

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN



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## FEATURE ARTICLES

- VOCO on NZ
- F Perfins
- GNSW Type A Forgeries

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## New Members

No new Members joined us this Quarter

Member Martyn Grieve (Darling Point – NSW) passed away

# Editors Comment

*By David Coath*

Welcome to the SPPB #116. Articles in this issue include, The “F” Customised Perfins, NSW Type A forgeries, VOCO reports on NZ, and much more.

I would like to thank Members who have sent postage to help defray our high mailing costs; they were John Amiet, Linton Peterson, Bob Littlehales, Bob Szymanski, Colin Clark Hutchison and David McNamee. Donations are made to me, Arthur Taylor and the Treasurer, so I do not always see them all. If I have missed your name then I am sorry and thanks for your donation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our regular contributors, Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard, John Amiet, Tom Weir, Peter Simpfendorfer, Jason Rowe, David Andersen Murray Lawson, Colin Clark Hutchison and Neale Scott for their commitment to sharing their knowledge about Perfins.

Next issue will include an article by Jason Rowe and Neale Scott on New reports of VG’s, as well as one by Michael Kino on Sydney Harbour Bridge perfins.

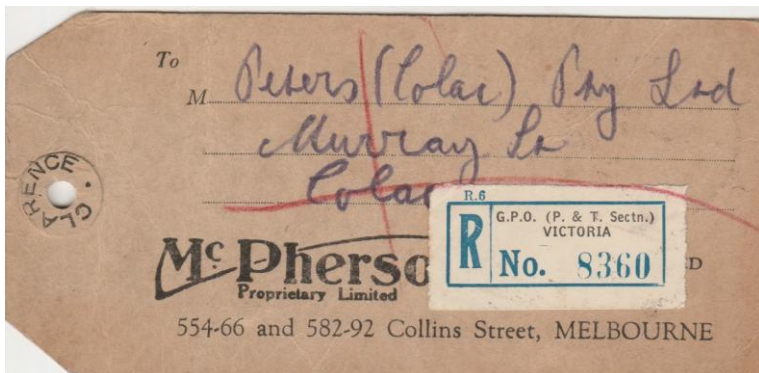
Also there will be a piece by John Mathews, Jason Rowe and Neale Scott regarding the new home for the Type 4 VG machine which has been securely stored in John’s garage for many years.

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

# Front Cover –

*By Ross Ewington, Greg Howard and David Coath*

The front cover item was something from a recent Tasmanian Stamp Auction. <http://tsauctions.com/>, which are run by Ross Ewington. These Parcel Labels are a collecting interest in themselves but sometimes, rarely, they carry perfins and this makes them into special and interesting proving pieces. Just like these ones from the collection of Greg Howard below and the cover items which both prove M.9.



The image is slightly reduced but Greg’s, and Ross’s examples, have some very interesting user information, just as the one featured on our SPPB #113 of April 2016 from Malcolm Brown did.

Firstly they confirm M.9 but they also show that the company actually occupied two buildings in Collins St, Melbourne.

The address in HAPP is 554 – 582 Collins St, but this seems to be a composite of the actual addresses which were 554 – 566, which may have been a warehouse as the Cover example from Ross is shipped from that address, and 582 – 592 which is stated to be a Showroom.



By the way some sources state the first address as 556 – 566.

Both amazing pieces that add much to our knowledge of this perfin and its user.

If you have something that you think is worthy of being a Cover item then please share it with me and I will feature it for our Members to see.

# Club Auction –July 2016 and 2017

*By David Coath*

The 2016 Auction closed on 31 December 2016 and all sales have been sent to the winning bidders and Vendor statements and cheques have been processed by the new Treasurer, Les Vincent. Some are included with your Bulletin.

The Auction was a bumper one with over 330 Lots provided by 21 Vendors. What is more there was an 80% clearance rate, with about 35 Members bidding.

I thank Members for making the effort to share their spare material with other Members, well done, and to those successful bidders I trust that you enjoy your purchases.

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.

I am now in the process of collecting lots for the 2017 Auction and this may even be ready for the April Bulletin. So if you have any material that you would like to offer then I would ask that you send it to me as soon as possible.

## Catalogue of New Zealand stamps with the PCNZA Perfin.

*By Peter Simpfendorfer*

Having completed the Catalogue for Australia and its Territories, I am now turning my attention to building a Catalogue of New Zealand stamps with the PCNZA perfin. I am being assisted in this process by New Zealand Members, Ray Bennett, Enid Honiss and Harold Waite.

The use of the device was limited on New Zealand issues, however with Ray Bennett now managing the distribution of Bulletins in New Zealand and for Overseas Members, there are more New Zealand PCNZA's in the system.

If you would like to help out and share details of your collection of these, then please send scans to me at PO Box 2029, Wagga Wagga, NSW, 2650 or email them to [simpy19@bigpond.com](mailto:simpy19@bigpond.com)

Also if you are keen to build up your collection of PCNZA's on Australia and Territories, I now have a "bank" of spares that have been donated by Members. If you want to access these then please contact me, and further if you have spares that you wish to offer then please send them to me at the above address to include them into the "bank" of spares.

## A note from the Circuit Manager (Australia)

*By Greg Howard*

2016 was been a bumper year for the Circuit with sales more than doubling the total sales over the previous 2 years.

However there were also some major problems with losses of packets of Circuit Books in transit. In the main, this was the fault of Australia Post, but as All risk for lost Books is covered by the Club, we needed to address this problem as a matter of urgency.

The Circuit is an important part of our Club and it represents a way that Members can build their collections and it also allows Members to dispose of spares. It is vital that it continue, but it needs to be more secure in order to protect both the Vendor's material and the financial interests of the Club.

Since announcing this in the October Bulletin I have consulted extensively with Members of the Circuit and we have collectively built a new set of processes and procedures.

These new procedures have focused on building more control, communication, more certain delivery and faster circulation within the Circuit and are as follows:

- 1 All Packets will travel by Express Post with Signature on Delivery at a cost of \$6.60 + \$2.95 per consignment
- 2 At the time of sending the Sender will forward all details of the Consignment as well as completed Purchase slips and payment to the Circuit Manager, preferably by email.
- 3 The sender is also to advise the receiving Member, with cc to the Circuit Manager, by email or phone call that the Consignment has been sent.
- 4 If by any chance 2 sets of books are received then these need to be forwarded on as individual sets, so as to reduce the \$ value of the Consignment.

