso added, not in a "note", but more authoritatively, with the pattern image, that M.8 was "probably the M of MK.1". Notably M.8 is only stated to be found on postage stamps of Australia but MK.1 is found on the postage stamps of Western Australia (from 1906) as well as the issues of Australia until 1914.

Now M.8 is exactly the same as the M of MK.1, and what is more the MK pattern at the end of its use was rather indistinct. See examples on 1d Kangaroo and 1d KGV below. Note the postmarks on these are Perth and WA.





When building a mature listing of true patterns we need to sift through what we have found and make definitive listings based on the evidence. Just as we suggested with the erroneous listing of the AUSN.1, CP&CO.1 and LAMBS.1group above.

If we confidently write that M.8 is "probably the M of MK.1", then we should "probably" not afford it a listing. Was it only in HAPP because it had been listed in CPA?. This issue is a challenge to Catalogue Editors. In this respect the US Catalogue Editors have the better system, they list at the conclusion of each Letter, images of the "deleted patterns". John Mathews made correcting references in the listings for H.1, HB.9, HS.2 but did not do so with M.8 and others.

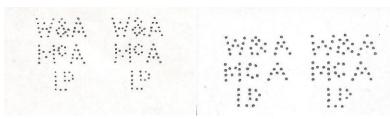
We need to adopt a sceptical and questioning approach so that we do not list or try to collect "patterns" that have no better evidentiary support than "we once thought they were a separate pattern".

For these reasons and on the basis the suggestion offered in HAPP, we should confidently draw a line through M.8.

#### MCALD.1

Almost everything we have just said about M.8 applies to MCALD.1except this pattern was identified as a likely partial in CPA, with the note: "may in fact be a partial strike of W&AMCALD.2". This was repeated in HAPP.

Both W&AMCALD.1 and W&AMCALD.2 are two die devices in a horizontal array, and they are large patterns that are set out over 3 lines. This layout is almost certain to produce partial strikes, particularly when they are applied to the small issues of NSW. So it is



amazing that a partial based on W&AMCALD.1 was not also reported.

W&AMCALD.1 (2 dies)

W&AMCALD.2 (2 dies)

The two dies of W&AMCALD.1 are very similar but the two dies of W&AMCALD.2 are distinctly different and John Mathews rightly recognised this and in Update 2 of February 2012 when he changed the listing of W&AMCALD.2 to state "types 2".

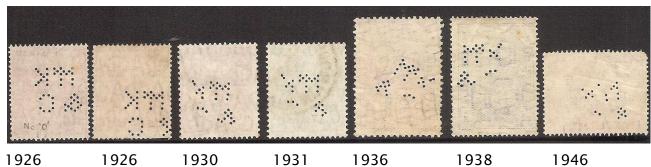
Are they just 2 types? Look at the W of W&AMCALD.2 it is clearly different. The problem is that the use of the term "types" is applied inconsistently throughout HAPP, but that is perhaps a discussion for another day.

We think that you can draw a line through MCALD.1 and also be on the lookout for partials of W&AMCALD.1 that could also appear as MCALD or indeed W&AMCA without the LD.

#### MCK&C.2

This pattern first appeared in HAPP and it sits just above the near identical pattern MCK&CO.1. The difference between MCK&C.2 and MCK&CO.1 is the absence of the O after the C in MCK&C.2.

As you can see in the examples below this loss of the O is just the start of the degradation of the MCK&CO.1 device and its pattern.



It starts with the loss of the O and then moves to the ampersand, then the K and the C and by 1946 the pattern is almost unrecognisable. This is clearly just a progression of missing pins and to characterise the circa 1926 form as a "new" or separate pattern is an error.

We confidently assert that you can draw a line through the pattern MCK&C.2.

#### MCKS&CO.1, TL.1 and SS&S.1

These patterns date from CPA and are restated in HAPP. No actual pattern has been sighted for any of these reports, although the users are confirmed. This is because the existence of the patterns is based solely on an Application made by stamp vendor E T Moulden on 31 August 1893, in which he "applies on behalf of the undermentioned firms for permission to perforate stamps with initials". (See CPA pages 16–17).

Moulden's Application of this date covered 14 companies and to date 11 have surfaced as either confirmed or provisional perfin users. 9 where known of at the time of CPA and one extra one was included in HAPP (CA.1) Most recently L&W has been discovered and it was listed as a new find in SPPB #111.

