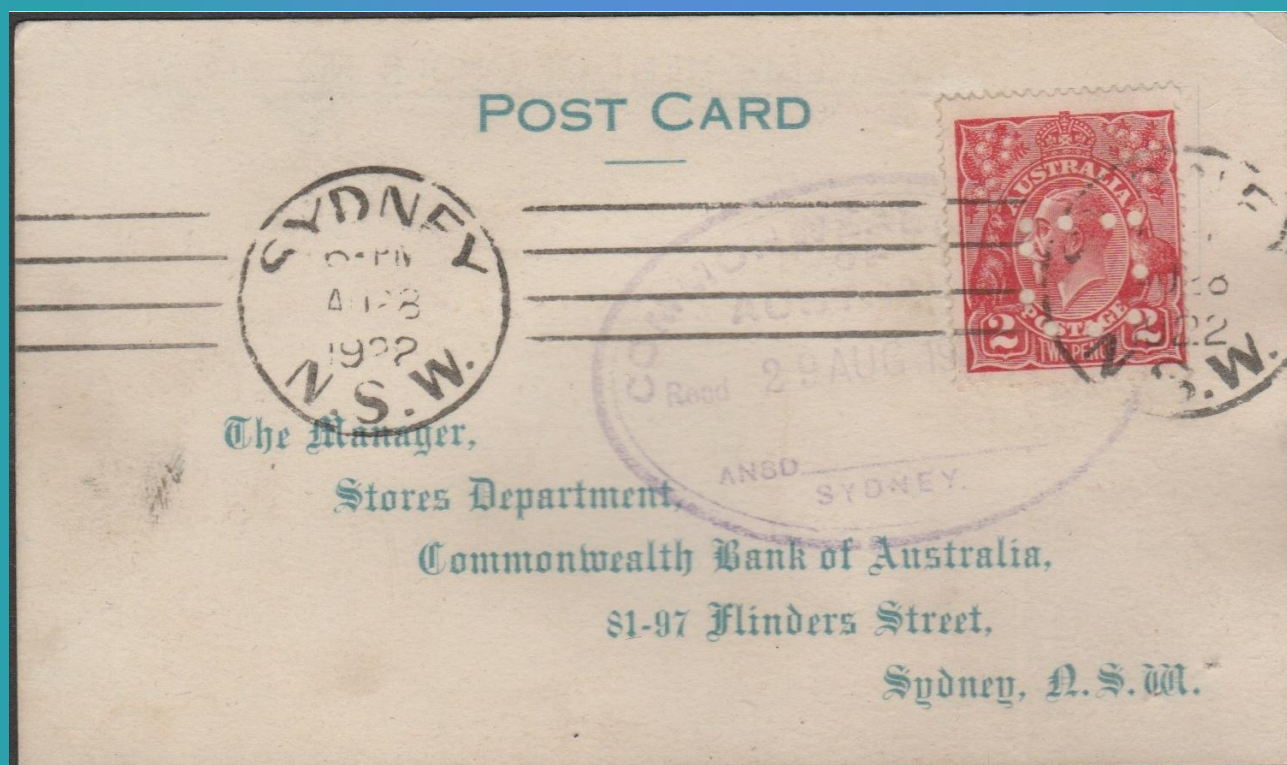


SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN



THE BULLETIN OF THE PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND
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No.119 OCTOBER 2017



FEATURE ARTICLES

- The VG Story continued
- TB Group of patterns and Temporary dies

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Committee

President: David Coath,
4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria, 3095, Australia
Email: davidcoath@onthe.net.au Telephone: 03 94370 366

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary & Editor: David Coath,
4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria, 3095, Australia
Email: davidcoath@onthe.net.au Telephone: 03 94370 366

Treasurer: Les Vincent,
PO Box 900, Warnambool, Victoria, 3280, Australia
Email: lesliejvincent@yahoo.com.au Telephone: 03 5561 7171

Assistant Treasurer (NZ): Richard Smolnicki,
19 Oakleigh Street, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt, 5010, New Zealand
Email: rsmolnicki@xtra.co.nz

Forgery Detection: John Graham,
135 Stuart Street, Toowoomba, Qld, 4350, Australia
Email: johngrah@ozemail.com.au

Auctioneer: Vacant

Circuit Manager (Aust): Greg Howard,
PO Box 31, Blackmans Bay, Tasmania, 7052, Australia
Email: dhow3371@bigpond.net.au Telephone: 0418 135 351

Circuit Manager (NZ): Ray Bennett,
PO Box 354, Timaru, 7940, New Zealand
Email: rayben@xtra.co.nz

Committee Member: John Mathews,
164 Dumas Street, McKellar, ACT, 2617, Australia
Email: John.Mathews@canberra.edu.au

Other Roles

Public Officer: Dan Ryan,
4 Plantation Avenue, Flagstaff Hill, SA, 5159, Australia
Email: danryan@ozemail.com.au

Perforator: Arthur Taylor,
19 Sundowner Avenue, Berrara, NSW, 2540, Australia
Telephone: 02 4441 2355

New Members

David Birchall (Sydney)
Alan Ross (Warnambool)

Editors Comment

By David Coath

Welcome to the SPPB #119. Once again it is running late, it was delayed by problems I had with my new Scanner, which was not allowing me to import 100% images to give 1:1 scale comparisons, that are essential in articles like the one by Brian Fuller and others on the TB Group. Just as it was coming together I managed to have a fall down some stairs and fracture my leg which required an operation. Special thanks to my brother Neil for organising the printing and my wife Cathy for helping getting the envelopes off to the Post Office and over to Ray Bennett for distribution in New Zealand and Overseas. It has been something of a journey, but we are here now and thanks for your patience.

I would like to thank Members who have sent postage to help defray our high mailing costs; they were John Amiet, David McNamee, John Tyson, Greg Howard, Les Vincent, John Mullavey and Arthur Taylor. Donations are made to me, Arthur Taylor and to Les Vincent (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.

This issue contains some interesting articles about Perforating devices in Australia and I am indebted to Brian Fuller for making his devices available to me to photograph. Now my photography is about as good as my handwriting, so for my visit to Brian's I brought along my wife Cathy who is an excellent photographer. Cathy generally takes photos of flowers for her Camellia Society, but she turned her hand to Perforating devices for the day.

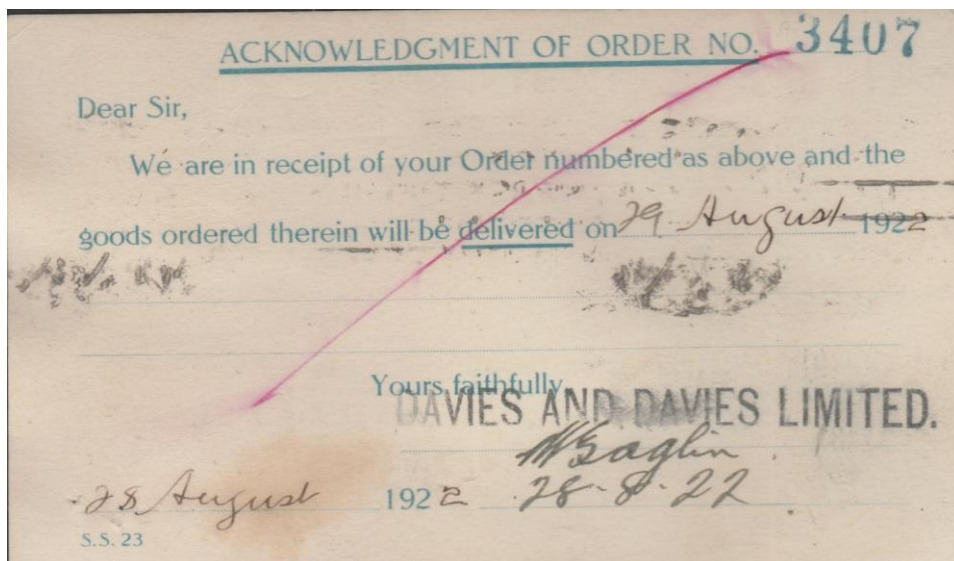
While talking about Perforating devices, if you know of any, then I would appreciate a colour photograph so that we can share them with Members. Try to get a couple of angles to show the head and base if you can. These are rare "beasts" and I would expect that just a handful still exist, so please share what you know about them.

Furthermore in this issue there is another article on new VG finds by Jason Rowe and as always if you have any thoughts or feedback please, do not hesitate to share them with me.

Front Cover

By Greg Howard, Ross Ewington and David Coath

The front cover item is something from a recent Tasmanian Stamp Auctions in July 2017. It was purchased by Greg Howard for just \$42.



These Stores Department order forms are not uncommon but this one is special as it proves a new user. See image of reverse at left.

The user is Davies and Davies Limited who were the NSW Ford Car and Truck Agents and located at 112 - 114 Hunter St, Sydney. For more details on the company see Jenny

O'Donnell's excellent company history on page 4.

The importance of this find is that it confirms the user for D.6, but it also allows us to clarify another "Reported but not seen". In Commercial Perfins of Australia (Grant Mathews 1992) there was a listing for D.4 with a confirmed user as Davies and Davies Limited but no pattern image. This suggests that a proving cover was reliably reported, but that no pattern image was available. D.6 was reported in HAPP (Mathews 2003) but with no known user.

Now the D's are an odd group: D.1 (Melbourne 1920–21), D.2 (Melbourne Pre1913), D.3 (Melbourne C 1920), D.4 (Reported but not seen – Sydney no usage period) D.5 (No reported location C 1948), D.6 (Sydney 1922 – 24), D.7 (Melbourne C 1918) and finally D.8 (unknown but similar in scale and style to D.1, .2, .3, .7 which are all Melbourne).

So, we have D.4 and D.6 as, most likely, the only Sydney D's. Both now proved to Davies and Davies Limited but D.4 without an image. Given the short period of existence for the company, 1920 – 25 (see History below), and usage of the D.6 device restricted to 1922 – 24, it would seem most likely that D.4 and D.6 are reports of the same pattern. But if you have anything to add to this, then please share it.

