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FEATURE ARTICLES

- Identifying Forged OS patterns by John Graham
- More on the GNSW Type A by Tom Weir

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Editors Comment

By David Coath

Welcome to the SPPB #120. It is a bumper edition and includes some important articles about the collecting of Australian Official Perfin with a continuation of Tom Weir's important and detailed study of the G/NSW Type A pattern. In this Part 6 Tom deals with the Forgeries of this pattern on issues other than the KGV series.

Keeping with this theme of forgeries, John Graham has written a great background piece into the Clubs Forgery Detection Sub Committee and in particular an explanation of the measurement method used to check for forgeries. This process has been kept a secret, but following some spirited discussion on a Stamp forum, John felt it was time that people became more familiar with the method so that they could appreciate the care and rigor involved in the process, and therefore be more confident of the Opinions that are offered by the Club.

The January Bulletin was held over to allow the late closing of the call for Committee nominations. Nothing as drastic as me fracturing my leg like last issue, and on that topic, I would like to thank the Members who sent get well messages. I am up and about and can now spend more time at my desk, but I have not been allowed back at the wheel of the car, so this has delayed the article that I wanted to do with Ernie Blake and Edgar Bartrop. I will meet them in late February and we will feature them in the April issue.

Issue # 119 had some great Members input and I would particularly like to thank Brian Fuller for making his Perfin devices available for us to photograph and discuss, the TB device in particular, gave us a fantastic insight into the Temporary patterns produced in Melbourne. If anyone else has a perfin device that they wish to share images of, then please let me know and we will feature it in a forthcoming Bulletin.

I would like to thank Members who have sent postage to help defray our high mailing costs; they were John Amiet, a regular and generous donator, David McNamee, Greg Howard, Les Vincent, Michael Kino and Arthur Taylor. Donations are made to me, Arthur Taylor, Les Vincent (the Treasurer), as well as Ray Bennett in New Zealand, so I do not always see them all. If I have missed your name, then I am sorry and thanks for your support. In particular we are looking for New Zealand postage to top up our stocks, so see what you can find and please send it to me.

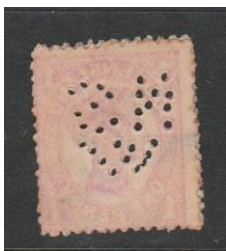
Front Cover New Pattern – NSW

By Greg Howard, Dave Elsmore and David Coath

The front cover item is something found by Greg Howard in a huge lot of Queensland duplicates that he purchased at an Auction. Greg shared it with Dave Elsmore and me for comment. With some excellent scanning, enlarging and viewing in black and white, Dave and Greg were able to find the following:



The 1d carries a 214 Type 1c postmark of Toowoomba. The 2d is harder to see but on very close examination it appears to be a Travelling Post Office, NCR 3 type 2a. The date on the Postmark is clearer and it shows September 1907.



I asked Greg to do an overlay and this shows that the 2 patterns are identical which supports the case that they were created by the same die.

Now to be honest this is not a very good pattern, and the device can at best be considered a bit "agricultural". In the past Dave, Greg and I have questioned some listings in HAPP and considered some to be doubtful. In the articles on this matter we have suggested that the Catalogue should have a section listing patterns which are of a suspect nature. On balance I think that this pattern just passes, but it is marginal and if seen as a single example would be more so. Has anyone else seen something like this? If so, please share what you have found.

Identifying Forged OS Punctures Using Statistical Analysis

By John Graham

Introduction

OS punctures on Australian stamps, in use during the period 1913–1931, have undergone a metamorphosis in recent decades. From being unloved, and considered by many general collectors to be “damaged” stamps (primarily because the major generalist catalogue used in Australia, SG, did not list them), they are now, following Gibbons’ listing, much more collectable in their own right. Specialist collectors of course have long had the ACSC to guide them, and this catalogue has listed and priced OS punctures for at least the past 55 years.

The market has spoken in terms of values for the different denominations with an OS puncture. Some are no different in price to the unpunctured version because of the numbers produced, while others, particularly in the higher denominations, are considerably rarer than their unpunctured counterparts, and are priced accordingly.

Like many objects which can be altered to produce an object with a higher value, OS punctures have been subject to forgery activity, increasingly so in the past 30 or so years. However, forging OS punctures is not a recent phenomenon – the 22nd edition of the ACSC, published in 1961, contains this statement (page 9):

Collectors are warned that scarce OS perforations and varieties (double perf OS, &c) are being skilfully faked at the present day, and have been for a number of years.

For many years, some members of the PCNZA have been looking at methods to detect forged punctures. Some forgeries are so crude that a quick glance is all that is needed, but others are so well executed that detailed examination is required to identify them.

PCNZA’s Objective in Detecting Forged OS Punctures

We need to state at the outset that absolutely no-one can say with 100% certainty that a specific OS puncture is genuine. Not the PCNZA, not an expertiser anywhere in the world, not a collector with a lifetime’s experience.

The technology available today (and for some years now) is such that someone with access to the correct equipment would be able to produce an OS punch that is an exact replica of one of the original punches. This may already have been done, with such punctures already in collections or on the market.

Having access to a full sheet of OS punctures (as PCNZA does) means we can be as certain as possible that these punctures are genuine. Even then, we cannot say with 100% certainty that 12 separate punches have not been created and applied to an unpunctured sheet. The odds of this happening are incredibly low, but they are not zero.

So the detection of forged punctures comes down to a numbers game. The PCNZA aims to detect 95% of forged punctures. That is all. We do not aim to validate a particular puncture because, as explained above, that is not possible.

However, as a by-product of our process, we are able to determine whether or not a particular puncture has the expected characteristics of known good OS punctures. But even when the characteristics fit our expected template, this is still no guarantee of genuineness. It is, however, a very significant contributing factor in making up one’s mind as to whether the puncture in question is likely to be genuine.

The Different Type of OS Punctures

This paper deals specifically with the following OS punctures on Commonwealth issues (the types are as per *Australian Official Perfins*, 2nd edition, Andersen, 2007):

Type F – used on 1927 Canberra, 1929 Airmail, 1929 WA – 10-die vertical alignment

Type G (or Large OS) – used on 1913 Kangaroo issues – 12-die horizontal alignment

Type H (or small OS) – used on Kangaroo and KGV sideface issues – 12-die horizontal alignment

The principles set out below also apply to other OS punctures, and state punctures from NSW, WA and SA. We are still working to build a comprehensive database of these issues.