The New Circuit is now in place and any Vendors wanting to make up new books can contact me on the details provided at the end of this article and empty books will be sent to you.

Any Members who are interested in joining the Circuit please just get in contact with me and we can get you included on the list. However you will have to agree to and abide by, the Procedures that we now have in place. It is helpful if you tell me about your collecting interests as this allows me to tailor books to the Circuit you are on.

My details are: Greg Howard Email: [dhow3371@bigpond.net.au](mailto:dhow3371@bigpond.net.au) PO BOX 31, Blackmans Bay, TAS, 7052, Telephone: 0418 135 351 (anytime)

## PCNZA – New Treasurer

*By Les Vincent and David Coath*

Late last year John Mathews advised that he wished to stand down as Treasurer. He advised that he had achieved what he had wanted to do in the role and now he wished to return to being a Committee Member, which was the role that he was elected to in January 2016.

John had taken up the Treasurers role after the last Treasurer did not seek re election in January 2016. John did a great job as Treasurer and he brought the accounts into order and organised that they were audited. In addition he undertook a forensic assessment of the important area of Members Credits. In short his work was superb and brought the financial records and procedures of the Club into line with the requirements of Incorporation.

On behalf of the Committee and Members of the Club I would like to thank John for his efforts.

Now good Treasurers “do not grow on trees” but we were fortunate to have a very capable Member waiting in “the wings” to take on this role, that Member was Les Vincent.

Les is a long time Member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (RPSofV), Brighton Philatelic Society, and the British Society of Australian Philately (BSAP) and was on the Executive Council of the RPSofV (1992 – 93) and the Victorian Philatelic Council prior to moving to Queensland for 20 years in 1993.

Les joined the PCNZA in 2013 when he moved back to Victoria. He is a retired Bank Accountant in the Commercial Bank of Australia (now WESTPAC).

Les’s details are now on Page 2 and he and John have been arranging the transfer of the Clubs accounts to a new Bendigo Bank Branch at Les’s home town of Warrnambool in Western Victoria. This process is now complete.

## PCNZA Meeting at Melbourne 2017

*By David Coath*

The Club has secured a Meeting Room at the upcoming “MELBOURNE 2017 FIAP INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION” which will be held at Caulfield Racecourse, Station Street, Caulfield East VIC 3145 from Thursday 30 March until Sunday 2 April 2017.

For details about the Exhibition see the website: <http://melbourne2017.com.au/>

The PCNZA will be meeting at 3.00 – 4.30 Saturday 1 April 2017.

# Official Perfins of Australia – On Line Catalogue

*By Jerry Austen David Coath*

A new On Line Perfin Catalogue is being built to cover the Official Perfins of Australia. The overall scope and numbering have been developed to address the full range of State and Federal Government Official perfins.

At this stage we have started with the various States of Australia in the pre Commonwealth stamp issues period from 1901 – 1913.

This is a complex undertaking and it is being progressively built, developed, corrected and loaded up. More details about the internet location will be in the next Bulletin.

As it stands now some sections are much more complete than others but in time it will all come together.

If you are interested in getting involved with the project then feel free to contact Jerry Austen at [jausten@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jausten@ozemail.com.au)

We would like to thank the people who have helped us so far and these include:

Geoff Kellow, Dave Elsmore, Ken Scudder, Ross Ewington, TPS Bulletin Board, SA Study Group, Gordon Monk, WA Study Group, Brian Pope, Bill Lloyd-Smith, Malcolm Brown, Arthur Taylor, Bill Harley, David Andersen, Arny Vochola, John Waugh, David McNamee, Derek Pocock, Richard Breckon, Trevor Hiscock, Arthur Tilby, John Graham, Martin Walker, Philip James, Ben Palmer, Bernie Manning, Stewart Robbins, Jerry Weirich, Jeff Harris and John Pearson

All of these people will be recognised on the site and if you make an input your name will be added.

## “Australian Perfin Group” on Facebook

*By Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath*

We have created an “Australian Perfin Group” on Facebook and it can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ozperfins/>

It is a friendly, welcoming group for sharing information, images and knowledge about Australian Perfins.

All you need to do to join is to go onto the page, read the opening message from Dave Elsmore and agree to the purpose of the Group.

The group has only been operating since late November 2016 and there are already 19 Members, so come and join in the fun. All PCNZA Members are welcome.

## Australian VOCO Reported on New Zealand issues

*By Andrew Murley and David Coath*



In a recent Classic Stamps Auction, Andrew Murley noted a few of the tall VOCO patterns on a New Zealand 1882 revenue and more surprisingly on a New Zealand KGV Official, see left:

Now this pattern is common on Australian stamps and is listed in the “Handbook of Australian Private Perfins” (HAPP – 2003) as VOCO.6. This listing was amended in Update #1 (October 2005) to include “q” to indicate use on Queensland revenue stamps

and in Update #2 (February 2012) to state that there are 3 Types and refer to an article in SPPB # 69 (April 2005) by Ken Killen and John Mathews entitled “Minor Variations in VOCO Patterns used in Different Offices”

There was a further study of the VOCO group by David Coath and it can be found on the Research Tab of Perfins.com at: <http://www.perfins.com.au/articles/voco.html> . This study extended the range of Types for the VOCO.6 pattern to 4. According to the latest research this number of separate, but similar devices and patterns now stands at 5.

Now this is not the first report of these Australian (?) VOCO's on New Zealand stamps. They are mentioned in "New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Initials" R D Samuel (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition - 2010) see page 61, but this report was covered in much more detail in SPPB # 53 of April 2001 in an article by Robert Samuel, in fact it is so helpful to this discussion that it is reproduced here in full:

VOCO – VACUUM OIL COMPANY (Robert Samuel)

I have been shown two New Zealand "Long Type" Queen Victoria stamps perforated with the Australian "VOCO" perfin, recorded in *Commercial Perfins of Australia* (Grant and Mathews) as VOCO.6, and used at the Melbourne Head Office of the Company. The date of use for this perfin is given as 1924-1956.



The existence of this perfin on New Zealand stamps posed something of a problem. My first reaction was to think that, maybe, high value stamps had been perforated at Melbourne or even that a supply of New Zealand stamp was held there and documents requiring payment of New Zealand stamp duty were handled by the Melbourne Head Office. A close examination of the stamps, however, suggested some other explanation.