Davies & Davies Limited – History

By Jenny O'Donnell

Davies & Fehon first appear in the records in 1893, as timber importers, importers, exporters, manufacturers and shipping agents, located at 16 Barrack Street, Sydney. The business moved to 4 Bridge Street in 1899.

Davies & Fehon (“the house of D. & F.”) of 4 Bridge Street, Sydney, became a limited liability company in August, 1903. The company advertised as “Importers, Exporters & Shipping Agents – ship owners, charterers, coal exporters, timber merchants and operators in American and foreign merchandise”.

Unfortunately, the identities of neither Davies nor Fehon have been established.

By 1904, Davies & Fehon Ltd were operating from 58 (later 60) Margaret Street (the wharf area). By 1910, the company was also conducting business at 375 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, and advertising as Australian representatives of Crossman & Sielcken and The Fairbanks Co., both of New York, and Ford Motor Co., USA and Canada.

By October, 1910, Davies & Fehon Ltd had a motor department at 133–137 Castlereagh Street, Sydney, while retaining the Margaret Street address from which in 1911 they advertised as sole agents of Renault of Paris.

From late 1911, Davies & Fehon Motors Ltd did business from 112–114 Hunter Street, still advertising under that name until mid–1921. In early 1920 however, William David Davies, “late of Davies & Fehon, Sydney, and McDonald Brothers, Crookwell,” took on the motor car distributorship business.

In about 1914, Captain Lewis Davies (d. 1936), a shipowner, formerly of Liverpool, arrived in Sydney. His relationship to the original Mr Davies is unknown. His sons, Arthur Henry Davies and Lewis James Davies became partners in the firm of Davies and Fehon, the latter son ultimately retiring to the Channel Islands.

Davies & Fehon Ltd continued to trade, as “wholesale and retail timber merchants” from Hill Street, Pyrmont, the shipping side of the original business being retained, operating until late 1940.

In April, 1920, the company of Davies and Davies Ltd with capital of £200,000 in £1 shares was formed, with the registered office in Sydney. The objects of the company were: “To carry on the business of importers, exporters, manufacturers of and dealers in motor cars, and other vehicles, and generally to carry on the business of common carriers”. The first directors were Lewis James Davies and Arthur Henry Davies.

Davies and Davies Ltd proceeded to establish dealerships all over New South Wales, and also ventured into setting up “service and repair” stations.

In November, 1923, Motorterminals Ltd was registered with £10,000 in £1 shares. Two of the four directors were Arthur Henry Davies and Lewis James Davies. The last reference to Davies and Davies Ltd is in June, 1925.

A note from the Circuit Manager (Australia)

By Greg Howard

Just a reminder too anyone interested in joining the PCNZA Circuit.

If you want to receive a few Circuit books then contact me at:

Email: dhow3371@bigpond.net.au,

Post: PO BOX 31, Blackmans Bay, TAS, 7052, Phone: 0418135351 virtually anytime

However, if you do choose to join then you will have to agree to and abide by, the Procedures that we now have in place involving sending on Circuit Books via Express Post (with Signature on delivery).

It is helpful if you tell me about your collecting interests as this allows me to tailor books to the Circuit you are on. Cheers, Greg.

Club Auction – Part 2 Closed

By David Coath

The 2017 Auction had over 800 lots and Part 1 saw over 350 lots sold, to about 30 bidders, and now Part 2 has closed with a further 200 lots sold. These lots have been sent to the successful bidders and congratulations to all the winning bidders, well done.

The remaining lots will be reviewed by Vendors and some may form part of the 2018 Auction which is planned to be run with the April 2018 Bulletin.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Members for making the effort to share their spare material with other Members, and for the all the bidders, well done.

Remember all material is offered by Members and the Auction is only open to bids from Members. So, you must be a current Financial Member to participate. 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.

If you have any material that you would like to make available in the next Auction please send it to me and I will put it aside.

Send them to: David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria, 3095, Australia. Please email me first or give me a telephone call to let me know what is coming. Email: davidcoath@onthe.net.au Telephone: 03 94370 366. If there are items of any value then I would recommend that you Register them. I am happy to help with lotting and suggesting reserves, but if you wish to do this then that is fine.

Toowpex 2017

By Bob Littlehales

This event turned out to be a great weekend with over 500 attending over the two days. They came from everywhere, including the UK, from interstate (mainly NSW) and lots from SE Queensland. There were representatives from at least 15 Philatelic Clubs plus the Queensland Philatelic Council (QPC) in attendance during both days.

I would think that QPC would be very happy with the response to the first occasion on which an event such as this has been held outside Brisbane. The level of interest shown by the visiting public in the displays was very satisfying and the Exhibitors and Judges did a marvellous job.

It would appear that the Dealers all had a pretty good time, (based upon the width of their grins), but equally feedback from collectors was positive.

The souvenir covers were very popular. These covers and the postmark design artwork were done by Craig Chappell and the outcome is very attractive and portrays two of Toowoomba's landmark buildings very well.

Those that missed out and are interested in obtaining some of the Souvenir covers will have to act very quickly by contacting me on bob_benny@bigpond.com or at PO Box 7414, Toowoomba, Qld, 4350. They are \$9 a day or \$15 for the 2 days.

Our bargain table, Auction (conducted by Craig Chappell) and Australia Post stand were all well attended, and the celebratory dinner at the City Golf Club was a great night.

Like any event, we rely heavily on the support of our major sponsors – Toowoomba Regional Council and Heritage Bank, as well as a host of other supporters, mostly local business houses the local media.

The greatest accolade needs to go to the large number of Members, friends and colleagues in other clubs who gave freely of their time prior to the event and during the event to allow us to regard the outcome of “TOOWPEX 2017” to be a resounding success for Toowoomba.

A great weekend overall and I appreciate the PCNZA helping to promote the event through this Bulletin.

Upcoming Article

By David Coath

In the last Bulletin I foreshadowed an important article on the OSNSW pattern group. The article is being prepared by John Graham and the PCNZA Forgery Detection Sub Committee, along with, Bob Littlehales, David Andersen, Tom Weir and especially Andrew Johnston.

The article will centre on the pattern group of the OSNSW Type C, OS Type I and the elusive OSNSW Type D.

The entire project is made possible by Andrew Johnston's generosity in sharing images and information about some of his rare OSNSW Type D patterns.

However, the article has been delayed and is now slated for the April 2018 Bulletin. Trust me it will be worth the wait.

PCNZA – Subscription Notice 2017/18

By Les Vincent

Please note my new email address Email: lesliejvincent@yahoo.com.au

Subscriptions for your PCNZA Membership for the 2017/18 financial year are now overdue. Individual Subscription notices were issued with the April Bulletin and follow ups made in the July Bulletin, so if you have not responded to these then your Membership has lapsed.

The Club is very marginal on finances and the Subscriptions do not cover the cost of the production and distribution of the Bulletin. These are cross subsidised by the activities of the Circuit, the Auction and the generosity of some Members donating postage.

In some special circumstances with Members of long standing, the grace period for payment has been extended to include receiving this Bulletin. If so there will be a note about this in your Bulletin.

If you receive such a note then I would recommend that you act promptly and make payment via the following options:

1/ Bank details PCNZA BSB 633108 A/c 151735909

2/ PayPal address PCNZATREASURER@GMAIL.COM

3/ Send your cheque payable to PCNZA, C/- Treasurer, PO Box 900, Warrnambool, Vic, 3280

“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 over 20 Members, so come and join in the fun. All PCNZA Members are welcome.

New Site “Commercial Security Overprints of Australia”

By Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

The Commercial Security Overprints of the various States and the Commonwealth of Australia, had been located at the end of the “Other” Section in the various State chapters of the Revenue Perfins of Australia.

This made them rather hard to find, so Dave Elsmore has built a new site entitled, the “Commercial Security Overprints of Australia” and it can be found here:

<http://www.perfins.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfins/oz-precancels-index.html>

Alternately you can search for it or access it via either Dave’s Revenue and Railway site:

ozrevenues.com or perfins.com.au

We have welcomed Greg Howard to the team working on the site and its contents, as he has a knack of finding new reports in this interesting, challenging and growing field of study. In fact, Greg, Dave and John Amiet have been so busy since the last Bulletin that there are more New Reports than can be listed in this Bulletin.

I recommend that you check out the site and if you have any new reports then please forward them to Dave Elsmore dave@ozrevenues.com or Greg Howard dhow3371@bigpond.net.au .

The VG Perforator – Ernie Blake

By David Coath, Jason Rowe and Arthur Taylor

Next issue we will develop this more with images of an old printing machine owned by Member Edgar Bartrop, which has a base frame similar to the frame of the VG perforator.

This would suggest that this part of the device could be an adaptation of an old printing machine. But more on this next issue with photos of Edgar’s device and a special set of photos of Ernie Blake, who was featured in SPPB #59. Ernie was at onetime Foreman at the Security Printing Branch, which was home to the VG Perforator at the Government Printing office.

I catch up with both Ernie and Edgar at a local Charity Stamp Fair held 4 times a year, but I was not able to attend the October event, so I will move this to the January Bulletin.

Election of Committee Members

By David Coath

As stated in our By Laws (Section 4) the Election of Committee Members will occur at two year intervals and will follow the following process:

Call for Nominations in October Bulletin.

If there is only one nominee for each Committee position then they will be accepted and notified in the January Bulletin. Subject to the nominee accepting the nomination. Existing Committee Members are free to nominate.

If there is more than one nominee for a given position then this will necessitate an Election for that position. In this case a Voting Form will be issued in the January Bulletin with Voting closing within 60 days of the issuing of that Bulletin. Results will be notified in the April Bulletin.

The Committee positions are as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 7 general Committee Members.

If you wish to Nominate a Member or yourself for a position then please advise David Coath by 31 December 2017. However due to the lateness of this notification the period will be extended to 31 January 2018.

Note Nominations, nominees and voting is restricted to current financial Members.

New VG Perfins – Fabulous Finds

By Jason Rowe

As mentioned in the last edition SPPB 118, the development of the internet has opened up the world to all philatelists. In my last article we looked at unlisted and rare finds found within Australia, but in this article, we will focus on items found from around the world.