The Statistical Background Behind the PCNZA Methodology

Anyone with a basic knowledge of statistics would already be familiar with how a Normal Distribution works, the idea of a Bell Curve, the definition of the Standard Deviation, and the calculation of Confidence Intervals. It is not my intention to explain these concepts here – googling the above terms will give you any number of explanations for each, and this paper does have a finite length limitation. However, I will give a simple example to highlight the principles.

Suppose we took a sample of 25 1d red KGV stamps, each punctured OS. If we measure the distance (in mm) between holes O12 and O6, we might get the following range of values (these are actual measurements from our database):

| Distance in mm | Number of cases |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 7.2 | 8 |
| 7.3 | 12 |
| 7.4 | 5 |

The mean value of the 25 measurements is 7.29mm, and the Standard Deviation of all measurements is 0.07mm.

In a population which fits the Bell Curve, it is known that 95% of values fall within 1.96 standard deviations on either side of the mean.

Thus the lower limit expected for the distance between O12 and O6 is $(7.29 - 1.96 * 0.07)$, ie 7.15mm, and the upper limit is $(7.29 + 1.96 * 0.07)$, ie 7.43mm. These two numbers define our 95% Confidence Interval.

This means that any stamp with the distance between holes O12 and O6 measuring 7.1mm or less, or 7.5mm or greater, would be flagged as having an inconsistency.

How Does the PCNZA Methodology Work?

When analysing an OS perfin, we take three different types of measurements:

1. The linear measurement between a pair of holes, and
2. The angular measurement between a pair of holes, and
3. The angle at a particular hole when it is triangulated with two other holes.

The number of measurements involved is huge. If we first look at the large OS puncture found on 1913 Kangaroos, we have an O with 18 holes and an S with 17 holes, or 35 holes in total. The number of individual pairs of holes which can be measured is $(35 * 34)/2$, or 595, and this number applies to both linear and angular measurements – 1,190 in total.

If we then look at how many angles we can measure by triangulating groups of 3 holes, the answer is we can create $(35 * 34 * 33)/6$, or 6,545 different triangles, each with 3 angles – 19,635 angles in total.

So theoretically we can take more than 20,000 different measurements from a single large OS puncture. But the practice is somewhat different. Such a huge number of measurements would create so much “noise” that we would run the real risk of not seeing the wood for the trees – there are so many inconsequential measurements that they can obscure the important measurements.

After a lot of detailed analysis, and considerable trialling of various combinations of holes, we settled on a particular combination which we believe gives us the best chance of identifying characteristics of the puncture which might not match a genuine puncture.

Obviously, we are not about to divulge which holes we use in our measurements, but we believe we use a sufficient range of holes to allow us to identify both the characteristics of the individual O and S letters, and the characteristics of the relationship between the letters, for a particular puncture.

The Process Evolves

Our starting point was to create some software which could measure distances and angles to the degree of accuracy we required, which we set at 1/10 mm for linear measurements and 1/10 degree for angular measurements. Fortunately, we had a member within the PCNZA with the technical knowledge and ability to do this for us.

We then built a database of measurements from known good punctures. We considered a puncture to be good if it:

- (a) came with a certificate stating such, from a recognised Australian certifier, or
- (b) was part of a large multiple where punctures were consistent within columns, but showed very small inconsistencies across rows (types G and H), or vice-versa (type F).

In building this database, we owe a large debt to a number of Australian collectors, dealers and auction houses who unhesitatingly replied to our requests for hi-res scans of items in their possession.

The database is continually increasing as we obtain further examples.

Checking a Puncture

Once we had a database of sufficient size, we were in a position to offer an expertisation service to PCNZA members. In most cases, we don't need to see the stamp, but can work from a high-res scan (1200dpi is preferred). Occasionally we ask to see the stamp to satisfy ourselves about inconsistencies we find in the scan, but this is not a common occurrence.

From the scan, we take a series of measurements (both linear and angular) on various combinations of holes. The linear measurements are of lesser importance in our analysis than the angular measurements – it is not difficult to replicate a linear measurement to within 1/10 of a mm when creating a forged puncture by using a good puncture as a template. But it is orders of magnitude more difficult to create three angles within a triangle to the same level of accuracy using the template method.

The measurements for a particular stamp are compared to the values from the overall database, and to the values for the same denomination and watermark combination. The results of these comparisons enable us to state whether or not the puncture bears the expected characteristics.

Potential problems encountered when applying the PCNZA methodology

When establishing the standards for our measurements, we had to consider such variables as temperature – how much does the equipment and the paper expand on a hot day compared to a cold day? Is the difference significant when we are measuring distances to a tenth of a mm over a short distance (the width of an OS puncture)? Fortunately, the answer is “no” – a steel rod one kilometre long will expand by 12mm for each one degree C temperature change, so even an extreme temperature range of 50 deg C will result in no discernible change to the width of an OS puncture.

Similarly, with paper. We know that paper absorbs moisture (and so expands), but just like steel, the increase over the width of the OS puncture is indiscernible. So whether the puncture was applied on a day of high humidity, or on a typical Melbourne summer day with a hot northerly blowing, our measurements are unaffected.

Paper also has the ability to curl, in the direction of the mesh. We are all familiar with placing a stamp on the palm of our hand to see whether the mesh is horizontal or vertical. But curling can only happen with small numbers of stamps – strips or rows – otherwise the weight of the paper is such that the centre of the strip or sheet cannot be supported on the two edges, and the paper naturally flattens out. So curling is not an issue with our measurements.

A final issue to consider is the fact that sheets were not always fed squarely when being punctured. We believe that between 5 and 8 sheets were punctured at a time, and anyone who has ever stacked large sheets of paper will be aware of the difficulty in lining up all the sheets – made more difficult where stamps are concerned because the gum has already been applied, and so sheets are slightly tacky on one side. So it is quite possible for one or more of the sheets in the bundle to not be properly “squared up” – and the resulting punctures will show a slight variance (either up or down) from the horizontal when viewed across a row.

Fortunately, this feature is easily detected by our measurements – it will show as many of the angular measurements being outside our expected range, and, most importantly, all in the same direction. We are then able to make an adjustment for the rotation of the puncture.

Summary

The PCNZA believes we are now able to detect most, but not all, forged OS punctures on Australian Commonwealth stamps. We are also able to state with a high level of confidence whether or not a particular puncture bears the expected characteristics of known good punctures, thus giving a level of comfort not hitherto available as to the genuineness (or otherwise) of a puncture.