The two stamps - both cleaned fiscals with evidence of removed pen cancellations - were the 2/- (upright watermark, perf "nearly 12") and 4/- values (sideways watermark, perf 14) of the "Long Type" Queen Victoria issue. This issue had a very long life, from 1880 until replaced with the "Arms Type" issue in 1931. I would date the 2/- stamp as "circa 1891-95" and the 4/- stamp "circa 1905-10".

It is unlikely that, even if Melbourne did have a supply of New Zealand stamps, they would come from two different printings so far apart. Even more suspicious is the fact that the stamps pre-date the known use of the perfin by about 15-35 years. A third factor is that larger businesses almost invariably cancelled fiscal stamps with rubber stamps, rather than pen and ink. It all added up to a rather knotty problem. The answer when I found it was obvious. The VOCO.6 punch is still in existence ! I am quite sure that, over the years, many collectors have had access to this punch.

So the most probable answer is that a couple of valueless New Zealand fiscal stamps have been used to "trial" the VOCO punch, and that these stamps have wended their way onto the philatelic market. Their most likely status is "per favour".

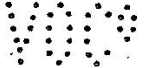

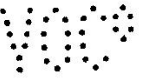
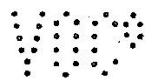
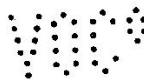
Now Robert makes some very good points, but in 2001 he would not have been aware of the Ken Killen/John Mathews and the later David Coath study of these VOCO patterns, that proved usage in offices across Australia, as the current reference, "Commercial Perfins of Australia" Grant/Mathews 1992, listed the pattern as a single pattern from Melbourne.

However Robert's great insight was in respect to the dating of the usage of the stamps based on perforation and the partially cleaned manuscript cancels, in which he stated that the usage was "2/- stamp as circa 1891 - 95 and the 4/- stamp circa 1905 - 10"

Now this is a “smoking gun” for Robert’s considered position that the status of these was “per favour”, as both these periods predate the usage of the VOCO.6 devices in Australia.

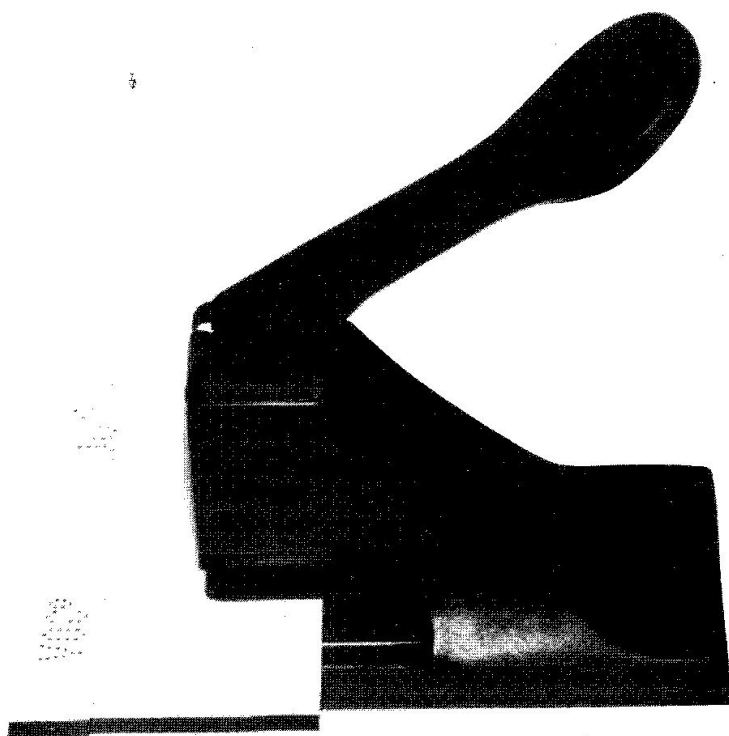
We agree the patterns are not true perfin patterns on New Zealand stamps, but the question remains which of the Australian VOCO.6 devices has been used to create this essentially bogus use?

Now the 5 different devices/patterns of VOCO.6 that have now been found are as follows:

				
Melbourne 1923 - 1957	Queensland 1923 - ?	Hobart 1938 - 1958	Fremantle (?) 1938 - ?	Brisbane 1942 - 1952

Looking closely at all the different VOCO.6’s the best match for the New Zealand use is the Fremantle (?) pattern. The thinness of the central “O” and the location of the last “o” close to the edge of the C, are the closest match.

Now this Fremantle (?) pattern/device is interesting as we know a little more about it than is shown in the pattern. An image of this device is actually shown in “Commercial Perfins of Australia” (CPA), on page 44. (see below). There is a photo of VOCO.6 device and in the text below it says that the device was located in “the Fremantle Offices of Vacuum Oil Company”. It was located by Dr Derek Pocock, a past President of the PCNZA who had been on the initial Australia Private Perfin study group with Joe Purcell. It was Joe’s study that formed the basis of CPA in the late 1970’s. This device appears to show a tall VOCO pattern.



The perforator used to strike Perfin No VOCO.6 - a single head machine without manufacturer’s identity.

Now we are not certain of the location of the Fremantle device as it may have been used in the nearby Perth office in circa 1938 and later moved to Fremantle when use of all VOCO devices ceased in about 1962.

Note that the image of the device also has an image of the pattern and it is clearly a Type of VOCO.6.

The angle of the image makes it hard to tell, but the pattern from CPA has the same thin “O” and the same distinct locations of the “C” and the “o” as the image of the Fremantle (?) pattern above.

Oddly if the device was located in WA they didn’t seem to use it much. It seems to have been in working condition as it has possibly been used after it was withdrawn from service with the Company.

Located by Dr D A Pocock of Perth in the Fremantle offices of the Vacuum Oil Co

the company changed its name to Mobil Australia in about 1962 and all VOCO devices stopped being used at this time. Interestingly only the WA Office continued to use perfins, refer MOA.1.

Summary

One reason may be the fact that



Robert Samuel thought that the punctures on NZ revenues were applied to stamps from circa 1895 – 1910. If this was the case then this completely excludes the possibility that use of the VOCO.6 machine could be legitimate. The VOCO.6 device did not come into service until 1923, and this early Type was in Melbourne and it is dissimilar to the pattern found on New Zealand stamps. The most likely pattern/device used on the NZ Revenues is the Fremantle (?) device and this is not found used until at least 1938. Robert's suggestion that it was "per favour" is to suggest that it was by request, but this avoids the question of valid usage.