Internet based auctions like eBay and Delcampe, to name a couple, can be a collector's paradise and, more often than not, you can pick up gems cheaply.

We now have easy access to public philatelic auctions from around the world and not to mention the 1000s of stamp dealer based websites that offer a multitude of material.

As we all know sending any type of mail to a different country can be an expensive task, and the period of usage of the VG perfins was no exception.

While the domestic letter rate issues are fairly common, within Australia, it was necessary to use the rarer high value dominations for overseas mail.

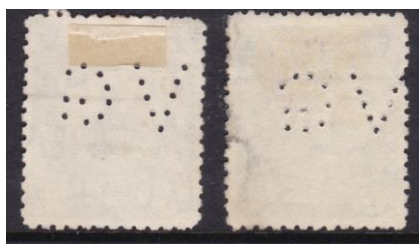


Fig 1 & 2

1935 1/- Black 20th anniversary Gallipoli VG Perf position "A" 2nd Head Die 2 and Die 7 not listed in 1993 Scott and Toop and the only copy's seen to date.

Both eBay finds from different parts of the world, the Die 2 was listed with a page of high value used Australian from a seller in Hong Kong and the Die 7 was offered up from a seller in New York, once again on a page of used stamps



Fig 3 & 4

1948-49 10/ Robes thin paper VG Perf

Found on UK eBay and listed amongst a used set of Robes this stamp showing 2 strikes of the 2nd head Die 2 position A and partial position B Die 2 not listed.

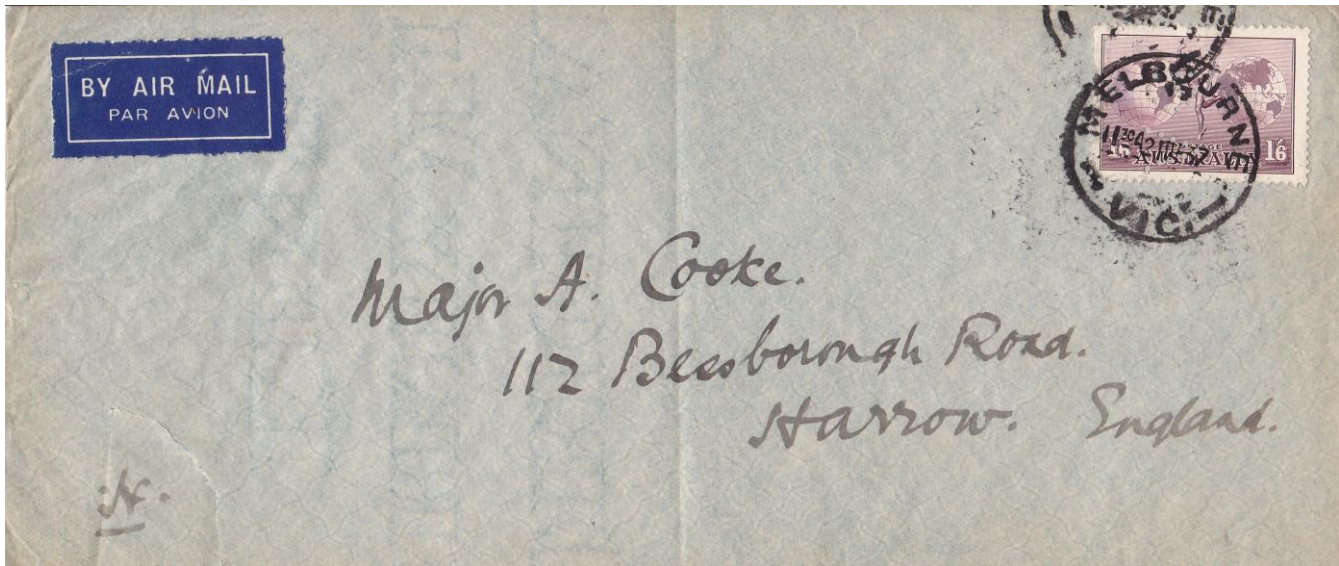


Fig 5 & 6

1937-39 1/6 Hermes Airmail thick paper VG Perf Cover

Another UK eBay find 2nd head VG Position "G" Die 2 and the only Hermes I have found on cover.

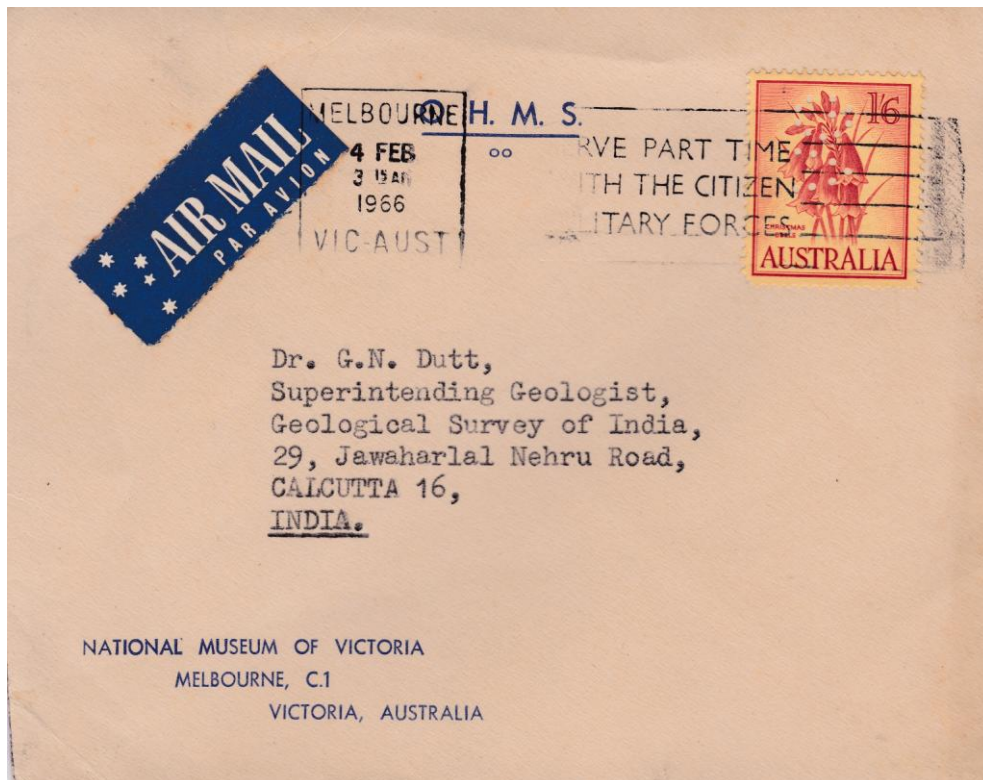


Fig 6

1960 1/6 Red - yellow Christmas Bells OHMS VG Perf Cover from the National Museum of Victoria.

While not rated rare, this is a 1966 usage 3rd head position "G" cover to India and is the only one I have seen.

This item was listed up on Delcampe with 2 other common Australian non-perfin covers and before the time of PayPal.

I bid the princely sum of \$15, but unbeknown to me the Indian sellers only method of payment

was Western Union money transfer.

I would not recommend paying for anything online with the favoured method of online scammers, but I took a punt and was pleasantly surprised when the above item turned up.