It needs to be remembered that Moulden produced Temporary patterns and therefore the pattern for these Users may have only been produced on a single day and therefore would be very rare, as is the case with L&W.

Accordingly we would expect that someday we may find a MCKS&CO.1, or an SS&S.1but as time goes on it becomes more unlikely. In respect to TL.1it is even less likely that we will find this pattern because as it states in CPA (page 17) the Application was on behalf of "Tangyes Limited" and may not have proceeded. The Melbourne agents for Tangyes Limited were Bennie, Teare and Co and they became perfin users from 1894 and they had made an Application on 23 August 1893 prior to Moulden's attempt at a "blanket" Application on 25 August 1893 and his Multi Company Application on 31 August 1893.

In time Moulden's Applications became fewer and he made none after 1895 although he continued to perforate stamps including those for different companies.

We would consider that you can draw a line through TL.1 and place a cautionary note on MCKS&CO.1 and SS&S.1 saying that no pattern has been sighted and that they are doubtful.

### **Members Input on Miss Reports**

Member Ken Scudder sent in a letter regarding FBCOLD.1.

He agreed with our history of the user (?) in which we said that the Provisional user was stated to be the Foster Brewing Co Pty Ltd. We said:

"It is stated as being found on Victorian postage stamps. This is possibly intended to be Fosters Brewing Company which was formed in 1887 by American/Irish brothers William M. Foster and Ralph R. Foster. They established premises in Rokeby Street, Collingwood

and the first "Fosters" was brewed in 1888. They were amalgamated into Carlton and United Brewery's in 1907. We would doubt that the Company had ever achieved the status of a Pty Ltd company and that this would cast doubt on them being the user of a pattern FBCOLD."

Ken suggested (perhaps tongue in cheek) that our article had missed the possibility that the pattern FBCOLD, was intended to describe the product, i.e. Fosters Brewing COLD, rather than Co. Ltd.. Now we appreciate that this would well describe the product as sold today, but we wonder what the true nature and indeed temperature of the product was around the turn of the 20th Century.

Accordingly we would still recommend that you draw a line through this pattern.

#### **Next Bulletin**

Next issue we will start with the letter P and deal with this and the Q Section of HAPP.

## **Members Wants**

### By Stellen Swenson, Bob Littlehales, and Robert Dedecker

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

<u>Stellen Swenson</u> is looking for an example of a Swedish Perfin cover that has been sent to either Australia or New Zealand. Stellen can be contacted by mail at: Odonbarsvagen 32, SE - 293 41 OLOFSTROM, SWEDEN.

<u>Bob Littlehales</u> 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 <u>bob\_benny@bigpond.com</u>

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

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.

## Paterson Laing & Bruce Customised Devices

#### By David Coath. Dave Elsmore and Greg Howard

#### **Background**

The origins of the company date back to 1850 when J C Young opened a small warehouse in Geelong. Later in 1852 after gold was discovered in Victoria, Young established a branch in Ballarat and appointed John Paterson as Manager. The business was later moved to Melbourne and Paterson was admitted to a partnership, the company then being known as J C Young & Co. There were further changes in the partnerships as follows; 1860 first being called Paterson, Palmer & Co, then, after the amalgamation with Ray Glaister & Co; as Paterson, Ray, Palmer & Co. In 1876 the company became Paterson Laing & Co. and then finally Paterson, Laing & Bruce with John Bruce joining the company in 1878.

The Depression of the 1890's were difficult times for the company but during this period Bruce managed to borrow substantial moneys to buy out his senior partner John Paterson and become the major shareholder. In 1900 the company opened a branch in Sydney however Bruce died in 1901 leaving the management of the company to his sons Earnest, in Australia and Stanley who lived in London.

Initially in 1898 Paterson, Laing & Bruce Ltd was registered in London but on John Bruce's death it was taken over by a newly registered Paterson, Laing & Bruce (1901) Ltd in July 1901, with the '1901' being taken out of the name in 1903. After completing his studies and experience with a commercial legal firm, Stanley Bruce was appointed acting Chairman in 1907 (confirmed in 1908) staying in London, as this was still the seat of the company's other Directors, shareholder and financiers.

By 1910 the company had become well established in Sydney and was growing in Melbourne. That year Stanley returned to Australia as General Manager as Ernest was overseas and they again exchanged positions in 1914 at the outbreak of World War I.