On the balance of evidence the usage of this VOCO device on the stamps of New Zealand is bogus and represents inappropriate use of a foreign perfin device.

Astoundingly, as a Club, we do not have a published policy on this, but it is a "no brainer". Using old devices on inappropriate stamp issues confuses our study and it should be identified and if possible, stopped.

## Perfin Exhibits at Hobart National Stamp Exhibition, Hobart 2016

*By Ross Ewington, Dave Elsmore and David Coath*

The Hobart Stamp Show 2016 was held at the Hobart Town Hall on the 18 – 20 November 2016. The event featured a National One Frame stamp and postcard exhibit.

There were two Perfin Exhibits as follows:

18 "Holey Problems, The Harris Scarfe Empire HS.4 perfin" (Traditional) by Gordon Monk which received a Large Silver (74 Points)

73 "The Private Perfins of Tattersalls Mail" by Greg Laidler (Traditional) which received a Gold (85 Points)

Gordon is a PCNZA Member and a regular Perfin exhibitor, but Greg is a Member of the Newcastle Philatelic Society.

Both exhibits can now be seen on the Perfin Exhibits Tab at [perfins.com.au](http://perfins.com.au), thanks to Greg and Gordon for sharing these.

Details about the Hobart Show can be found at: <http://www.hobartstampshow2016.com/>

This site is also worth viewing if only to see the inside of the Exhibit Room see below:



# The G/NSW Type A Punctures–Part 5– Forgeries on the KGV Issues

*By Tom Weir*

One can find many examples of forgeries and suspect examples of the various official punctures in the pages of the SPPB as well as Andersen (2007) and Scott and Toop (1993). These include OS Type F, OS Type G, OS Type H, OS/NSW Type B, OS/NSW Type C, OS/NSW Type D, VG (various heads), T, WA, G/NSW Type B and G/NSW Type C. But apart from the article by Taylor and Scott (2014), there seems to have been nothing published on these conditions for the G/NSW Type A puncture. Stamps with suspect punctures have been known for some time, but in the course of detailed study of this puncture, examples have come to light which have proven to be definite forgeries. For the first time these forgeries can be assessed against the 12 Dies as detailed in the first 2 parts in this series: Weir, Taylor and Coath (2015), and Weir (2016a). Here we will confine ourselves to forgeries of the G/NSW Type A puncture on KGV heads. Numbering and nomenclature of the puncture holes is as detailed in Weir 2016b. Stamps mentioned here come from the collections of Tom Weir, David Coath and Neale Scott.

Forgeries can be created either by using a fake die or by using a pin by pin approach, but unless there are multiple copies of each then it is often difficult to determine the method used. We can classify the forged or suspect punctures into those that are quite poorly done and obviously forgeries and those that are more cleverly done and could pass at first glance as genuine punctures.

Let us look at some in the first category first.



**Figure 1: Some very poor forgeries on KGV heads: Small Multi 13.5 x 12.5 (½ d, 1½ d, 3d) and C of A (5d) watermarks.**

The stamps in Fig. 1 are from Neale Scott's collection and were part of an Australian Official Perfin collection annotated in German, suggesting an overseas origin. The ½d and 5d were illustrated in the article by Taylor and Scott mentioned above and could only have been produced by a pin by pin method. As well as those shown in Fig. 1, there were a 2d Red Small Multi 13.5 x 12.5 and a 1½ d Brown C of A watermark, both with equally poor punctures. Here all of the letters of G/NSW are very poorly formed and show little relationship to genuine punctures.

Now let us look at some of the more cleverly produced forgeries.



**Figure 2: Forgeries on KGV heads 3d, 4d, 5d C of A watermark from David Coath's collection.**



Figure 3: Forgeries on KGV heads 3d, 4d, 5d C of A watermark from Tom Weir's collection.

The stamps in Figures 2 and 3 come from different sources and are in different collections, but show forgeries with similar characteristics. Here the N is poorly formed with N6 very close to N8 which is out of alignment, a position not found in genuine punctures. The G is variously formed with G12 in strange positions, and a lot of the holes are misshapen and roughly punctured. Further evidence can be found in the 3d and 5d stamps in Fig. 3. The 3d is from either position 7R6 or 8R60 which means it should be Die 12, but it looks like Die 2 or Die 6. The 5d is from position 3L7 which means it should be Die 1, but it also looks like Die 2 or Die 6.

All of these stamps are relatively common, so the question can be asked why bother to puncture these with bogus punctures? One can speculate that these are "practice stamps" for applying the punctures to less common items.



Figure 4: Forgeries on KGV heads 1d, 2d C of A watermark from Tom Weir's collection.

The stamps in Fig. 4 show the same characteristics as those in Figs 2 and 3. Further evidence of forgery can be found here in the 2d. It is from column 4, plate 2 which means it should be Die 10, but it looks like Die 8.



Figure 5: Forgeries on a block of 6 KGV heads C of A watermark, Plate 6: 32/33, 38/39, 44/45 from Tom Weir's collection.



**Figure 6: Genuine Dies 8 and 9 on KGV heads.**

The block of 6 x 1d green KGV heads C of A watermark shown in Fig. 5 is very interesting. It is from Plate 6 and shows positions 32/33, 38/39 and 44/45 and so should be punctured with Dies 8 and 9 of the G/NSW Type A puncture. But as you can see from the genuine punctures in Fig. 6, the punctures on the block of 6 are nothing like what they should be. Apart from the fact that they are not Die 8 or Die 9 punctures, the stamps in each column show slightly different punctures, whereas, if genuine they would be the same on each stamp in that column.

Now if we compare these punctures with those on the individual stamps in Figs 2 and 3, we see that the N and the G look the same. On closer examination we find that the punctures on the 3d blue in Figs 2 and 3 correspond to those on 6/39 in the block of 6. Similarly, those on the 4d Olive in Figs 2 and 3 correspond to those on 6/44 in the block of 6, and those on the 5d Brown in Figs 2 and 3 correspond to those on 6/45 in the block of 6. Does this indicate that these punctures were produced by a die? Maybe, but 12G differs slightly from stamp to stamp, so perhaps there were 2 dies used? This use of 2 dies is perhaps supported by the existence of the same "NSW" on suspect copies of the OS/NSW Type C puncture on various KGV heads, an example of which is shown in Fig. 7 below.