Fig7 & Fig 8 1959 2/3 Green-Yellow Wattle OHMS VG Perf Covers

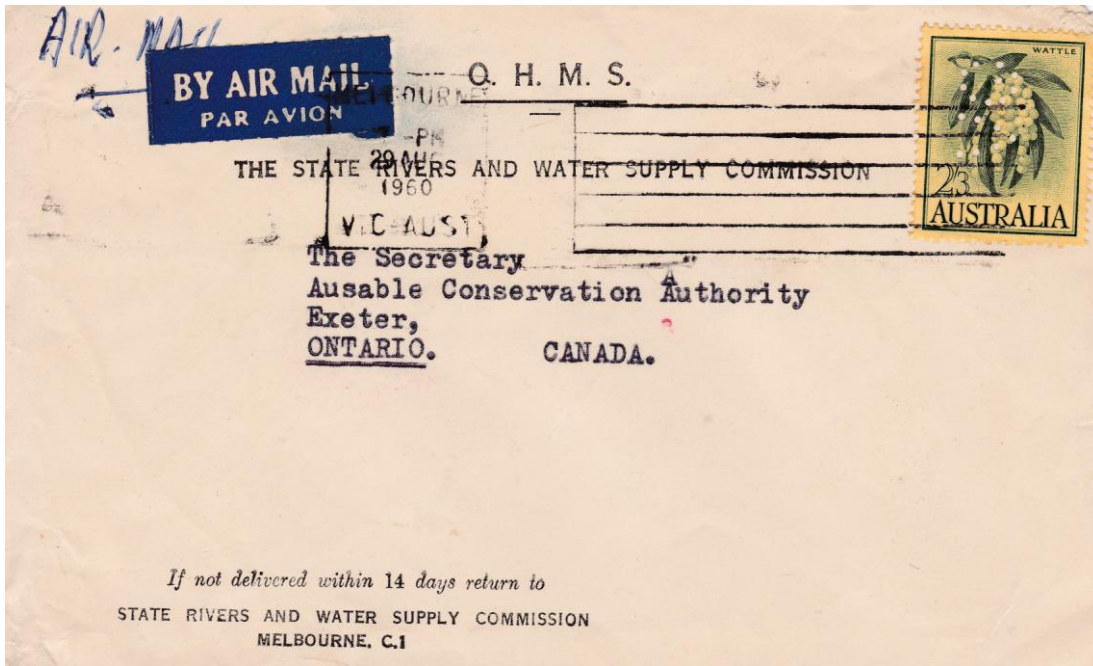
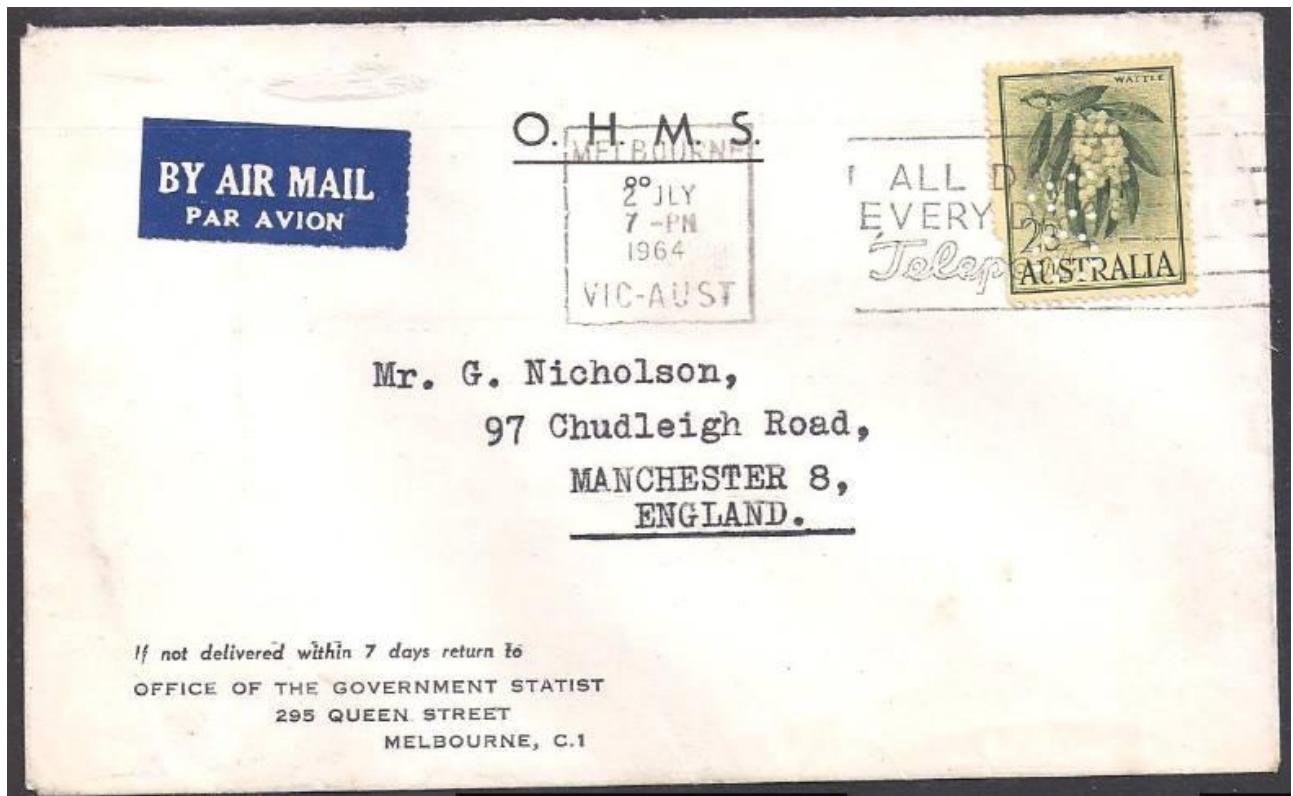


Fig 7, 1964 usage 3rd head position "E" to England from the Government Statist, was offered up on eBay for a few dollars before making the trip back to Australia from Manchester.

Fig 8, 1960 usage 3rd head position "G" to Canada from the State Rivers and Water was posted up on the Australian Perfin Facebook page by Member David Anderson.



Both of these 1959 2/3 Green-Yellow Wattle OHMS VG Perfins are Rare off paper and to see 2 on cover that have travelled to different parts of the world is an amazing treat.

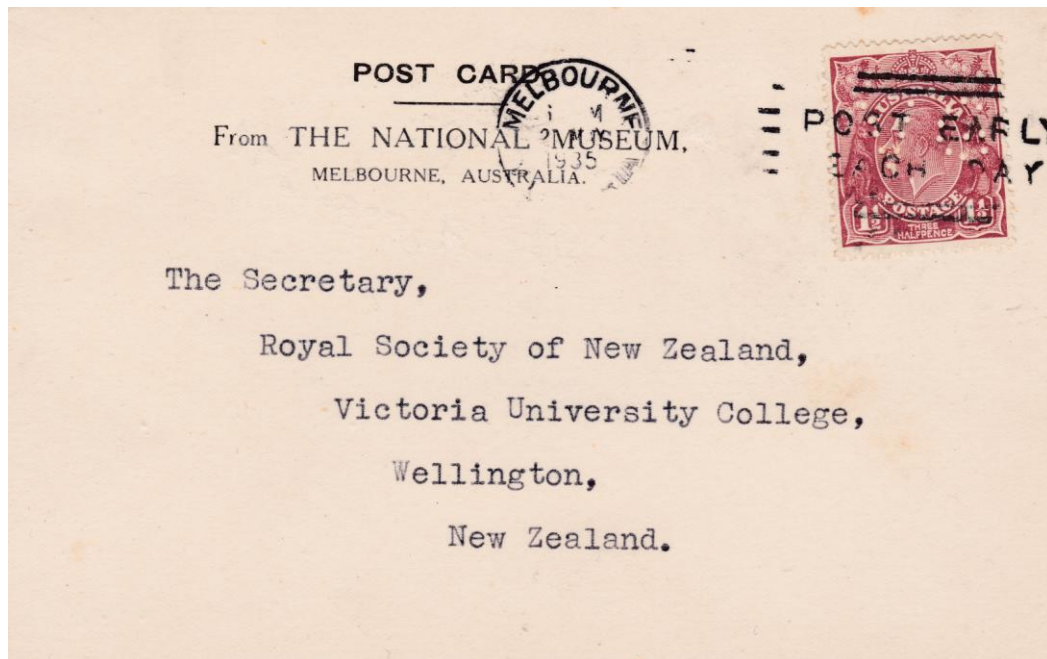


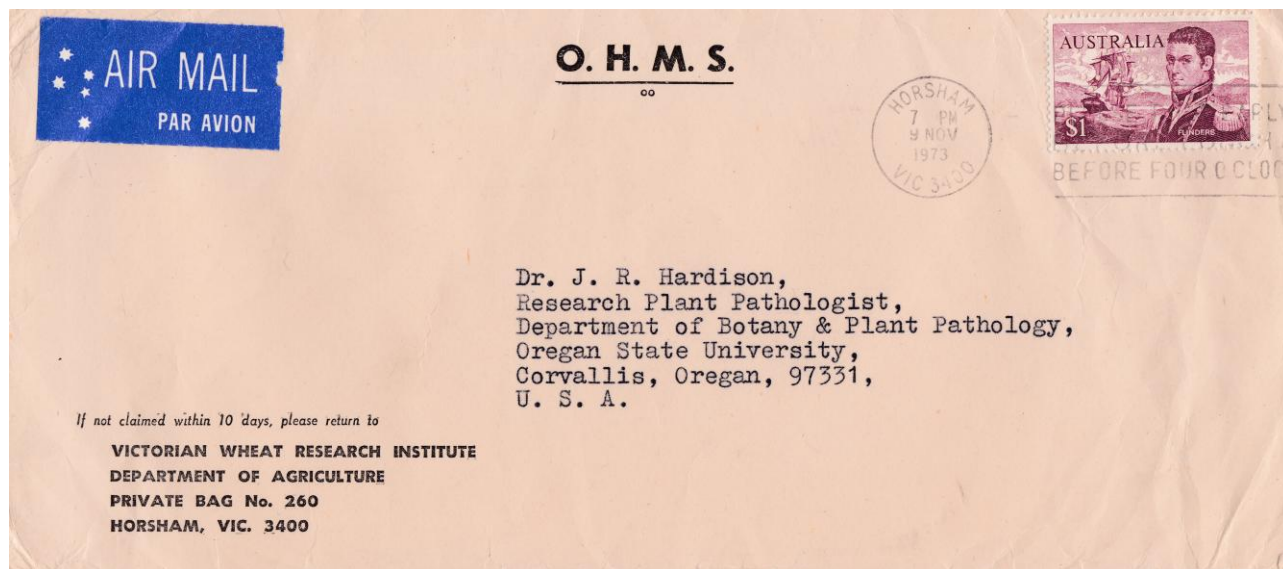
Fig 9 1931 KGV
COA 1 1/2
Brown 2nd head
Die 2 from the
National
Museum

This one was found on a New Zealand dealers website 1935 usage once again an elusive stamp off cover.

Fig 10 1966 \$1 Flinders OHMS VG Perf Cover from the Victorian Wheat Research Institute to the USA

1973 is late usage showing the 3rd head position "A" which is common for Government perfins. This item was offered up on eBay with some frenzied bidding. Sometimes perfin collecting can cross over to other collecting fields like in this case, as any \$1 Flinders solo on cover is a rare find.