To further our research, we welcome submissions of scans from members, particularly of plateable clichés, and these can be emailed to the author at the address given inside the front cover of this Bulletin. We also welcome reports of suspect punctures being offered for sale.

Club Auction – April 2018

By David Coath

The 2018 Auction is already taking shape and should be well over 700 lots. But it is not too late to submit items for this Auction, but that door will shut on very soon, so you will need to get your skates on.

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 April Auction, please send it to me by 16 March 2018, 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 real 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.

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 a later Bulletin. Trust me it will be worth the wait.

PCNZA – Subscription Notice 2018/19

By Les Vincent

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

Subscriptions for your PCNZA Membership for the 2018/19 financial year will be issued with the April Bulletin.

The Club is very marginal on revenue verses costs 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. Particularly John Amiet who regularly sends me postage.

“Australian Perfin Group” on Facebook

By Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

The “Australian Perfin Group” on Facebook is growing in Membership 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 30 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 re located on a dedicated 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

More items are being listed each week and there are so many that they can not all be reported in the Bulletin. It is a growing and interesting part of our hobby.

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 .

Election of Committee Members

By David Coath

As advised in the October Bulletin there was a call for Nominations for the calendar years 2018 – 19.

There were no new nominations, but all existing Committee Members renominated for their existing positions. So, there is no need for a ballot and we can proceed with our existing team who all know their roles well.

Should you be interested in being on Committee you can always be co opted on at any time, so consider it and if you are keen then drop me an email.

The G/NSW Type A Punctures: Part 6 Forgeries and Suspect Punctures on stamps other than KGV Definitives.

By Tom Weir

Part 5 of this series (Weir 2017) detailed a list of forgeries and suspect official punctures found in various publications and provided examples of the G/NSW Type A puncture found on the KGV definitives. This article will detail forgeries and suspect punctures found on the Kangaroo series, 1932 Zoological series, 1/6 Hermes Airmail, and Silver Jubilee of KGV. These examples have come to light during the detailed study of this puncture and are from the collections of Tom Weir, David Coath, Arthur Taylor, Neale Scott and Jamie Davidson. Numbering and nomenclature of the puncture holes is as detailed in Weir (2016b) and they are assessed against the 12 Dies as detailed in Weir, Taylor and Coath (2015) and Weir (2016a). Unless stated otherwise all stamps have been examined in detail by the author.

As with those on the KGV definitives, 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.

There have only been two poorly done forgeries come to light on Roo stamps.



Figure 1: Very poor forgeries on 2/- and 9d Roos C of A Wmk.

These are from Neale Scott's collection and, like the KGV definitive mentioned in Part 5, was part of an Australian Official Perfin collection annotated in German, suggesting an overseas origin. The front of the 2/- stamp was originally illustrated in the article on this collection by Taylor and Scott (2014)

Let us now look at some of the more cleverly produced forgeries and suspect punctures.

KANGAROO SERIES:

The G/NSW Type A punctures have been recorded by various authors on the 9d, 2/- and 5/- Roos with C of A Watermark (Weir 2016c). Forgeries or suspect punctures have been found on all of these values as well as Roos with other values and watermarks.

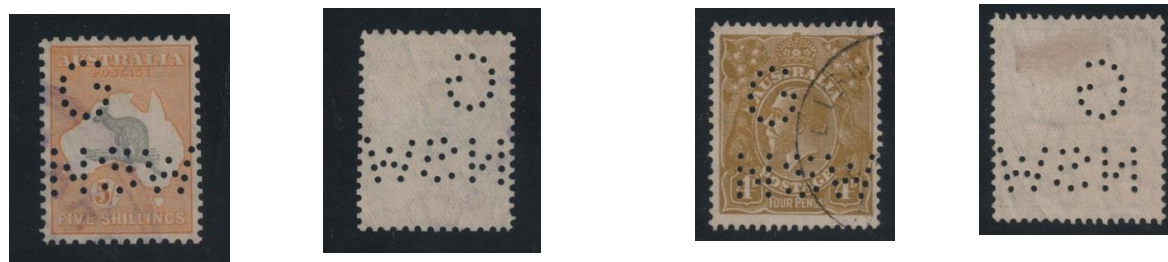


Figure 2: Forgery on 5/- Roo with genuine Die 7 on KGV 4d Olive for comparison.

At first glance, this 5/- Roo from David Coath's collection looks like a Die 7 puncture, but on closer examination it can be seen that the "G" is misshapen compared to the genuine Die 7 on the KGV 4d Olive next to it. When overlaid on a genuine puncture, the holes of GNSW do not quite line up. There is a faint bluish postmark, but holes G4, G5, G6, G7, N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, N6, S1, S2, S4 and S5 as well as perfs on the left hand side and bottom have had a bright blue pen applied to their edges to give the impression of the postmark being applied over the holes which are all clean cut!

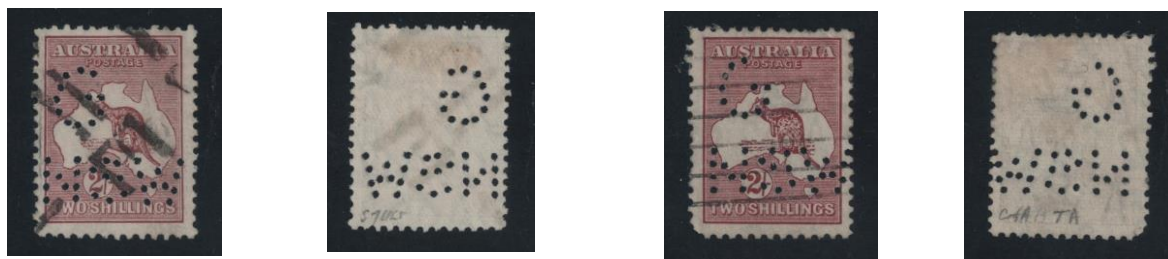


Figure 3: Forgeries on 2/- Roos: Small Mult Wmk and C of A Wmk Die 2.

These stamps from David Coath's collection could be taken for either Die 2 or Die 6 punctures, but the evidence suggests otherwise. Both of these are crudely punctured from the back with pencil mark edges to many of the holes on the back, with this confirmed by the incomplete hole G1 puncture on the C of A stamp. Neither stamp matches exactly genuine Die 2 or Die 6 punctures. There is also the fact that neither of these particular stamps was listed with this puncture by Owen (1950), Watkins (1963), Laidler and Tenuis (1985) or Andersen (2007). While the date range for the Small Mult Wmk is possible (1929 to 1935), that for the C of A Wmk Die 2 is definitely not (1945 to 1948) as the GNSW Type A puncture was in use for 1933 to 1937.