**Figure 7: Suspect OS/NSW Type C puncture on 3d KGV head single watermark from Tom Weir's collection.**



**Figure 8: Forgery on 5d KGV head C of A watermark from Tom Weir's collection.**

The perfin in the 5d KGV head shown in Fig. 8 does not match any of the known dies. It has a distorted G with misaligned holes, an N with crooked arms and misplaced N5 and N6, and a W with crooked arms and W5 and W7 are out of alignment with respect to each other. Also, the holes are very clean cut.



**Figure 9: Forgery on 4d KGV head Small Multi 13.5 x 12.5 watermark from Tom Weir's collection.**

At first glance, this 4d KGV head shown in Fig. 9 looks OK, but on closer examination it does not fit any of the known dies. Further, the postmark is AUG 1930, nearly 3 years before the G/NSW Type A puncture was introduced, and a close examination of the back shows the puncture 9G passing through the previously applied pencil mark. As in the 5d KGV head in Fig. 8, the holes are very clean cut.



**Figure 10: Forgery inverted on 5d KGV head C of A watermark from David Coath's collection**

Inverted punctures are rather rare with this G/NSW Type A puncture and the stamp shown in Fig.10 is the only example seen of a forged inverted puncture. It does not match any of the known dies. Here G6 is slightly misplaced, N9 is too close to N10 and misaligned, W4 is misaligned with respect to W1, W2 and W3, and W5 and W7 are out of alignment with respect to each other.



**Figure 11: Forgery on 1/4 KGV head Small Multi 13.5 x 12.5 watermark from Tom Weir's collection.**

The 1/4 KGV head shown in Fig. 11 has the G/NSW puncture produced in "pinhole" punctures which are very weak and indistinct from the front. These "pinhole" punctures could not have been produced by a genuine die and the finished product does not fit any of the known dies. The double puncture at 12G and the misplaced 1W are obvious errors. Also, the postmark suggests "Bradshaws Creek" in Tasmania, an unlikely place to have used a stamp with a G/NSW puncture. Further the 1/4 with this watermark is not recorded with this type of puncture.

Further suspect copies are known to the author, but these await further assessment. Any members with suspect copies in their collections are urged to contact the author so that an opinion can be given on their validity or otherwise and expand our knowledge of stamps with known forgeries.

This brings us to the end of this article on forgeries of the G/NSW Type A puncture on KGV heads. The next article will focus on forgeries of this puncture on stamps other than KGV heads.

#### REFERENCES:

- Andersen, D. 2007. *Australian Official Perfins, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*. Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia. 216pp.
- Scott, N and Toop, B. 1993. *Victorian Government Punctures 5<sup>th</sup> edition*. ISBN 0 646 15911 9 (Published by the authors).
- Taylor, A. and Scott, N. 2014. GNSW Type A – Forgeries from Europe (?). *South Pacific Perfin Bulletin* No. 105 April 2014.
- Weir, T., Taylor, A. and Coath, D. 2015. The GNSW Type A Punctures – Unravelling the Dies. *South Pacific Perfin Bulletin* No. 111 October 2015: pp 14–20.

Weir, T. 2016a. The GNSW Type A Punctures – Part 2: A 1:1 Ratio Assessment and Die Separation. *South Pacific Perfin Bulletin* No. 112 January 2016: pp 20–22.

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## The “F” Customised Patterns

*By David Coath*

As perfins come across my desk I immediately sort them between Customised and Temporary (Victorian Service Punctures) patterns. Then they go into envelopes by the primary letter. Every now and then I tip out an envelope and start sorting them into the individual patterns of that Letter group.

Last month it was the F Customised patterns that were tipped out and I had a couple of days of sorting, first looking for patterns that I did not have and then issues that I did not have with that pattern. I am always looking for clear postmarks as these can confirm the device location and provide evidence for early and late use.

At the same time I double and triple check the pattern and compare them to the pattern images. I am always looking for the possibility of variation that would suggest a multi die device or indeed a similar device from a different location. Such as was found in the VOCO.6 pattern by Ken Killen and John Mathews.

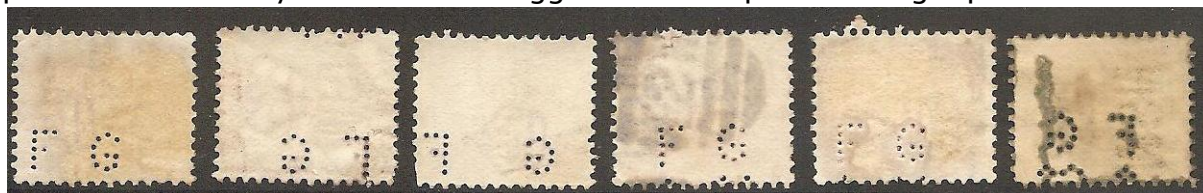
Overall the HAPP coverage of the “F” Customised patterns is very sound but there are a couple of reports which need some clarification and correction.

### FG.1

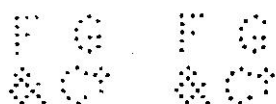
The FG.1 pattern is first reported in *Commercial Perfins of Australia* (1992) and stated to be found used on the postage stamps of NSW with a proven user as Farmers and Graziers Co – op Agency Ltd.

Oddly the pattern was not listed in the listing of the Private Perfins of NSW that formed part of the Australian Survey of Private Perfins that was issued with some of the early issues of the SPPB. The NSW listing was in SPPB # 5 of April 1988.

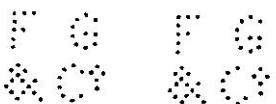
Now the pattern is certainly limited to the stamps of NSW, and it is also Rare, but it presents in a variety of forms that suggest that it is part of a larger pattern.



The first example on the left is a good clear strike but you will note that it is rather low on the stamp. The second example is slightly lower again and now it shows evidence of part of another strike at the top of the stamp that is not FG. The third example is again low but the F and the G appear to be from 2 related strikes, note the end of what would be an F is just visible in the right hand vertical line of perforations. The fourth, fifth and sixth examples are all struck higher on the stamp and reveal part of an “&Co” which suggests that the FG.1 report is most likely based on the partial strike of FG&CO.3.