As such the only cover showing the 3rd head position "A"



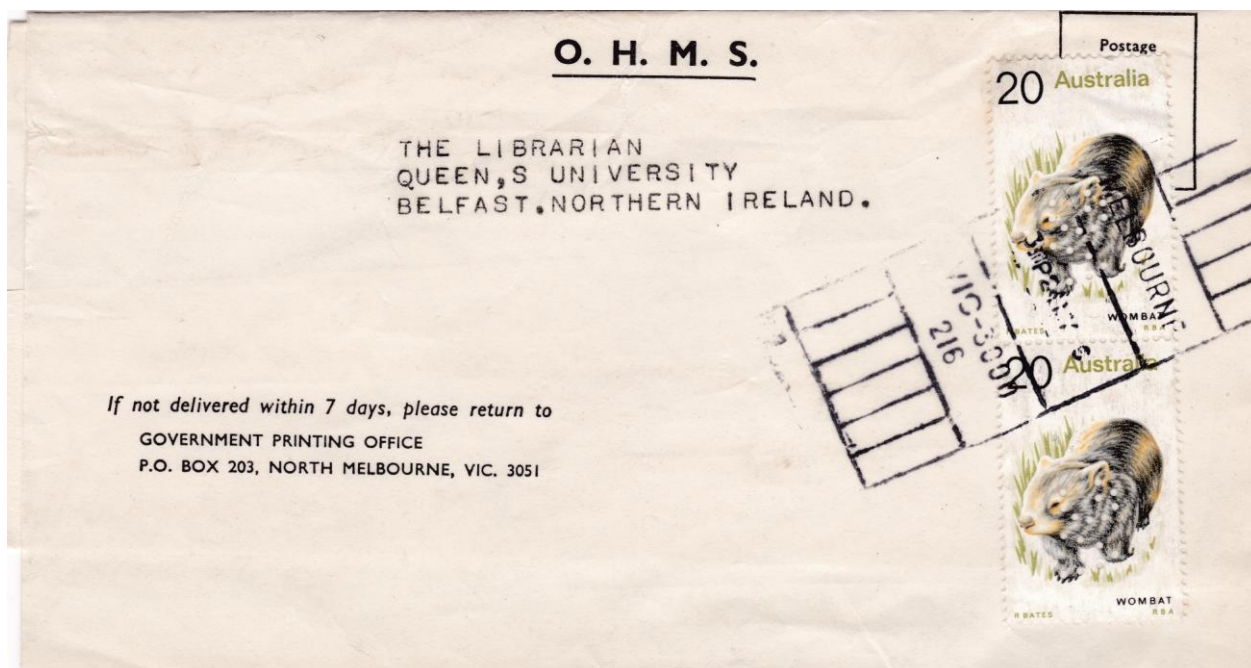
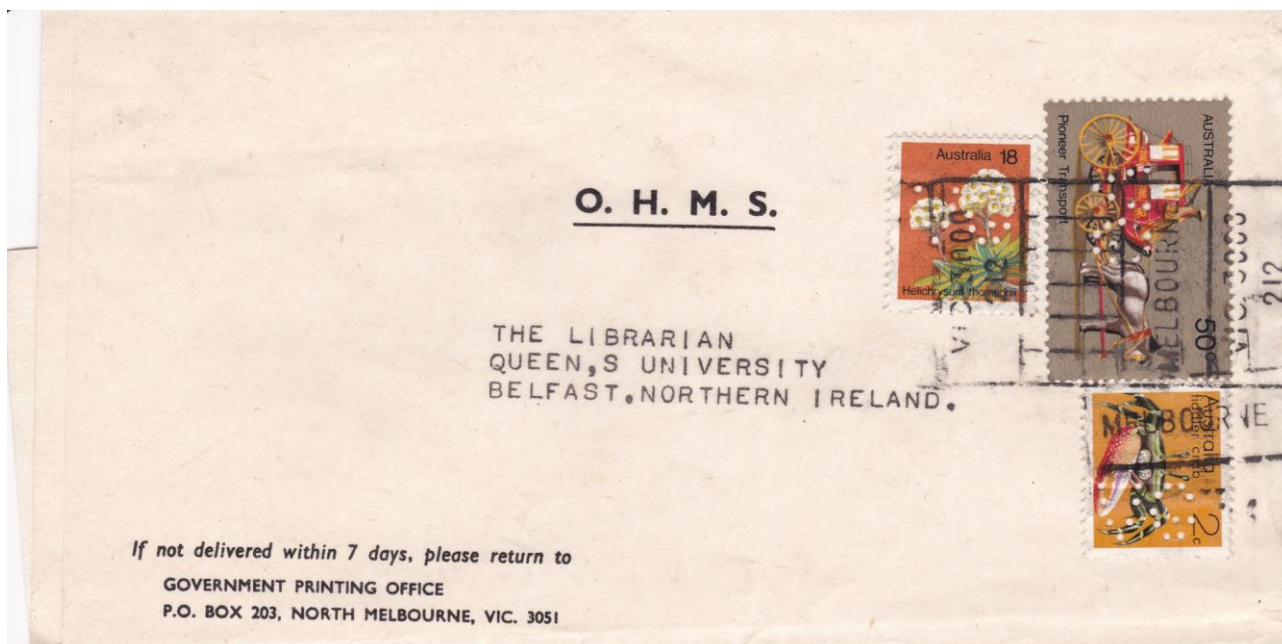
Enlarged image on left as the pattern is indistinct on the reduced image above.

Fig 11 & 12 (see Page 12)

While not rare in the 3rd head VG perfin usage the unusual destination and the fact they survived is amazing.

2 journal wrappers from the Government Printing Office to Ireland another eBay offering making its way back to Australia

Searching the web can sometimes be time consuming but rewarding with a little effort I am sure there are plenty of new finds yet to be seen.



Following up from the last article, Member Brian Fuller presented me with a previously unlisted 1986 \$1 orchid 4th head position "A". An amazing rarity and goes to show that there are still many things yet to be found.

Note: If you are interested in collecting VG's or have some new reports or questions then you should get in touch with Jason.

He can be contacted by email on: Jason Rowe buddahboy10@live.com or by mail at: Jason Rowe, 53 North Sands Drive, Redbank Plains, Qld, 4301.

The TB Perforator

By Brian Fuller, David Coath, Greg Howard and Arthur Taylor

Introduction

I was at a Stamp Fair the other week and I spotted fellow PCNZA Member Brian Fuller, to be more accurate, I heard Brian, as you generally hear his laugh and good natured banter over the general hubbub of any room he is in.



As always talk turned to perfins and Brian reminded me that I had not visited his house to see his perforators, as I had promised. So, we agreed to get together and as a taster Brian promised to send me some photos, which he duly did.

When I visited Brian, I brought along my wife Cathy and her Digital SLR camera. A wise move as my photography is as good as my handwriting.

Brian, pictured left, is showing the TB.2 device, which is the subject of this article. Note that he is just about to pull the punch head down and this movement is forward, which is unlike many perforating devices that have been recorded, but that is only a small part of what this device tells us about the TB patterns, but more importantly what it tells us about the many Temporary patterns found on Victorian and later Commonwealth stamps used in Victoria.

Previous Reports

Now this is not the first article about the TB patterns or indeed this very special device. In SPPB #10 (January 1990) David Andersen and Bryan Toop wrote a short article about the relationship between the patterns that would be later listed as, TB.1 and TB.2. Later in SPPB #12 (July 1990) David Andersen did an update with input provided by Ivor Stockwell, Derek Pocock and John Mathews. This article built a chronology and list of issues that are found with these patterns and introduced the pattern that was later listed in Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) as TB.4.

In SPPB #22 (Jan 1993) David Andersen, with additional information from Brian Magee and Bryan Toop, showed examples of TB.1- .4 as well as the patterns that would be listed in the Handbook of Private Perfins (John Mathews 2003 – HAPP) as TB.5 and .6.

At this time, David rightly identified these patterns and the variety that he had seen, as being Victorian Service Punctures, the term that was used in CPA to describe the Temporary punctures that were created in Melbourne, mainly around the period 1895 – 1920, and later.

Catalogue listings and Updates

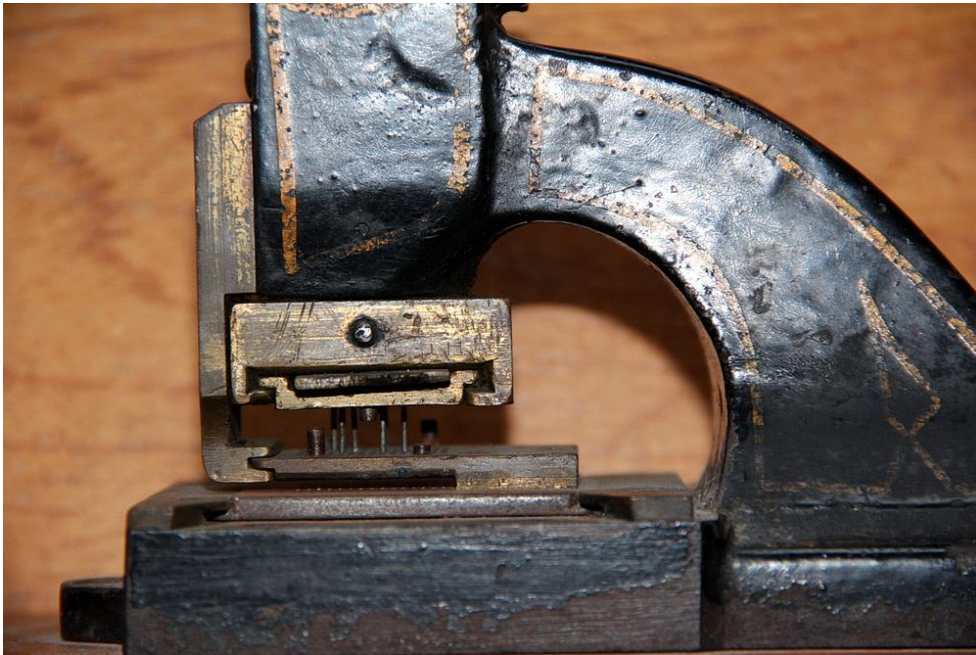
These TB's were listed in Commercial Perfins of Australia (Grant/ Mathews 1992 – CPA) as TB.1 – .4 and these were confirmed or provisionally assigned to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board. This listing was expanded in HAPP to be TB.1 – .8, but only TB.1 and .2 were assigned to Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board.

In the Update #1 of HAPP in October 2005, TB.4 and .8 were confirmed to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board and now given the similar layout of the other TB's, they can all be provisionally assigned to the same user.

Because the TB is seen as an Official Pattern it is also included in Australian Official Perfins (David Andersen Edition 2 2007 – AOP). Pages 185 – 197. David gives some excellent background on the TB group. Frankly even if you only collect Australian Private Perfins, then you will still get value from this book, and at just \$25 for Members it is great value for money.

The Device in detail

Around January 2000 John Mathews visited Brian Fuller and they produced an excellent article on this device which included an accurate drawing of the device, similar to this image at left.



Furthermore they provided a precise description of the device, See SPPB #48 of January 2000, pages 4 -5.

Unfortunately, the black and white image of the device was not able to show all the aspects described.