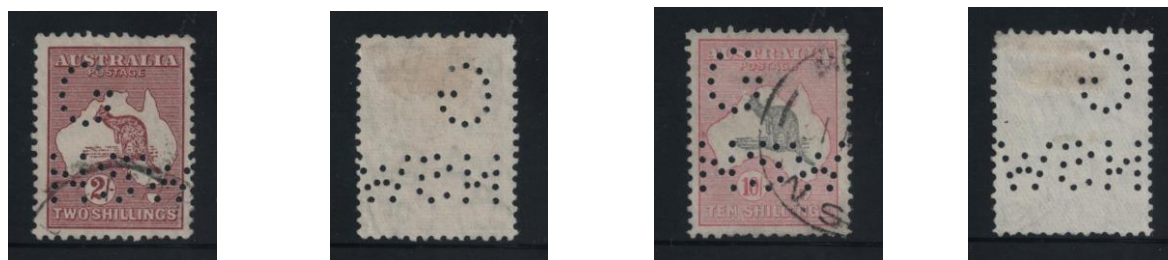


Figure 4: Forgeries on 2/- Roo C of A Wmk Die 2 and 10/- Roo c Of A Wmk.

These two stamps are from Jamie Davidson's collection and look like either Die 2 or Die 6 punctures, but when overlaid on genuine examples of these Dies, the holes do not match up. I have compared both these stamps and the punctures on each look to be the same and well produced, but there are other problems here. Neither the 2/- C of A Wmk Die 2 nor the 10/- C of A Wmk were listed with the GNSW Type A puncture by Owen (1950), Watkins (1963), Laidler and Tenuis (1985) or Andersen (2007) and this is the only example of the 10/- that I have seen. The 2/- Die 2 of course is out of date range as mentioned for the stamp in Figure 3 above (1945 to 1948).

1932 ZOOLOGICAL SERIES:

Only two forgeries of the 1/- Lyrebird have come to the attention of the author, while none of the 6d Kookaburra have been located.



Figure 5: Forgeries on 1/- Lyrebird

The first stamp in Figure 5 is from Arthur Taylor's collection. This appears closest to Die 2, but the holes do not match up. The G is not properly formed, N3 and N5 are very close together and horizontally aligned, N9 and N10 are very close together, W7 and W9 are very close together and of incorrect alignment and the arms of the N are overall poorly formed. The second stamp is a scan from an eBay sale. The punctures here are similar to those found on the KGV definitives shown in Figures 2 and 3 in Part 5 of this series (Weir 2017) and discussed at length there. Here the N is poorly formed with N6 very close to and below N8 which is out of alignment, a position not found in genuine punctures. The G is poorly formed with the line through G10 and G12 passing between G3 and G4, a situation not found in genuine punctures.

1/6 HERMES AIRMAIL NO WATERMARK/C of A WATERMARK:

The author has not been able to locate any actual stamps showing forged punctures, but has had access to two scans from David Andersen.



Figure 6: Suspect punctures on 1/6 Hermes and a genuine 3d Blue KGV Silver Jubilee for comparison.

Part 4 of this series (Weir 2016c) stated that the G/NSW Type A puncture was first recorded on this stamp by Laidler and Teunis (1985), but in fact Watkins (1963) had noted it before. The punctures on the stamps shown in Figure 6 are centrally and almost centrally positioned with no evidence of any part of other punctures either side. With the known setup of the puncturing head, this would be an impossible puncture on a stamp of this shape. This can be confirmed by looking at the genuine die separation measurements in Part 2 of this series (Weir 2016a) that showed the measurement from W11 to the next right N4 is 5mm.

In Figure 6 above, if we plot the punctures on a normal sized stamp, the measurement from W11 to the edges of the right perfs is 9mm in the left hand stamp and 10mm in the right hand stamp. Similarly, the measurement from N4 to the edges of the lefts perfs is 10mm in the left stamp and 7mm in the right hand stamp. The left hand stamp looks like Die 5 and the right hand stamp looks like Die 2 or Die 6. This is perhaps best illustrated by comparison with the 3d Blue KGV Silver Jubilee stamp in Figure 6 that shows a full Die 7 and partial Die 8. If genuine, the only way these punctures could have been applied was if the neighbouring dies in the puncturing head were removed. Examples of the actual stamps themselves are needed to properly evaluate the situation with this stamp.

SILVER JUBILEE OF KGV:

Of the three values in this set, there are examples of forgeries on the 2d red and 3d blue values.



Figure7: Forgeries on 2d red and 3d blue KGV Jubilee in upright position .

The 2d red is from Tom Weir's collection and the 3d blue is from Arthur Taylor's collection, but they share the same forged characteristics as each other and the same as that found on the first 1/- Lyrebird stamp in Figure 5. See that section for the details of the punctures.

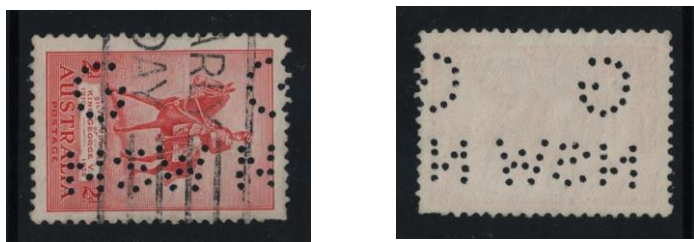


Figure 8: Forgery on 2d red KGV Jubilee reading upwards.

Also from Arthur Taylor's collection, this is interesting, as the fully visible G/NSW puncture shows the same forged characteristics as those in Figure 7 and the first 1/- Lyrebird in Figure 5 that are discussed in the section on the latter. The partially visible G and fully visible N of the other puncture are virtually the same as those in the fully visible puncture. No two adjacent G/NSW Type A punctures in Dies 1 to 12 are as similar as these two are.



Figure 9: Forgery on 3d Blue KGV Jubilee reading upwards.

This is from David Coath's collection and shows similar characteristics to the 2d Red in Figure 8, but here the N is even more distorted.