Now FG&CO.3 is a multi die device. I have it as a 2x2 format based on the multiples that I have. The dies are all subtly different and this supports the 2x2 format. See image at left.



It is listed as Multi Die format in Appendix 4 of HAPP, page 37 “Multi-Die Perforators”, although the details there are sketchy and the Introduction date of 1897 and the intended Stamps as “WA s/w” is not correct for that device.

Given the images above it seems that FG.1 is only part of a strike from a multi die device as the vertical spacing in the Second image above and the horizontal spacing in the Third example above are all consistent with the spacing for the 2x2 FG&CO.3 device.

It is also interesting that FG.1 was “proved” to Famers and Graziers but FG&CO.3 is also proved to Feldheim, Gotthelf Ltd. I do not have Proving covers of either but The Australian National University (ANU) Archives list Farmers and Graziers Co - op Agency Ltd. as follows:

“The co-operative was registered in 16 July 1917 as Farmers & Settlers' Co-op Grain Company Ltd, and changed its name in 1919 to Farmers & Graziers Co-op Ltd.”

See: <http://archivescollection.anu.edu.au/index.php/farmers-grazcos-co-operative-limited-deposit>

Comparison of HAPP reported Farmers and Graziers patterns and my findings:

HAPP	My research
FG.1 Found on stamps of NSW - No date	Partial of FG&CO.3
FG.2 Found on stamps of Australia - 1935 - 1947	1936 - 1940
FG.3 Found on stamps of Australia - 1942 - 1948	1939 - 1948
FG.5 Found on stamps of Australia - 1913 - 1935	1924 - 1935

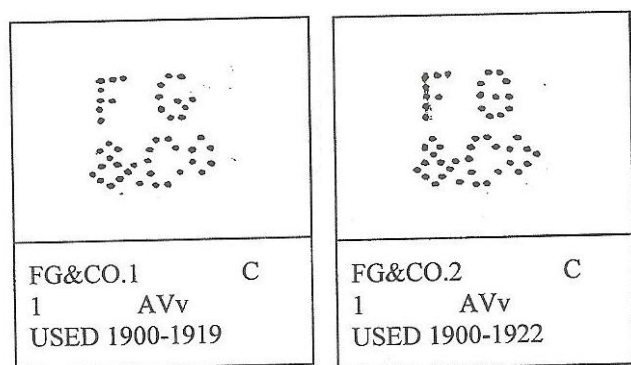
The case for FG.1 to be Farmers and Graziers is poor as the exclusive use on NSW stamps predates the establishment of the company (1917) and name change to Farmers and Graziers (1919).

The chronology of my findings is more logical if the devices are all in a single office and replacing each other.

The early usage for FG.5 at 1913 is something that I have noted in previous studies of pattern groups. It seems to date from CPA and is most likely an indication that the pattern in question was reported on Kangaroo stamps that were first issued in 1913. However it is not a very finite date as Kangaroo issues in different watermarks were current until 1948.

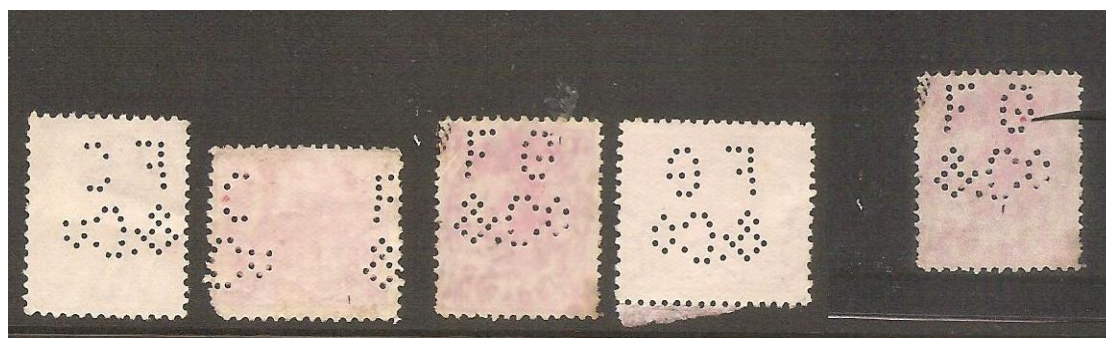
This supports the view that FG&CO.3 is correctly proved to Feldheim, Gotthelf Ltd.

FG&CO.1 and FG&CO.2



The two images on the left are the reference patterns as they appear in HAPP and as they appeared in CPA. The image above is my reference image taken from the examples that I have seen.

Now the FG&CO.1 and .2 patterns are not always clear and they sometimes look like this:



1

2

3

4

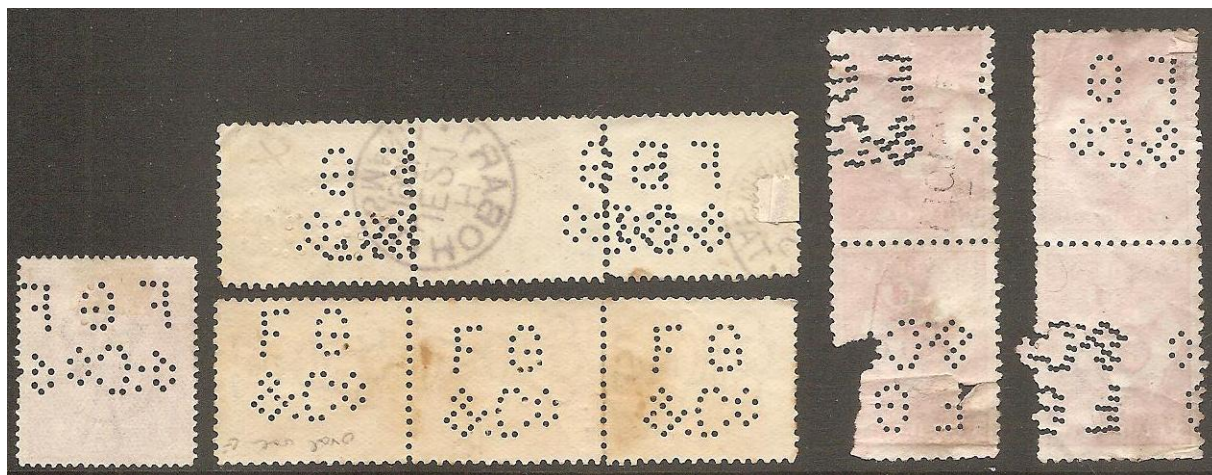
5

In images 1 and 2 you will note that the G can appear as a C, and further the G can sometimes be missing the central pin beneath the “tongue” of the G as shown in images 3 and 4.