Most importantly John described the sliding assembly - ,____, - See left, which carries a grid of pin locations that is matched against

the Base plate (15 x 12) of identical pin locations, and this is shown in the image of Brian's below.

John surmised, and I believe correctly, that the - ,____, - tray could be slid out and pins fitted into the tray/grid, in any manner desired, consistent with the grid.

These pins, would have had flat heads so that they did not fall into the device and they would be held in place by the metal "slug" that was placed in above the - ,____, - tray.

Now this device could not have performed like a conventional customised device, that tended to have hollow pins that removed chips from the target stamp. The pins on this TB device are thinner and solid and would have more likely displaced paper in their path, producing a thinner and less regular hole.

This is entirely consistent with what we find in the Victorian Service Punctures, see Page 27 of CPA.



In fact, with respect to this device, John Mathews noted in the concluding paragraphs of his January 2000 article, that about 60 of the 180 holes had evidence of paper waste in them, indicating that the device had been used to create other patterns, most likely the other TB patterns, but possibly others as well.

Now this is an important observation as it supports the theory I offer at the conclusion of the Chronology of the TB Group.

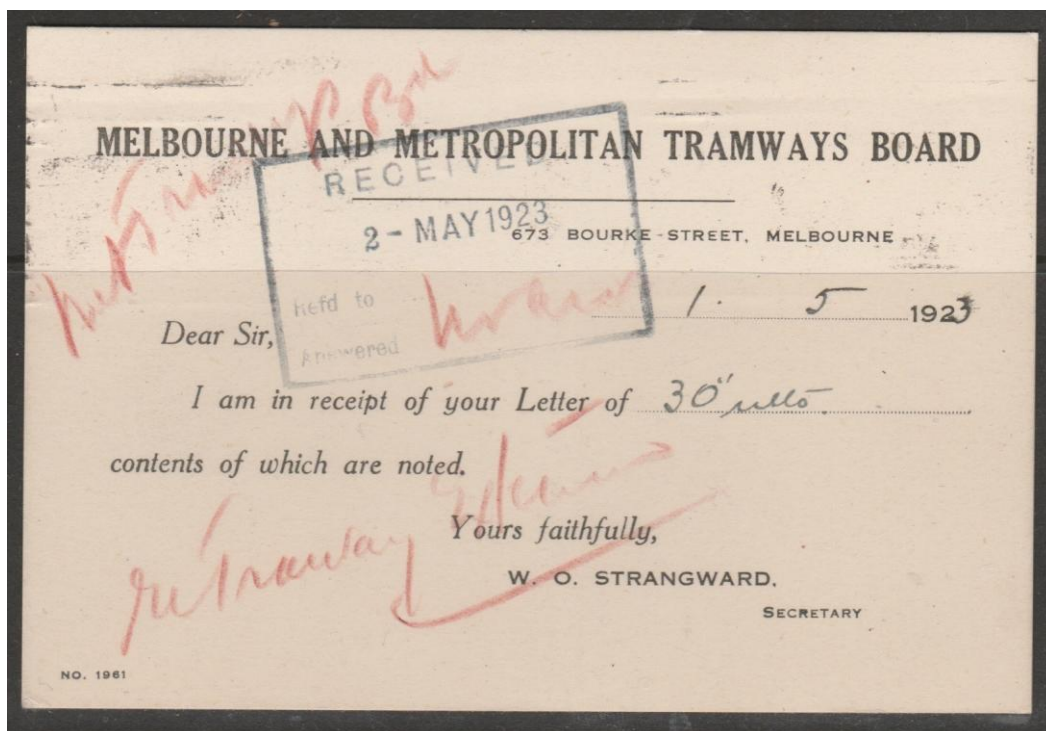
This (left) is Brian's photo which he has cleverly achieved by removing the device from its wooden base so that he can get his camera closer to the punch head. This clearly shows the base plate with its grid of holes. Note the tray, which has the same grid of holes and also the metal "slug", which from this angle is more clearly just something that is pushed in above the tray to lock in the pins in the tray. As you can see it does not slide in so far as to be flush as it would then be harder to remove.

Now this "slug" can no longer move in and out on top of the tray, as it may have done. This may have been deliberately done to lock the pattern in place, or it may be the result of the fact that it and the associated pins have been in place for almost 90 years (since about 1930) and have been pressed together in the act of making hundreds of thousands of TB impressions.

Proving the TB Patterns



This TB.4 cover is from Greg Howard and the reverse confirms the user as Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board with 1923 usage.



The reverse of Greg's cover showing the address as 673 Bourke St.

According to Heritage Victoria the MMTW Board occupied 673 Bourke St from 1891 until the new Headquarters was built at 616 Little Collins St in 1937.

616 Little Collins St is located to the rear of 673

Bourke St. So your records for this user should show all the TB patterns as confirmed (TB.1, .2, .4 and .8) to 673 Bourke St with a note for TB.2 (from 1937, 616 Little Collins St.

The other patterns (TB.3, .5, .6 and .7) should be provisionally assigned to MMTW Board and all at the 673 Bourke St address.

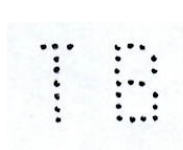
The Chronology of the TB pattern group

Now it is very difficult to build a true chronology of a pattern group and indeed it is much more difficult to do so with Temporary devices, such as the one that seems to have produced the TB group.

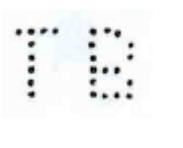
The reason is that a setting created at one time can be recreated at a future time, either intentionally or indeed by chance.

One thing that helps us with this group is that the trend is generally for the patterns over time to have less pins. We start with TB.7 in about 1913 (?) and its TB of 9/18 pins respectively and we move up to about 1919 with the larger TB's before the arrival of the medium sized TB's of TB.3 (9/13) and TB.4 (initially 7/13 and later 5/13) before we arrive at the smaller TB's, TB.8, then TB.1 and finally TB.2 with just (4/5).

In my images below, I have included a couple of unlisted TB's. I would be confident that there are more to be reported and I would be happy to accept any scans of patterns and clear postmarks that may improve this chronology.



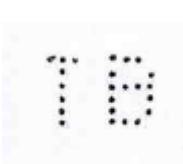
TB.7 is stated in HAPP to be found 1913–16. The later use is supported by it being found on this 1d Red KGV. Pins 9T + 18B



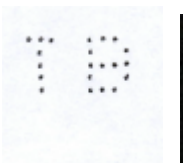
TB.6 No usage period is reported but this 1d Red KGV carries a WWI postmark so 1916–18 is a reasonable estimate. Pins 9T + 16B



TB.5 HAPP usage is stated as 1916 but this 1d Red KGV carries a clear 1919 postmark. 2 types are reported so one may be 1916 and the other (this one 1919). Pins 8T + 16B



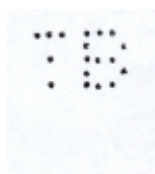
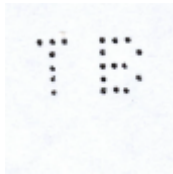
TB.new Has many similarities with TB.5. Pins 8T + 16B



TB.new Similar to TB.4 but predates it. This 1 1/2d Black Brown KGV Single watermark dates from November 1918 and the postmark appears to be for January 1919. Pins 7T + 14B

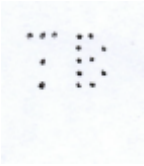


TB.3 Again similar to TB.4 but with more pins in the T. This 1 1/2d Red KGV Single watermark was issued in 1924. HAPP usage is 1926 and 3 types noted in Update #1. Pins 9T + 13B

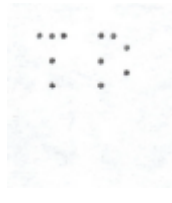


TB.4 HAPP usage is 1921 (amended from 1922 in Update #2) - 1930. There are types with different spacing and less pins in the T, oddly these types with 5 and 7 pin T's overlap from 1921 until

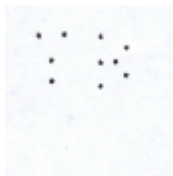
this 1 1/2d Red KGV with a Small Multi watermark Perf 14 (C 1926). Pins 7T + 13B, and 5T + 13B.



TB.8 HAPP usage states 1922 (amended from 1924 in Update #1) - 1927. Again, these come in types with 5 and 7 pin T's, but as with TB.4 the B is generally consistent. I have one type with 2 less pins in the B and it dates from 1927/8 as it is on a 1 1/2d Red KGV with a Small Multi Watermark P13 1/2.



There appears to be a transitional type somewhat like TB.2 but it could just be a missing variety. Pins 7T + 10B, and 5T + 10B.



TB.1 HAPP usage is stated as 1924 - 1931 which is close. I have one from 1923, plus this example shown used in 1931.

Pins generally 4T + 8B.



TB.2 has a reported usage in HAPP of 1932 - 1984. Oddly I have one with a 1926 postmark, but this could be a transient variation of the contemporary TB.1 but with a dropped pin. This possible anomaly aside my examples support the HAPP usage of 1932 - 1984. However, a later report is found in Australian Official Perfin (AOP) to be the 33c Leafy Sea Dragon which was issued in March 1985.

Conclusion about Chronology

Un SPPB #95 of October 2011 I wrote an article entitled, "When is a Service Puncture not a Service Puncture - IHC.3". I wrote (pages 6-8) that International Harvester used a handful of IHC and IHC Logo perfin devices in their offices in Perth, Launceston, Sydney and Adelaide, but in Melbourne they used a dizzying array of IHC Logo Service punctures. In fact there are now more than 40 reported used between the period 1913 - 1920, but mostly prior to 1915.

In 1915 IHC.3 arrived and other Service punctures became less common. What is more the IHC.3 pattern, although having very similar characteristics to a Service Puncture, remained in service until about 1946, well outside the Service Puncture period. I made the case that one way to explain this was that the Stamp Vendor sold one of their Service Puncture devices to International Harvester, with a particular pin setting (IHC.3) and that the company continued to use it until it was replaced.

Now the TB story is quite similar, there is a period of variation from about 1913 until around 1932 with much overlap of different patterns and types, but when TB.2 arrives then there is consistency until 1985.