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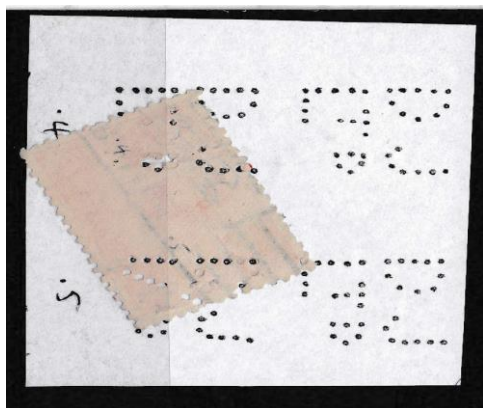
Interesting Reports

By David Coath, Michael Kino, Dave Elsmore and Greg Howard



This report from Greg Howard is hard to read but it is a PWA.1. It was a multi die device in a horizontal array similar to the earlier PWD.1 device found on WA issues. The PWA.1 pattern is found on WA issues in 1912 until 1935. The device started to degrade about 1920 but not all dies

were effected and you can still see near complete strikes in late usage in the 1930's. This is the first one that I have seen on a Canberra issue and it was not listed in Colin Clark Hutchison's excellent study and collection of these featured in SPPB #100.



Michael Kino shared this interesting pattern that had us both thinking for a while. It has partial strikes of DJLTD.4 and .5 which are two dies of a four die device (2 x 2 format). It also has another set of strikes at about 30 degrees that makes it a great challenge to identify.

If you have a pattern that you are having trouble with then send me a scan of it or even a photocopy and we will feature it and allow Members to help out with the puzzle.

New Reports

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



Greg Howard shared these new reports of GHA&CO.

In the left hand example the A is quite distinctive but otherwise the pattern is very similar to my examples of GHA&CO.14

(see below). Greg's right hand one is rather like GHA&CO.5, .6, .11 and .12 in terms of the scale of the letters on the top and bottom rows, but the G is quite distinctive. This demonstrates the great variability that can be found in these Temporary punctures.



Another report from Greg of another Temporary pattern. To my knowledge this is only the second report of this letter combination. Neither were listed in HAPP and this is rare as HAPP, although not showing all the variation that exists within a pattern group, such as the GHA&CO group referred to above, it generally captured the User Group which produced a given letter combination. But in this case HAPP

does not even list a similar letter combination such as MW. This suggests that this user was in existence for a very short time or only used the services of the Stamp vendor a few limited times.



I found this on a local Stamp Club circuit book. It looks very much like a Security Overprint. It seems too small and lacks the information such as name and location that are frequently found on company cancelling cachets. It has been listed in the Commercial Security Overprints of Australia. The letter combination is OWC. The first O does look like it might be a C but close inspection shows that it is closed and therefore confirms it as OWC. The user is unknown and if anyone has any suggestions then I would be keen to hear them.



This piece is from a recent Phoenix Auction. A fine proving piece that shows the ownership of the various Insurance companies and how they continued to trade with various "old" company names. In this case the A is proved to Atlas Assurance, but is found with various company cachets of related Insurance companies, here the parent company Royal Exchange Assurance, but it is also found with cachets of Pacific Insurance Co. This illustrates the cross use of Security overprints and the possible disconnect with the company cachet.

This is explained in detail in the Commercial Security Overprints of Australia, in the NSW Chapter under the letter A as this extract shows as follows:

Refer: <http://www.perfins.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfins/n-Revenue-ZA-Perfins.html>

"Background: *Atlas were an English Insurer who established offices in Australia about 1890, initially in Melbourne but then later in Brisbane and Sydney. There are records of other offices including Perth but these did not seem to have been issued with perforating devices or to have used security overprints.

The A overprint is found on stamps and documents carrying cachets of the Pacific Insurance Co. Ltd. Pacific Insurance had been formed in the late 1800's and had operated from Suva in Fiji.

It became Pacific Insurance Pty Ltd in 1921 and was purchased by the growing Atlas Group in 1928. As with other similar acquisitions Pacific Insurance continued to trade under its own name within the Atlas Group.

The A overprint has also been reported as being used by the Australian and Eastern Insurance Co Ltd. This is not supported by evidence that we have seen but it is possible as Australian and Eastern Insurance were a subsidiary of Royal Exchange Assurance who later merged with Atlas.

The Australian & Eastern Insurance Co Ltd was formed in January 1954 and it took over the assets, rights and liabilities of the Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance Co Ltd.

Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance had been formed in 1843 and had a long association with Australia. It was based in the Netherlands East Indies and the name Batavia is the name of the capital of the Colony, now Jakarta. By the late 1800's the company it had branches in India, the Philippines, China, Singapore and later Ceylon and in South and Central Africa.

In 1924 Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance and a group of other small insurers in Australia were acquired by the Royal Exchange Assurance Group (see background for REA.a in the Perfin section). However, the company continued to trade in its own name, even to the extent that during World War 2, and the occupation of the Netherlands East Indies, the head office of the company was moved to Netherlands West Indies. Netherlands Antilles).

The creation of the Australian & Eastern Insurance was essentially a rebranding of Batavia Sea and Fire Insurance as since 1949 the Netherlands East Indies had achieved independence and was known as Indonesia.

Atlas Assurance and Royal Exchange Assurance had a close relationship and this resulted in their merger in 1958. Later in 1968 this company merged with Guardian Assurance and today they trade under the name AEGON (UK)."

Editors Comment: This all goes to show the complex and in some cases misleading inter relationships between companies, and in particular Insurance companies, that experienced a lot of acquisitions and mergers during the 20th century, not only in Australia but also with respect to the parent companies who were mainly in England.



Greg Howard found this apparent Security Overprint for Colonial Mutual Life, who are known users of such overprints, in the Melbourne office after 1966 and in the Sydney office in the early 1960's..

Now the things that make this appear to be a Security overprint are the fact that the "overprint" is confined to the stamp and does not tie it to a document. Further the date has been applied in a separate action suggesting a separation of time. This was discussed at length in an earlier SPPB in respect to NZ Security overprints (or not) in material and comments supplied by David Murley and Stephen Jones.

Ideally you need to see the potential Security overprint on document or piece and to see multiple examples and then it is not always possible to be certain. So, there is a lot of room for discussion.

For instance, in this case, Dave Elsmore was able to produce a part of a document that showed that the application of the "overprint" was in fact a Company cachet. Now the application of most of these "overprints" on the document are consistent with it being a true Security overprint. But take a careful look at the stamps 5th, 6th and 7th from the left. The £2, 5/- and 10/-. Note that these strikes are not limited to the frame of the stamp and this shows that they were applied after the stamps were affixed to the document.