In image 5 I have inserted in red a possible location for the missing central pin beneath the “tongue”. It creates a style of G that would be more familiar to G’s created by Temporary dies popular in Melbourne at the time, FG&CO.1 and .2 are Customised devices. This may explain the creation of the pattern FG&CO.1.

Frankly in the hundreds of these that I have seen I am yet to see a pattern that has the central pin of FG&CO.1 or one that has the extra pin to the right of the O in FG&CO.2. If someone has one then please share it with me and I will feature it in a future Bulletin.

Perhaps the device is a multi die device and that the variation that is being shown in FG&CO.1 and .2 is due to this. But the evidence of multiple strikes does not support the device being anything other than a single die device. See below.



On the balance of probabilities FG&CO.1 and .2 are best described as reports of the same pattern, unfortunately the poor images in both CPA and later in HAPP have not helped to clarify the situation.

FG&CO.2 is the best match to what I consider to be the true pattern.

## New Reports

*By David Coath, Greg Howard, Dave Elsmore, Lindsay Ballinger and John Amiet*



This is an interesting puncture that was shared by Dave Elsmore.

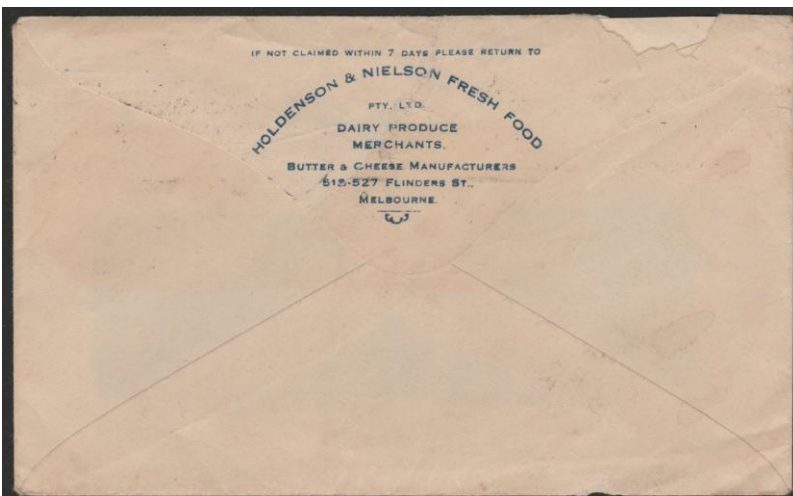
It is a Cancelling punch that also has an embossing cachet, in this case, “The Standard Insurance Coy Ltd”. There are a range of similar devices that were used by other Insurance companies, mainly in Brisbane, and including AMP, Mercantile Mutual, Insurance Office of Australia, Ocean Accident and Guarantee and Western Assurance.

The devices appear with a variety of punches including circular, rhomboid, and star and they are detailed in the “Private Revenue Perfins of Queensland” in the “Other” Section at the end of the Alphabetic listing.

They are not perfins as they are clearly applied once the stamp is affixed to the document but they have the appearance of perfins and share functional usage with other cancelling perfins that are covered in the Other section of the various State sections of the “Private Revenue Perfins of Australia”



This was shared by Greg Howard, it is a Proving cover for HN.12. HN.12 is essentially an example of HN.2 but the letters share the central vertical pins. HN.1 and H&N.1 were both confirmed to Holdenson & Nielson in HAPP Update #1 of October 2005.



Reduced reverse proving Holdenson & Nielson

With this Proving cover for HN.12 and the fact that the H&N and HN group are found on Victorian State issues, share Melbourne postmarks and have contiguous use from 1896 until 1930, it is reasonable to assign Holdenson & Nielson as the Provisional user for the group.



Postmarks are almost always Melbourne, which is consistent with Holdenson & Nielson's location in Flinders St.. The Prahran postmark suggested for HN.3 could be a miss report of partials of Strachan receiving marks such as these found on HN.2, HN.3 and H&N.1.

See left.

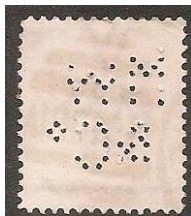
These Tasmanian receiving postmarks are a confusing part of Victorian Postal History and they impact onto the study of perfin of this period as they suggest that some Victorian patterns were used in Tasmania. This is not the case as the Post Office procedure was to deposit mail sorted for Tasmanian destinations with various Ships in Melbourne travelling to Tasmania. These articles were not necessarily postmarked in Melbourne and travelled

without postal markings and received postmarks on arrival at the destination port. Launceston, Hobart and Strahan and others are known.



This report from Greg Howard is a new pattern but more significantly it is a new letter combination. New patterns are seen from time to time but entirely new letter combinations are rare.

Now below Greg's report is a similar pattern from my collection that shows the same letter combination.



Both reports are on the "Stamp Duty" issues of Victoria and show Melbourne and Victorian postmarks which is consistent with the bulk of these Temporary patterns.

The question is who is MW&Co? If anyone has any thoughts then please share them and I will publish them in a future Bulletin.



Image above larger and image of document reduced.

Sydney... 31-8-1956

Received from MR. J TOFLER

by cheque 573029

two Pounds  
seven Shillings  
six Pence.

£ 2:7:6

GRAHAME BOOK COMPANY PTY. LTD.

Cashier... Ellen Heese

Name of Periodical BETTER HOMES & GARDENS New or Renewal  Gift Card

Subscriber's Name MR. J TOFLER

Address 6 COWPER ST  
BOTANY NSW

S 41472

This report from Dave Elsmore shows a new Pre cancel security overprint of "Grahame" for the Grahame Book Company Pty Ltd has been listed in the Alphabetic listing of these in the Revenue Perfins of NSW at the base of the "Other" Section at the end of the Alphabetic listing of perfins.

Notably it is on a 3d value on NSW Security Underprint paper which is a rarity in itself.



Another report from Greg Howard of a new pattern, this time JH&CO.

Also some examples from my collection. All show a new setting of this rare letter combination.