Now with IHC.3 I could not be certain that the device used was in fact a Service Puncture device, but that is not the case with the TB.2. Brian's device shows all the hallmarks of being a Service Puncture device and yet it is known to have produced a consistent, albeit simple, pattern for a period of 53 years.

Now it is possible that the device was purchased in about 1913 and that initially the Administrative staff at the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board elected to change the setting of the punch head from time to time. But as shown from the IHC example, there is no need for this, as the user and the letter combinations do not need to change. Certainly there is a trend for the pattern to be simpler over time. This could be due to lost or broken pins not being able to be replaced, but it could also be that the Stamp vendor who was possibly using the device was making his job easier, we may never know.

What we do know is that it was a Service Puncture type device, that was confirmed to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board and that after an initial period of variation, 1913 –1932 it became consistent for an extended period.

Arguably it could have been sold to the Tramways Board at anytime but most likely the handover happened in about 1931–2 when the TB.1 and TB.2 became the consistent pattern.

But your collections could hold the key to this story by providing clarifications and corrections to the Chronology, so please share what you have and I will provide updates in future Bulletins.

Brian's Theory on the Device

Brian writes in an email that he sent with the photos prior to my visit:

"I mechanically stripped what I thought was reasonable and do not want to go any further.

As the MMTB was a Government agency I suspect it could have been made for them and punched them all TB subject to eventually broken pins (that are not obvious) but the original grids could have come from anything that was dismembered/laying around by the manufacturer, who is not identifiable on the perforator. Have to check and see the earliest date of TB. That might discount a lot of other perfin.

What I did the other day whilst waiting for you was take the perforator off the base plate and photograph the underside and the side. These are attached. The protruding grey plate has the pins attached and are forced down through a guide (same grid as bottom) to the grid underneath that the punch fits into.

The front of the perforator grid is to the left side of the photos. Plenty of paper in some holes but as it could have pressed anything over the "previous" life. Hence in punching more white paper, if the pushed through confetti is analysed, it might show if they are stamp paper or whatever. I think John also did that with one or two holes and was inconclusive. "

Brian added in a later email when I explained what I thought about the structure of the device after my visit. He wrote this is a conversational style but I have included it here as it offers an alternative view to what I have suggested about the device. Brian wrote:

"The protruding grey plate (what I, David, call the locating "slug") has the pins attached and are forced down through a guide (same grid as bottom) to the grid underneath that the punch fits into. The pins are flat headed. I believe that "the tray" actually has the pins spot/arc welded to it into predrilled holes from the back and the guide is just that. The VG head is probably of that ilk.

Those "through pins" will allow the head to be disassembled but for many reasons this is not likely to occur. One stuff-up and all is lost.

I have a little problem with your theory. It is a mongrel to operate (by lifting up) and if you have a large volume of stamps to puncture you will be there all day and need plenty

of patience too. The lever down action is more preferable so maybe TB/TD was a "prototype", being decorative etc. and to the Government, and was changed for general/multi head later etc. Pity there is no name plate etc.. Earliest date for TB might be enlightening.

A second perforator. PCNZA perforator is probably built along the lines I suggested. John Amiet has one too? Maybe others.

I have no idea how many TB/TD stamps are out there and did not ask those questions or get any records at the time (hindsight is wonderful). I did get from their drawer was a few 5c blue Queen perfined and a few not. The analysis of the paper is a lead I think may help us eventually. I do not know if all stamp papers are the same for the Victorian and pre decimal period or what. I do not know any forensic people likely to be predisposed to helping us and pro bono either.

Anyway fingers crossed and maybe some soul will answer our dreams."

Comments on Brian's view

Brian's view is supported by much of what we know. The absence of a manufacturers plate is odd and suggests that it could be just a prototype. Indeed organisations like the MMTB had engineering and manufacturing resources of their own and may have actually built the device themselves. This would seem a rather wasteful process as the finish on the device suggests that some parts have been cast and the use of a die once is odd in itself. They certainly had the resources to amend a device.

The "slug", as I call it, may not be removable and may have been fixed in place to make the pattern permanent. Without the ability to remove the slug or the tray we cannot know if the pins have been welded into place.

Brian is also right that the action of the device is rather odd (pulling forward rather than back) and that it would have been a laborious process to puncture a large number of stamps as the MMTB seemed to have needed. Despite this they seem to have persisted with the device and unlike other Government and Semi Government Departments, they did not seem to move to a multi die device. It would be interesting to see if any Members have multiples of the TB.2 pattern as these may show consistent separation between strikes which would be evidence to support the use of such a multi die device.

Brian says that when he picked up the device that he got out of the drawer some 5c Blue QE2 (C1967) , some perforated and some not. It is odd that a device used until 1985 would be co located with stamps from 1967. This is further evidence that there may be a second, possibly multi die device.

Conclusion

Brian has an acquired a unique piece of Perfin History, something that may give an insight into the Victorian Service Punctures that are such a large part of the collecting of Australian Private Perfins.

Brian, thanks for sharing it and thanks to Greg and Arthur for some of the pattern information that has been used in this article.

Next Issue we will look at Brian's GAS device.

Tell us your email address

By Les Vincent

As Treasurer, I am trying to build a list of Members emails. A comprehensive list of Members emails would allow quicker correspondence with Members and allow scanned receipts and emailed follow up on Subscriptions.

So, drop me an email on: lesliejvincent@yahoo.com.au (note this is a new email address) or note down your email address when you are sending in your Subscription payment.

Thanks , Les.

Audited Financial Statements for 2016/17

By Les Vincent , Richard Smolniki, John Graham and Greg Howard

These have now being reviewed and approved by Buckley Business Solutions of Essendon (Melbourne) and the detailed report will be included in the January Bulletin.

Members Wants

By Robert Dedecker and Jamie Davidson

Robert Dedecker, a Member in France and the Author of the French Perfin Catalogue, is looking for a French Perfin cover sent to Australia. If anyone has one that they want to sell, then contact Robert via email at dedeckerr@yahoo.fr or by mail at Robert Dedecker, 4 Les Gerioles, 60520 PONTARME, FRANCE.

Jamie Davidson is interested in collecting Kangaroos with the following patterns:

- a. 5/- Large OS, any condition.
- b. 5/- Perf GNSW Type A (CofA wmk)
- c. 6d Brown GNSW Type B (Small Multi wmk)
- d. Any 10/-, £1 or £2 VG in any condition.
- e. Any 5/- Roo with a private perfin

Jamie can be contacted at: ttangles2@yahoo.com.au or by letter at PO Box 200, Bathurst, NSW, 2795.

News from the GB Society

By David Coath and Dave Elsmore

I received a letter the other day from Colin Leigh from Melbourne. He collects Malaya and States and this includes the Perfins of the various component States, Malaya, Malaysia and indeed Singapore.

I have an envelope of my desk for Colin and I send him any Perfins from this area that cross my desk. He sends me World perfins in return.

In the letter Colin advised me of some recently updated Catalogues that can be found on the GB Perfin Society website at: <http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/> Click on via the "Publications" tab in the list on left hand side of the Main page.

The publications are not new but they have been updated by the energetic Jeff Turnbull who has done so much great work on GB Revenue perfins. They are:

- The Perfins Stamps of India
- The Perfins of the Indian States, Burma, Pakistan and Nepal
- The Perfin Revenue Stamps of India and States
- The Perfin Stamps of Malaya
- The Perfin Stamps of Ceylon and Sri Lanka

Jeff has refreshed these, added new pattern reports, a host of colour images and improved the layout and made them available in a PDF format.

It is great work by Jeff and builds on the firm foundations of the original authors Albert Ellis, Magnus Werner and Peter Griffen.

On a related matter Dave Elsmore sent me a link to a new site covering the many Commercial Overprints found on GB stamps and it can be found at:

<http://commercialoverprints.com/>

The site has been put together by Mark Matlach and it is easy to navigate and wonderfully informative.

New Reports

By David Coath, Greg Howard, Keith Small, and John Amiet



A rare report of BW&CO.1 that had previously been reported on Revenue stamps of NSW. This report from Greg Howard.