Something else to learn from this document is shown on the pair of £2 Blues in the middle. Note that the strike of the "overprint" on the left hand £2 carries over onto the right hand stamp. Now this is not a deal breaker and if you saw these off paper, then they could still be a possible example of a Security overprint. This is because if the rubber stamp might be applied when the stamps were in multiples, you can sometimes get a strike on one stamp carrying onto an adjacent stamp. There are also examples of larger "blanket" Overprints which go across multiple stamps. All of these things serve to make the cataloguing and collecting of these quite a challenge.



Another report from Greg Howard, it is a Security overprint for a Victorian company named Dimmick & Long. Now it is a very good candidate for a Security overprint so Dave, Greg and I agreed to list it in the Victorian Chapter of the Security Overprints of Australia. We have a rule, if we do not all agree that it is most likely a true Security overprint, it does not get listed.

Having agreed to list it we needed a company Background, so we asked Jenny O'Donnell to have a look into it and within a couple of days she had the story in full. Now Greg had found that they were a Real Estate Agents by doing some searches on the Internet, but Jenny is more "old school" and she started with a visit to the State Library and found out that there was much more to the story.

Dimmick & Long

By Jenny O'Donnell

William Roy Dimmick and Thomas Alfred Long commenced trading as 'Dimmick and Long, house and land agents' in September, 1918, when both men were already resident in Canterbury.

Dimmick was born in Essendon in 1888 and was a clerk before joining with Long. Long was born in Frankston in 1874 and was also described as being a clerk prior to partnership.

Their business premises were at "The Corner", 220 Union Rd, Surrey Hills, "opposite the station". The firm did not move from this address. Council rate books for 1924 show Dimmick & Long owned the premises, and three adjoining shops which were rented out to tradesmen (butcher etc).

In 1938 the entire premises from 142 to 150 Union Road were rebuilt to include the Surrey (Picture) Theatre in which William Dimmick and Thomas Long were part owners, together with L. Rossiter and R. Mitchell (1939-1950). The estate agency continued to occupy the corner position in the new building. The cinema closed in October, 1960.

William Dimmick died in 1947 aged 59. Thomas Long retired to Sorrento in about 1928 but is listed as a garage proprietor in Camberwell from 1937 to 1949. He died in Burwood in 1951 age 74. The estate agency of Dimmick & Long continued to trade under that name until 1962.

Image a40901 Exterior Surrey Picture Theatre, 142 -150 Union Rd and office of Dimmick Long estate agents, 140 Union Rd., c.1952.



Sources:

Electoral rolls; Ancestry; Sands & McDougall directories;

Cinema and Audience Research Project, <http://caarp.edu.au/venue/551/view>

New Reports – Continued

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



This report from Dave Elsmore who sighted this in a group of patterns on Ebay. Now the stamp was only showing a front image and the back had a large stamp hinge that partially obscured the pattern. Dave thought it might be a PL/&B.a (HAPP PL&B.11) which is rare on revenue stamps and almost always seen on this 2d Edward VII Bi colour.

When the lot arrived and on closer inspection, Dave found that he actually had a different PL&B that was previously unreported on revenue stamps. It is now listed as PL/&B.b (HAPP PL&B.14) as its usage follows PL/&B.a. These Patterson Laing and Bruce patterns were covered in some detail in SPPB No 113 of April 2016. The devices were both located in Sydney and they had considerable overlapping use, so it is no surprise to find this extremely rare new report on the same 2d Edward VII Bi colour.



This report from John Amiet is a CEN.a (HAPP CEN.1) is a new value previously unreported on this issue. Decimal examples of revenue and indeed postal perfins are hard to find, as usage of perfins waned by this time.



Another report from John Amiet is another new decimal value, this time a \$3 on the MM.a (HAPP MM.5) of Mercantile Mutual in Sydney. This device is actually a 3 die device in a horizontal array. This is not a very common format but identifying these is not straight forward due to degradation and repairs to the dies over the life of the device. This is why your MM's are so hard to sort, made worse by the mirror nature of the pattern.



This L H & S is another report from John Amiet. The Security overprint had been reported before, but this has a slightly different font. This demonstrates one of the issues in collecting and cataloguing Security overprints. Various methods are used to form the overprints, including rubber stamps, printed on and roneoed. Unlike a perfin that generally requires a fixed device and form, the devices making overprints are less permanent and subject to greater change in style and form.

Auction Watch

By David Coath, Greg Howard, Jamie Davidson, Jason Rowe and Dave Elsmore



Greg Howard reported that this mint £2 Roo perf VG was offered at a recent Philatelics Auction in South Australia.

It looks like an excellent strike of Die 1 of the 2nd Head. An amazing find and it generated a great deal of interest and bidding before eventually selling for \$1200 +.

At the same Auction they offered these other high value Roos with VG's, that seemed to have gone "under the radar", as they were picked up as a group by PCNZA Member Jamie Davidson, who was delighted to get them for just \$150



Jamie has shared scans with Jason Rowe and at the time of going to print Jason had confirmed that the 10/- was fine and he was working on confirming the 1 Pound. A great bargain.

Monthly Perfin Auction and Meet a Member

By Bob Szymanski

So, how do you collect and obtain perfins?

I have both been asked and have myself asked this question. There is neither a definitive, nor a correct answer. I have found that I collect in different ways that no one else seems to. Do you know anyone else who has a date calendar collection of duplicates from 1880 to 1980? I may be the only one! And I have heard methods that, frankly, I never thought of. One collector I know uses clear sheets to mount his perfins and put a black insert page between each page so that no matter whether looking at the front or the back of the perfin, he has a black background! Ingenious!

No matter what you collect or how you collect, the answer that most collectors would relish to know is where to get perfins from? As for myself, I spent a good deal of money advertising in two stamp periodicals, about 10 years in each. This alone brought me about 250,000 perfins! Then I had to decide how and what to concentrate on collecting. Today, I have only a few methods of obtaining perfins. My local stamp club members bring me all the "holey" stamps they come across. Several people who buy large accumulations at auction send me whatever they find. Lastly, I have a few traders.

But how do you get perfins now? Maybe you have a secret way that no one knows of, you are the only one who has thought of. Great! But what if I told you of a large auction in which you are able to bid. Coincidentally, I run an almost monthly perfin stamp auction, in which many of you already bid. For you who do not know of the auction, it is a "perfin" auction. It contains perfin material from estates and from members of various perfin clubs around the world who because of age, health or financial need have found it necessary to give up collecting. It provides an avenue for obtaining perfins you may want at a fair price for your lifelong collection. And, 5% of the prices realized are offered back to the perfin club to which the collector belongs or belonged.