Despite the war and the fact that both Earnest and Stanley were on active service, the company prospered. Stanley was discharged in 1917 as wounded and returned to Australia as General Manager and in April 1918 successfully won the Federal seat of Flinders for the National Party. He was later Prime Minister of Australia from 1923–1929.

Stanley Bruce spent eight months of 1919 at head office in London. Ernest died that year, leaving Stanley to handle the two positions that they had shared. He again went to London early in 1921 but by 1922 he was made Treasurer in the Australian Government and his political career had eclipsed his business career and he handed over the running of the company to his solicitor Thomas Alston.

In the 1929 election Bruce lost his seat and his Prime ministership and again turned his attention to his business, which was under growing pressure. Although re elected in the next election in 1931 he spent most of his time abroad on various appointments including High Commissioner in London, and retired from Australian politics in 1945.

In 1947 New Year honours Bruce received a Viscountcy, and chose to be Bruce of Melbourne and took a seat in the English House of Lords, as well as accepting various directorships, mainly with Australian companies. Bruce continued to live in London where he died on 25 August 1967.

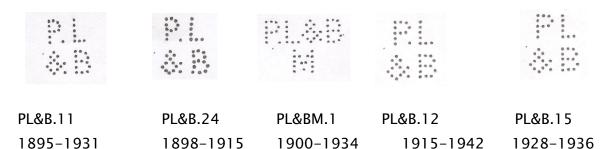
In February 1966 the company was merged with fellow perfin user, Robert Reid & Co Ltd and became, Paterson, Reid & Bruce Ltd.

#### The Paterson Laing and Bruce Devices

Paterson Laing and Bruce were major perfin users and there are more than 30 different patterns attributed to them. Most of these were used in Melbourne and most were Temporary patterns (Victorian Service Punctures). That is a pattern created by the use of a temporary die set up to apply a pattern to a stamp purchased from a stamp vendor. In this article we will focus on the Customised devices, that is, fixed devices that produced a consistent pattern. The Company used such devices in both their Melbourne and Sydney offices and stores.

The Melbourne office had 4 customised devices between 1896 and the 1940's and there usage overlaps considerably. All these devices used by Paterson Laing and Bruce were single die devices.

These are fresh scans of the true patterns with the usage from our research, note the similarities in PL&B12 and 15, these are made by the same die and that is why we state that there are 4, not 5, devices, see below.



Our usage dates differ from the usage dates published in HAPP and the updates. These are the HAPP usage including updates #1 and #2.

| PL&B.11    | PL&B.24     | PL&BM.1    | PL&B.12     | PL&B.15   |
|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| 1896-1913* | 1905-1915** | 1900-1916# | 1916-1940## | 1928-1936 |

<sup>\*</sup> Changed from 1940 in Update 2

<sup>\*\*</sup> No usage dates in HAPP. Update 1 states 1896-1903

<sup>#</sup> Also 1934 added in HAPP Update 1

### ## Changed from 1900 - 1940 in Update

The inaccuracies in some usage periods are likely due to confusion about the pattern images and numbers. For instance in HAPP the images for PL&B.11 and .24 are the same. John Mathews corrects this in Update 2 (February 2012) by stating for PL&B.11, "Image is incorrect – should be as "Commercial Perfins of Australia" (more 'regular' in appearance)". This is true, CPA has the true image for PL&B.11, but this is not much help to anyone without access to CPA.

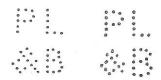
The confusion with the PL&B (Melbourne) group is further fanned by the statement in Update #1 that PL&B.15 also exists with "extra 'dot' between 'P' and 'L' circa 1924". This is a surprising revelation for a "pattern" with a usage stated to be between 1928 – 1936. The truth is that this apparent anomaly can be better explained by the fact that PL&B.12 and .15 are actually strikes of the same die. It is just that the pin between the P and the L is sometimes missing. In cataloguing terms this is a missing pin variety and not 2 separate patterns. In fact there are regular missing pins in this die as follows:



Picture of various dies of PL&B.12/.15 with various missing pins, most common 1926 – 1937.

The similarities between PL&B.12 and PL&B.15 are clear in CPA but the image for PL&B.12 in HAPP is distorted and the letters "P and L" and "& and B" are too close to each other. We can find no pattern that matches the HAPP image of PL&B.12. According we believe that you can combine your examples under a single pattern PL&B.12 and that you can delete PL&B.15. But use the PL&B.15 image as it is the most accurate.

The Sydney office had only 2 devices but as with the Melbourne office their usage overlapped. Again these were both single die devices.