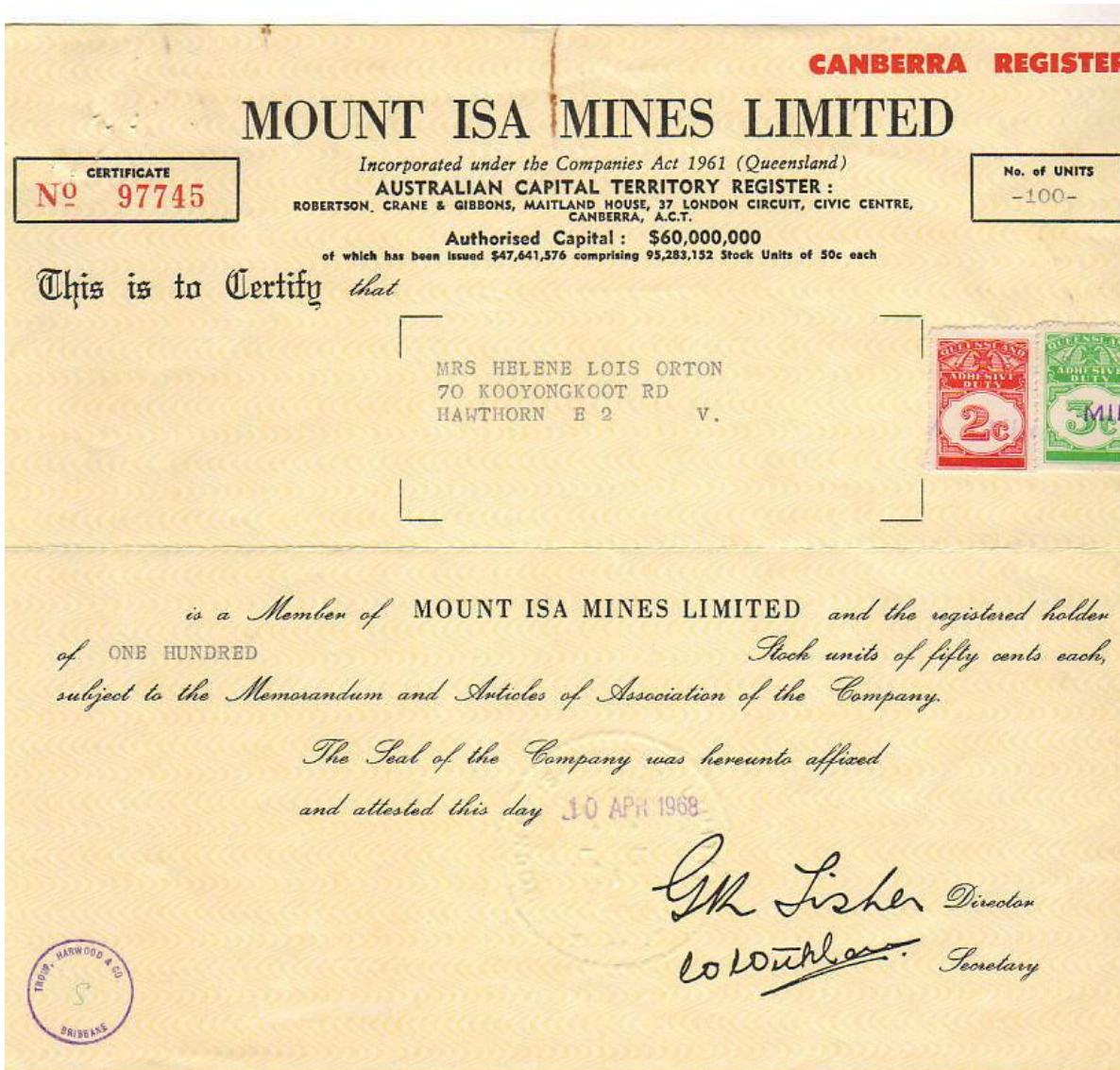
The image now appears on the website for the Revenue Perfins of NSW



This "MYER/EMPORIUM/(SA)/LTD" was reported by Greg Howard and adds to the great variation of MYER Security Overprints that are found mainly on the Revenue stamps of Victoria.

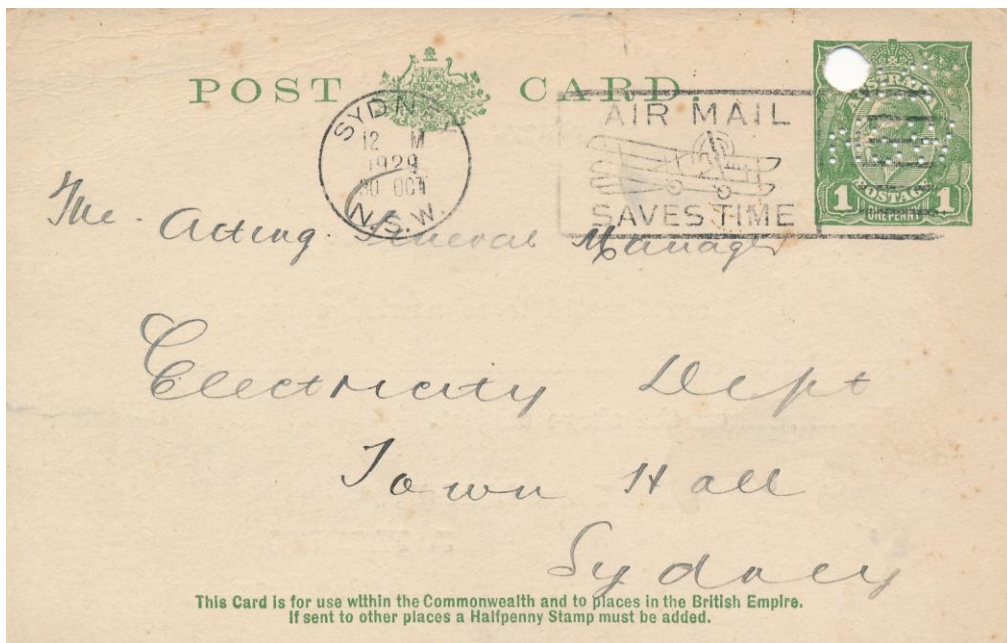
Many of these are Store specific, so perhaps there are more to be found from some of the smaller stores. Non Melbourne Stores include Geelong, Ballarat, and Chadstone.

This is the third security overprint reported on SA revenue stamps for this user. They are more common on the issue of Victoria were they tend to be in a pre printed format, rather than these rubber stamp examples found in South Australia. See "Commercial Security Overprints of Australia" for more details.



jatw

Greg Howard found this Share Register for "Mount Isa Mines", which carries two Decimal Queensland revenues with a security overprint MIM, note it is very faint on the 2 cent Red. It has been added to the "Commercial Security Overprints of Australia." Image reduced.

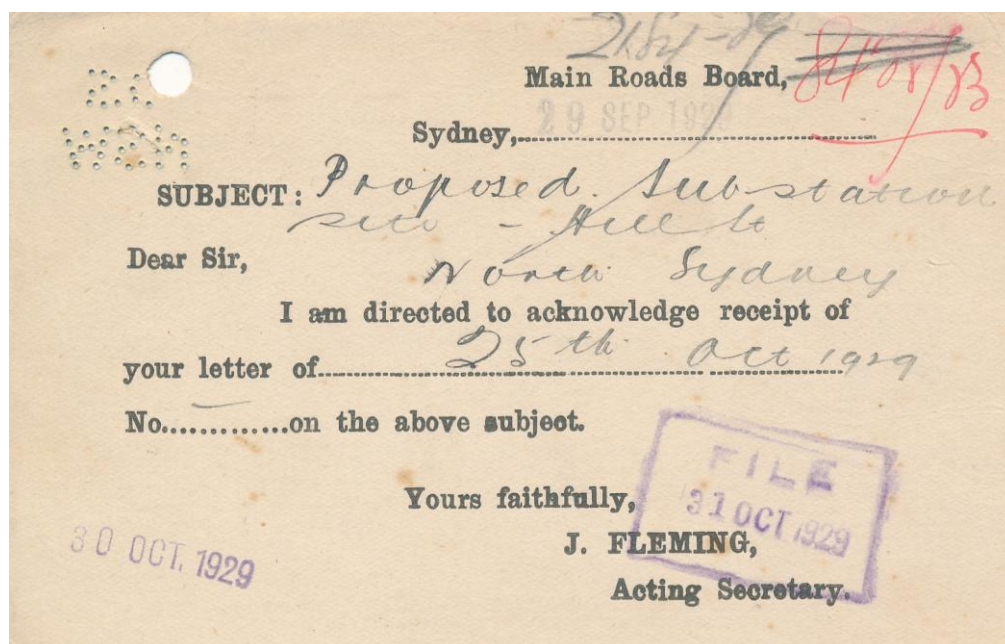


This Official Post Card was shared by PCNZA Member Keith Small. It is a Correspondence Receipt card used by the Main Roads Board.

It carries an OSNSW Type B which is commonly found on the issues of NSW from 1903 (see "Australian Official Perfins" AOP page 70) until 1913, when it was replaced

by the OSNSW Type A (Kangaroos) and later the OSNSW Type C (KGV and others). But it was also used on NSW Postal Stationary.

The pattern is also reported on some Kangaroo issues (see AOP Pages 92 - 96. The reported usage on Kangaroos has been a matter of some discussion in the SPPB with cautionary reports by David Andersen and Frank Hermsen (see SPPB #51, 59, 66 and 84). The usage on Roos is most likely a series of forged patterns and this was made clear in an article by David Coath in SPPB #88 of January 2010.



The Club's new Advertiser, Steven Zirinsky of Zirinsky Stamps, has one available on his website. <http://www.zirinskystamps.com/>



The pattern is rare on complete pieces of Postal Stationary, however it can be more commonly found on cut outs. Sometimes the pattern is complete but it can often be found with missing pins in the bottom left of the O and the top left pin of the N. This was repaired in about 1940.

Auction Watch

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



Proving cover for “Engineers & Colliery Supplies Co”, 403 – 407 Hunter St West, Newcastle was offered on eBay in late August 2017. The cover proves the pattern ECS.1 to the provisional user that was listed in CPA and HAPP. An impressive proving piece that sold for \$215 (A).

New Advertiser – Steve Zirinsky Stamps

By David Coath

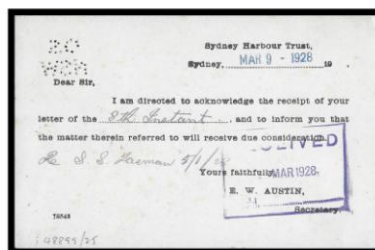
We welcome Steve Zirinsky Stamps as a new advertiser. Steve is based in New York (USA) and Zirinsky Stamps specialises in stamps, revenues (including railway and parcel stamps), cinderellas and postal history from Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific (including US and French Territories), the Caribbean, Africa, other British Empire/ Commonwealth Countries as well as German Colonies.

You can find Steve excellent website at <http://www.zirinskystamps.com/>

On his site you can sign up for his free Newsletter and I would recommend that you do so.



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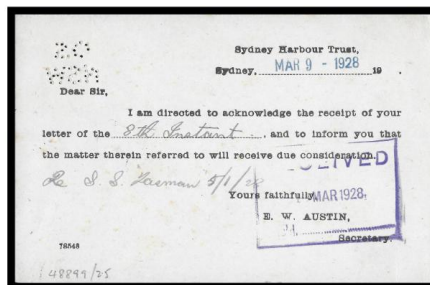
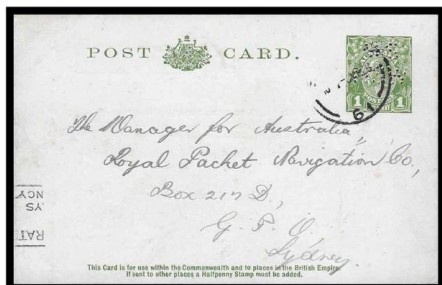
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