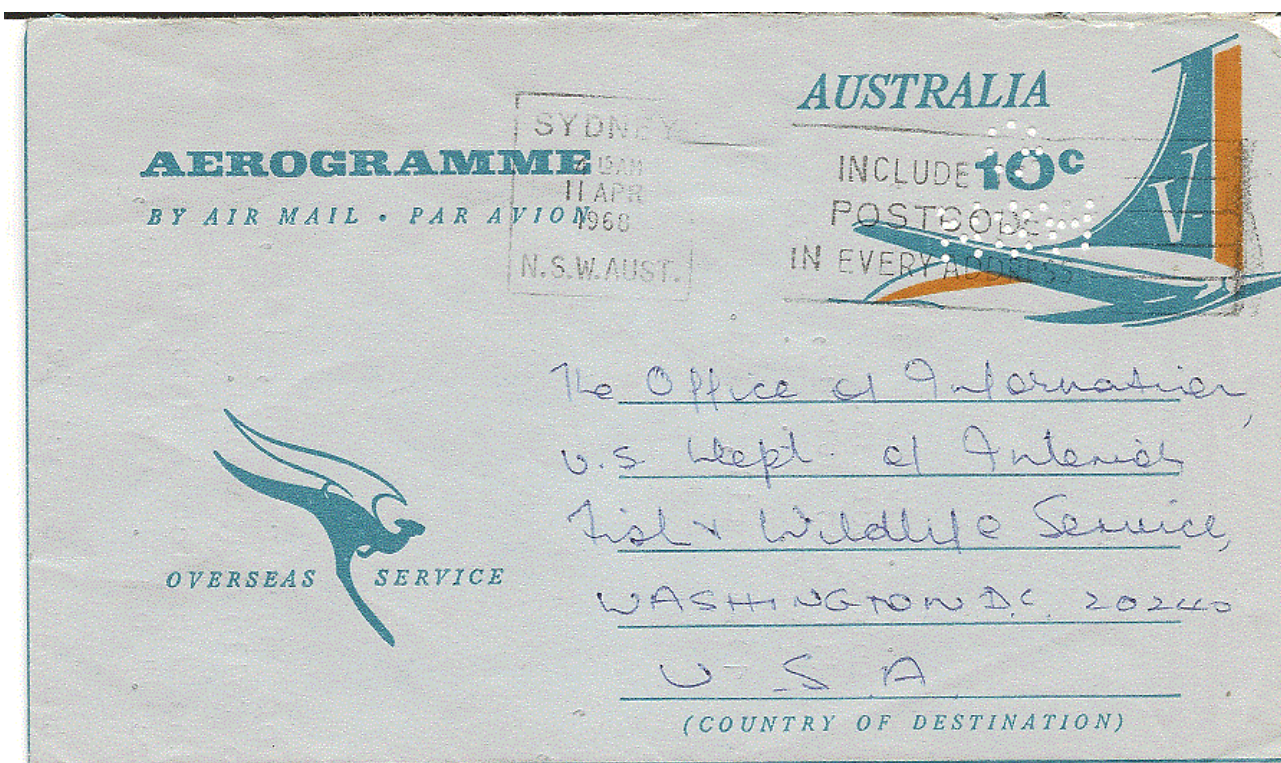
If any members of the PCNZA wish a copy of this auction, you need only to drop a line by mail or e-mail to me, Bob Szymanski, a fellow PCNZA Member, and you will receive the current auction list without cost. Prices realized are sent following each auction. Perfin material is worldwide and is dependent upon what is received. You will see Australian, Australian States and New Zealand, perfins, perfin covers and postal stationary from time to time – some as singles, some in collections or lots. This just could be your best source to add some valuable and interesting material to your collection.

From my experience – 25+ years of collecting worldwide perfins, 9 years as President of the Perfins Club of the United States; also, memberships in the PCNZA, Perfin Society of Great Britain and the Netherlands Perfin Club and most of all 15 years of running perfin auctions I believe that this one method is one of the very best ways to help in your quest for "holey" stamps!

If you desire to access this auction as an opportunity to help your perfin collection along, there is no cost or charge. Just contact Bob Szymanski, who can be reached by e-mail at perfinman@comcast.net or by mail at 10 Clarridge Circle – Milford, MA 01757-1371 – United States of America.

As a taster these were in our January Auction:

#116 --- AUSTRALIA --- 10¢ aerogramme – "G/NSW" mailed 11 April 1968 from NSW Fishery Labs to USA Department of Interior Fish & Wildlife Service.



#076 --- NEW ZEALAND - [32/35] - (most interesting patterns include the following: B.G./E.C.; DB/&Co; FB/Ld; GNB/Ld; K; MLS (piece missing from perforations to left leg of M); N.Z.F & [2] VO/Co;

#080 - [26] - AUSTRALIA - (23) are envelopes and (3) are postcards. (13) are of the various "officials", none are philatelic or personal perfins. (These all covers)

#116 --- AUSTRALIA --- 10¢ aerogramme - "G/NSW" mailed 11 April 1968 from NSW Fishery Labs to USA Department of Interior Fish & Wildlife Service.

#151 --- NEW ZEALAND - [57] Stamps with advertising under prints! A half dozen may be duplicates but there are many close colours. I count 28 different users and many different types for the same users so I estimate that you should see about 50 different advertisements and this is without checking for different face stamps. There will be many bidders on this lot, so bid accordingly! (SCAN AVAILABLE, IF INTERESTED!)

Editors Comment. A number of PCNZA Members already access Bob's Auctions and are regular and successful bidders. Bob takes Paypal which makes International payments easy and the material is very fresh with new Auctions issued on the first days of each month.

Exhibition on the PCNZA

By David Coath and Gordon Monk

South Australian Member Gordon Monk is putting together a Stamp Exhibit on the PCNZA. Gordon is a prodigious philatelist and I see his specialist work on KGV issues in the Bulletin of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of NSW.

Gordan was featured in our Meet a Member in Issue 109 of January 2015.

Gordon has contacted Members of long standing such as David Andersen as well as others including Les Vincent, Peter Simpfendorfer and myself, to get background and details about the Club and its history. In addition he trawled through early issues of the SPPB to build up a comprehensive story.

As this went to print I understand that Gordon is nearing completion and we will share some of the exhibit on Perfin.com.au and in the next Bulletin.