PL&B.13 PL&B.14

Our research 1905–1927 1913–1921 HAPP dates 1903–1925 1918–1921

The usage dates of the Sydney devices as reported in HAPP are closer to our findings. This is most likely due to the more accurate images of these patterns in HAPP when compared to the Melbourne group.

#### Conclusion

So get out your PL&B's and make sure you have them in the right order, and if you find something that conflicts with what we have found, then please share it and we will put it in a future Bulletin.

# Alphabet Letter Perfins in Australian Cheques Update

### By Dave Elsmore

In SPPB # 110 and #111 there was discussion about Alphabetic perfin patterns found in some cheques. Murray Lawson and Lance Bates discussed the possibility that these were part of an internal cancel that was applied as the cheques were processed. John Amiet, who worked in the banking sector, has now added that he was familiar with Perfin based cancelling devices being used on processed cheques but only in the format 'PAID/date".

In the study of the Revenue Perfins of Australia, these Alphabet Letter perfins have been reported on cheques of all the Mainland States of Australia.

But the problem for the Bank processing/cancelling theory is that the Alphabetic letter perfins can be found on unused cheques that have been allocated for use, such as this example below:



So the question remains and it is proving a difficult one to answer.

# **New Reports**

By David Coath, Greg Howard, Dave Elsmore and John Amiet



John Amiet found this HSLD.a of NSW (HAPP HSLD.6) which is a rare pattern to find on any revenue but this is the first example of a Tax Instalment stamp from NSW being found with a perfin.

An amazing survivor.



David Coath found this rare Security overprint of the Shell Company used on a high value Victorian revenue. The overprint had previously only been reported on the 2d value. It was found with some other Overprints on the same value used by the Neptune Company which was acquired by Shell in 1924. Oddly Shell continue to use Neptune name as the right hand example carries a Neptune overprint (faintly) but shows use in 1966.



This Murray overprint was found by John Amiet and its user is most likely the perfin user D&W Murray Ltd.

The use of Security overprints is a very similar security method to the application of a perfin, and as a result the users are often the same companies that use perfins. In general the use of Security overprints tends to be a later practice.

These security overprints are only found on revenue stamps which have lower usage volumes than postage stamps and this combined with the fact that they are often used on commercial documents makes them rarer. This is one reason that we are still finding new examples today.



This WG&COLTD was reported by Greg Howard and is most likley used by William Gardiner and Co warehousemen and perfin users of 71 York St, Sydney, NSW.

It is a new report and is now included in the Revenue Perfins of NSW "Other" Section under W.





Another report from John Amiet is this TREB security overprint. John noted that visible parts of the document say "..city Board" and "Date of Meter Reading" so an Electricity distributor looks like the best guess. John has a Regional Electricity Board"

It existed in the period 1952 to 1977. This is consistent with the use of Security overprints in other Queensland Electricity Authorities, such as The Capricornia Regional Electricity Board (Regional.a), The Southern Electric Authority of Queensland (SEA.a) and the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Electricity Board (WBBR/EB.a) which can all be found in the Revenue Perfins of Queensland "Other" Section.



This B&W/LTD is a previously unreported overprint that wasfound by Greg Howard and is proved by this document to the Melbourne retailer Ball & Welch Ltd.

Again the company were perfin users and this Security overprint is later use than their perfin which is only found on Railway stamps of Victoria (1902 - 1917).

It is fortunate that Greg found this example on a document as the "pattern" is very similar in apperance to a Company cachet that would be used to cancel a revenue stamp and tie it to a document. We are able to confirm

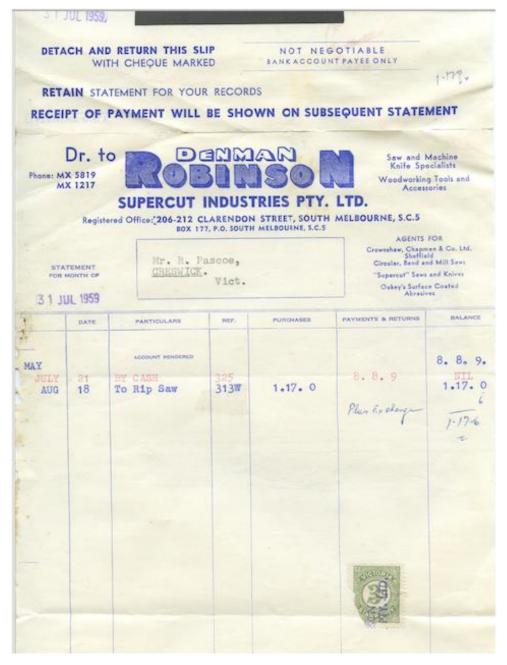
that the "pattern" was applied to the stamp prior to the stamp being affixed to the document as there is no evidence of the circular outer part of the "pattern" being found on the document. What is more there are parts of adjoining circular outer parts of "patterns" that had been applied to neighbouring stamps when they were in a sheet.