Manuscript, postmark and issues used suggest use in the late 1890's





Image of document reduced and image of stamp larger



Another report from Dave Elsmore this time an apparently ordinary Liverpool & London & Globe document but the special thing about it is a the pattern that has been applied to the revenue stamp that is attached to the document.

It is upside down but it is part of the Liverpool & London & Globe "blanket" device which in full read

L. & L.&G./INSURANCE/Co. Now this is quite early usage as 1907 is the earliest that is listed in Revenue Perfins of NSW although HAPP lists usage from 1903.

But it was previously unreported on this Queen Victoria issue. It is notable that the device was moved to Brisbane in about 1919 but the use in Brisbane is

much rarer and oddly it only produced strikes of the single word 'Insurance'.



It may be that the device was altered prior to its movement to Brisbane or that it was damaged in transit, or indeed that modifications were made in Brisbane. This 'Insurance' pattern is only found on the revenue stamps of Qld but may have been used on postage stamps as well, but this has not been reported. The usage is short lived and in about 1920 the Brisbane office started using the LLG.a (Queensland) device.



This report from Linsay Ballinger is of the NZ/IC.a (HAPP NZIC.4) on a Document but the enlarged view of the stamp clearly shows that it has been struck through the document.

This is odd as it means that the use of the perforator, in this instance, has not provided any security benefit to the user.

It is interesting that the document is from the Maryborough (Qld) office.

In the "Revenue Perfins of Queensland" we show similar usage of the pattern struck through the document and I have included images of two other examples here.



All of the examples of this procedure of puncturing the stamp through the document that we have seen carry evidence of processing in Maryborough (Qld).

If anyone has such examples from other Offices of the company then please share them.

### Auction Watch and New Reports

If you find anything new in your collection or see anything interesting listed in Philatelic Auctions, Club Circuits or even Ebay, take a scan or a copy and send it in for inclusion in the Bulletin.

## Auction Watch

By David Coath, John Amiet, Paul Wales, Andrew Murley, Murray Lawson, Max Melville and Dave Elsmore



The massive T multiple above was recently offered on ebay in the United Kingdom. There was strong bidding and the item ultimately sold for about \$200 (A). It is interesting to speculate on what the use of such a large multiple was.

The following are from the recent sale by Classic Stamps that featured some items from the collection of PCNZA Member Bill Register who passed away in 2016.

There were great items in the Classic Sale and far too many to list but I am thankful to Max Melville, Murray Lawson and particularly John Amiet who sent in such detailed listings of the various lots. I am also grateful to Paul Wales of Classic Stamps for allowing us to reproduce some of the items here.

See also: <http://www.classicstamps.co.nz/rhome1d.asp>



Described as "1880 Long Queen 6/- with "F. Bro/Ltd." security overprint (perfin). Not listed. Scarce."

It is actually listed in Samuel (Edition 2 - 2010) Page 80 although it is not recorded on this 6/- issue



Described as:"1880 Long Queen 8/- with "F. Bro/Ltd." security overprint (perfin). Not listed. Scarce."

Again this is actually listed in Samuel (Edition 2 - 2010) Page 80 and Samuel states that it is found on the 8/- Blue although it is an early manuscript cancel.



Described as: "Second Side Face 6d pair with "Massey Harris Company Limited" security overprint (perfin). Not listed. Very scarce."

This is an interesting items and could well be a Security overprint as the design is confined to the stamp.

Ideally such reports are best confirmed by strikes on pieces or documents that show the strike restricted and not carrying over onto the document.

When the strike is onto the document it is more likely a company cachet cancelling the revenue usage.

This is not listed in Samuel (Edition 2 - 2010)



Described as: "1900 Pictorial 6d with "Massey Harris Company Limited" security overprint (perfin). Not listed. Very scarce."

The company were perfin users in Australia so it is logical that they would adopt security measures for their use of revenue stamps in New Zealand.

Again it would be preferable if this usage was on piece or document.

This is not listed in Samuel (Edition 2 - 2010)



Described as: "1935 2d with "Levin & Co" security overprint (perfin). Not listed."

This is not listed in Samuel (Edition 2 - 2010) but its character and shape is more like a company cachet used to cancel a revenue stamps as it is not limited to the stamp.

It would need to be supported by an example found on a piece or document in which the rubber stamp was still limited to the stamp, proving that it was applied to the stamp prior to its use.

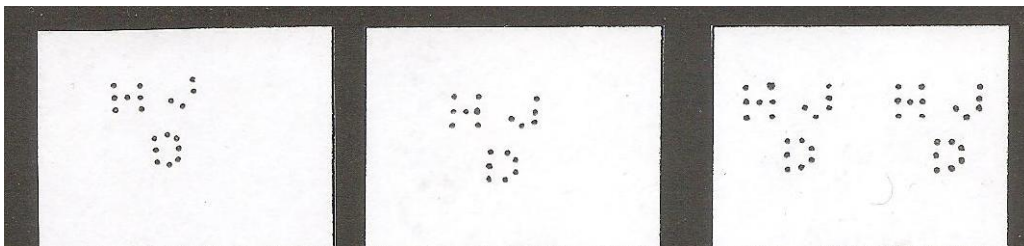


This HJD pattern was on ebay in late 2016 at the ridiculously high price of \$199 (US).

Now HJD is an interesting pattern and it is one of the few Australian patterns that are found on Postal Stationary.

This is HJD.2 which is stated to date from 1893 but this does look like it is carrying an 1891 postmark, but the image is unclear. You can tell it is HJD.2 by the rounded shape of the bottom of the D.

Now HAPP lists 2 HJD patterns, HJD.2 (1893) and HJD.1 (1893 - 1921) but in fact there are 3 HJD patterns and the confusion is not between this early example with its rounded B but with the other 2 patterns which are very close, they are HJD.2 and HJD.new.



HJD.2 1893

HJD.1 1899-1907

HJD New 1913-1919

Single die device

Single die device

2 die device, dies near identical

Check your HJD's and see if you can find what I have found.

These are rather similar patterns and I always find that it is best to tell these apart by overlaying them on the reference pattern but they have the following characteristics:

HJD.2 Rounded D almost like an O

HJD.1 The bottom of the J is flatter than .2 and new

HJD.new The bottom of the J is more rounded than .1 and .2

HJD.1 and .2 are both found on Postal Stationary but I am yet to see an example of HJD.new on Stationary.

Let me know what you find.

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