Scout Perfins

By Brian Fuller

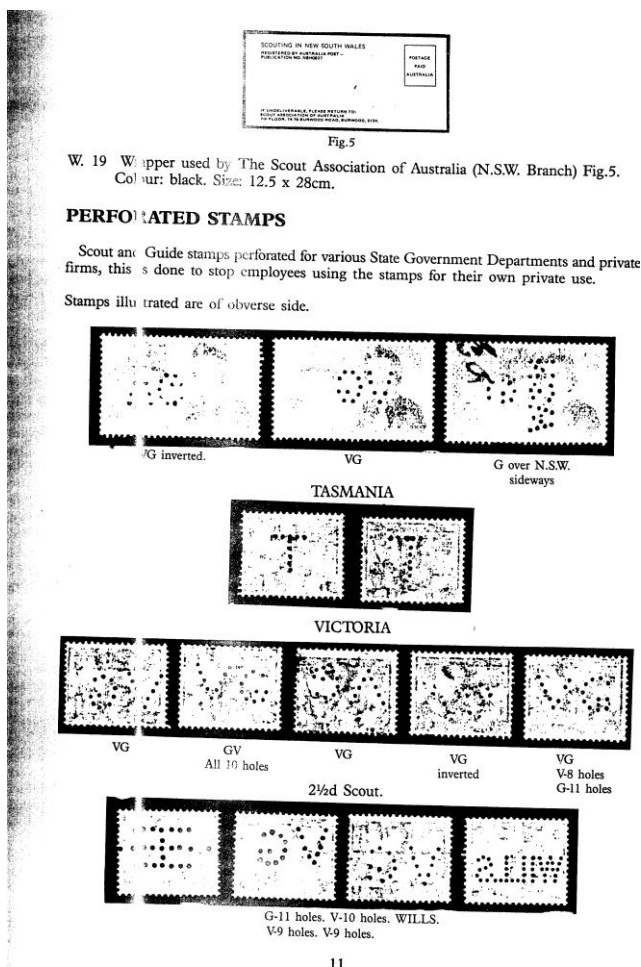


SCOUT and GUIDE PHILATELIC HISTORY of AUSTRALIA

by Erhard (Ernie) Stermol



Front Cover (image reduced)



Page 11 (image reduced)

I found this interesting old publication on the “Scout and Guide Philatelic History of Australia” by Erhard (Ernie) Stermole

What surprised me was that it covered perfins found on the various Scout and Guide stamp issues of Australia.

This mirrors the breadth of Postal history and in particular perfin usage, that had been noted in Michael Kino’s article in SPPB # 117 of April 2017 on the Perfins found on the Sydney Harbour Bridge issues. He had referenced a similarly scoped specialist publication entitled “Sydney Harbour Bridge Philatelic and Postal History” by David Collyer and Richard Peck.

Checking online I found that the “Scout and Guide Philatelic History of Australia” was a limited edition publication of just 1500 copies from 1985, but it has surfaced at Auction from time to time on both eBay as well as more recently Premier Auctions in Melbourne. Some copies are also available on ABE the international secondhand Book Dealers site see:

<https://www.abebooks.com/>

It goes to show that almost any Philatelic study can have a view into the world of perfin collecting.

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 later this year.

Thanks , Les.

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.

Audited Financial Statements for 2016/17

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

These have now been reviewed and approved by Buckley Business Solutions of Essendon (Melbourne) and the report is as follows:

REPORT OF FINDINGS

To Committee Members,

Report of Findings; Accounts Record Keeping Function

We have performed the procedures agreed with the members of The Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia Incorporated (the association), to report our findings regarding the accounts record keeping process and the 2017 Financial Statements. The procedures performed are detailed in the tender engagement dated 28th September 2017 with respect to the Accounts Record Keeping Function.



Committee's Responsibility for the Procedures Agreed

The committee of the association is responsible for the adequacy or otherwise of the procedures agreed to be performed by us. The committee is responsible for determining whether the findings provided by us, in combination with any other information obtained, provide a reasonable basis for any conclusions which the committee wish to draw on the subject matter. The committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal control as the committee and management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to report our findings obtained from conducting the procedures agreed. We conducted the engagement in accordance with Standard on Related Services ASRS 4400 *Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagements to Report Factual Findings*. We have complied with ethical requirements equivalent to those applicable to "other assurance engagements".

Because the agreed-upon procedures do not constitute either a reasonable or limited assurance engagement in accordance with AUASB standards, we do not express an assurance on the accounts payable function.

Findings

The procedures were performed solely to assist the committee in evaluating the accuracy of the accounts record keeping function (including audit risk). The procedures performed and the findings obtained are as follows:

Accounts Record Keeping Function

| Procedures Performed | Factual Findings | Errors or Exceptions Identified |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. We obtained and checked the addition of the income and expenses excel summary as at 30 June 2017 prepared by PCNZA, and we compared the total to the balance in the related general ledger accounts. | We found the addition to be correct and the total amounts to be in agreement. | None |
| 2. We compared invoices and receipts provided by PCNZA to the amounts summarised in excel summary for each of the related items. | We found the amounts compared to be in agreement. | None |
| 3. We compared such Financial statements to the amounts referred to at Procedure 2 above. | We found the amounts agreed. | None |

Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

Restriction on Distribution and Use of Report

This report is intended solely for the use of the committee and for the purpose set out above. As the intended user of our report, it is for the committee to assess both the procedures and our factual findings to determine whether they provide, in combination with any other information they may have obtained, a reasonable basis for any conclusions which they wish to draw on the subject matter. As required by ASRS 4400, distribution of this report is restricted to those parties that have agreed the procedures to be performed with us. Accordingly, we expressly disclaim and do not accept any responsibility or liability to any party other than Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia Incorporated (the association) for any consequences of reliance on this report for any purpose.



Darren A Grech

Buckley Business Solutions Pty Ltd
191b Buckley Street, Essendon VIC 3040

Dated this 17th day of November 2017

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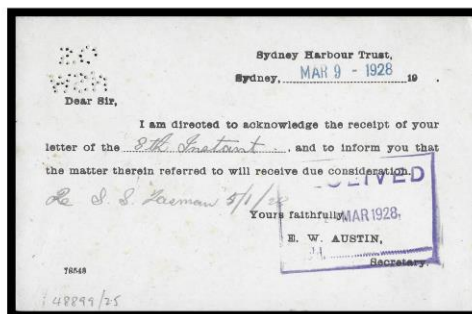
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