There can be confusion between Company cachets and Security overprints, as on stamps off document, they can appear similar or indeed the same.



For instance in this report by Dave Elsmore, if you saw this overprint off a document you could easily say that it was just part of a company cachet. Yet it is clearly a security overprint/pre cancel for Denman Robinson as on the document the overprint is limited to the stamp and does not run onto the surrounding document.

It looks like the "pattern" was a blanket pattern and likely had the words, Denman/Robinson/Supercut Industries Pty Ltd This means that the rubber stamp was applied to multiple stamps much as the large L&L&G/INSURANCE/CO and DAVIDJONESLD blanket perfin devices were used.



We can be certain that the user for this Overprint was Denman Robinson as they are identified on the header of the document.

This new report will be listed in the Revenue Perfins of Victoria in the "Other" section.

Image reduced



This is another interesting report from Dave Elsmore. I have enlraged the image as the pattern is hard to see as the pale green/yellow of the stamp provides little contrast to the yellowed document.

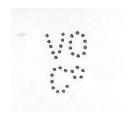
The pattern is VO/CO.c and is contained in the Revenue Perfins of South Australia. In HAPP this pattern is VOCO.10.

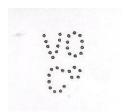
There are many different VOCO's that were used all across Australia and in some cases the patterns produced by remote devices were

similar. I wrote an article on these for SPPB #92 of January 2009 and in this article I reviewed the 19 VOCO patterns listed in HAPP but added that, due to similar but remote patterns being co listed under a single pattern number, (see VOCO.3, .6, .7, .9, .10 and .13) the total number of VOCO patterns would be closer to 30, and this included 3 Tempoary patterns, the balance being from Customised devices.

I have now reviewed this research and I can confirm that there were at least 28 VOCO Customised devices used. Not to mention the VO and VOC devices.

As with many other Vacuum Oil patterns this VO/CO pattern has been reported in more than one location at the same time, in this case Melbourne and Adelaide as VOCO.10 but it is actually 2 very similar patterns as follows:





Melbourne

1928-1959

Adelaide

1932-1959

As you can see the patterns are very similar and the easiest way to tell the difference is with postmarks. But with clear patterns and accurate reference images you can see slight variation in the O. Another helpful feature of the Adelaide pattern is the fact that in about 1940 it drops a pin in the left hand arm of the V. This is never repaired.



This is not found in the Melbourne pattern which always remains complete. The final usage for both devices may be slightly later than 1959 because the company did not become Mobil Oil until about 1963.

As I stated in the earlier article, this co listing of remote patterns as a single pattern is generally due to confusion caused by the company ordering batches of perfin devices, which make similar patterns and allocating these devices to remote locations.

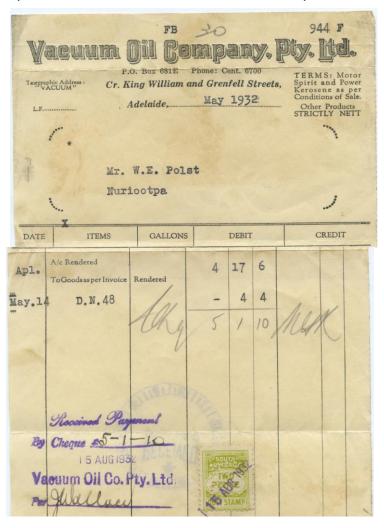
Confusion of this kind can be overcome by making a detailed study of the characteristics of the specific patterns that can be determined to be from given a given remote location, such as those found on State revenue stamps of more than one State, or postage stamps that carry postmarks from different locations.

To add some confusion to the study there are times when there is an overlap of different patterns/devices in the same location. Most often this happens in Melbourne and this may be due to the fact that Vacuum Oil had multiple offices (or an office and a refining plant) both in Melbourne.

This was also the case in Adelaide with VOCO.10 (1932-1959) and VOCO.13 (1920-1956) as well as rare reports of a device used in Port Pirie in 1945 -1957.

Now given the similarities in these Melbourne and Adelaide VOCO.10 devices it is possible that the VOCO.10 device was moved between Melbourne and Adelaide or indeed that the device was in a single location and that perforated stamps were sent to another location as required. These seem unlikely options given the proliferation of clearly different Vacuum Oil devices across Australia for the total period of the company's perfin

usage, 1896 - 1962. It is more likely and consistent with company policy that these patterns were from remote devices that produced a near identical pattern.



Here is the document that Dave found with the VO/CO.c (HAPP VOCO.10) stamp on it and it has another piece of important information.

Note the address is Crn. Of King William and Grenfell Streets, this is the first address recorded for the Vacuum Oil office in Adelaide.

We cannot say that it was always at this address but it certainly was in 1932.

Image reduced

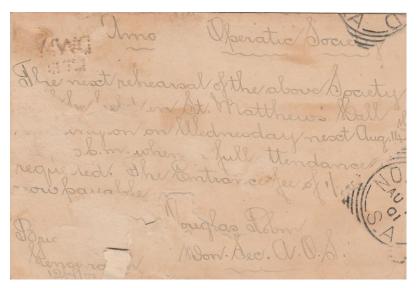


This South Australian postcard was reported by Greg Howard. Perfins on postal stationary are rare and this is the first report of this pattern on a post card.

This is surprising as most States issued postal stationary and they would be easy to puncture with a single die perforator, which was the most common type used.

It is very hard to even see the pattern from the front so I have included a scan of the rear of the post card, see below.

The pattern is DWMLTD.1 which is found used in Adelaide between 1901 and 1932. The HAPP listing for DWMLTD.1 states that it is found used in both Adelaide and Melbourne. This is actually a miss report based on 2 similar devices/patterns. This fact is refered to in a "note" at the end of the D section in HAPP, but is noted as "Re DWMLTD.3" in error, but it is refering to DWMLTD.1. The point raised in the "note" regarding the different policies on positions of strikes is generally true. The Melbourne strikes are almost always sideways but the Adelaide strikes are more mixed, so this is not a reliable way of telling the difference between the 2 DWMLTD.1 patterns.



The DWMLTD group is a confusing one because of the similarities in the patterns and this is exacerbated by the degredation in the Melbourne device which from about 1914 produced very poor strikes.

I have reproduced clear strikes of the DWMLTD patterns below and corrected some errors in location and usage periods

Note: Both front and back of the post card are reduced.

| DWMLTD.1  | DWMLTD.1  | DWMLTD.2   | DWMLTD.3   | DWMLTD.4  |
|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Adelaide  | Melbourne | Launceston | Launceston | Melbourne |
| 1901-1932 | 1901-1922 | 1912-1948  | 1932-1938  | 1922-1936 |

DWMLTD.1 The best way to tell these 2 patterns apart is by postmark evidence but you can also see differences in the structure of the right hand corner of the 'M'. The Melbourne pattern is a full pin width wider so when you overlay it on the Adelaide image and locate it over the D you will see that the right "leg" of the M does not fit. The image in HAPP is the Adelaide pattern. Also all DWMLTD.1 patterns from 1923 will be Adelaide ones.

DWMLTD.2 This device was located in Launceston and is the only D & W Murray pattern found on revenue stamps. The pattern is also reported with usage from 1901 but this is not supported by my findings. The earliest usage I have seen is 1912 the earlier date is most likely a misreport based on the similar DWMLTD.1 patterns that both date from 1901. DWMLTD.2 is reported with Queensland usage but I have not seen this. However it is possible as in 1912 the Post Office were using up stocks of State issues. See article in SPPB #107 pages 9–12. I would be confident that the usage was exclusively in Launceston.

DWMLTD.3 This is another Launceston (not Melbourne as reported in HAPP) device with usage that overlaps with DWMLTD.2. Take care with comparing with the HAPP image as it is slightly compressed and makes the pattern look shorter than it is.

DWMLTD.4 This was a Melbourne device that came into service in about 1922 and it most likely replaced the Melbourne DWMLTD.1 device which produced very poor strikes after 1914.



References patterns for DWMLTD:

.1 1901(A) .1 1901(M) .1(M) on 2d .2 (L) .3 (L) .4 (M) circa 1922 used 1912 used 1932 used 1936



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