

SOUTH **P**ACIFIC **P**ERFIN **B**ULLETIN



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FEATURE ARTICLES

- Vale Arthur Taylor
- OS Type F on Tasmania
- OSNSW Type A Dies unravelled

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New Members

Eric Davison – Goonellabah (NSW)

Ray Fleming – Tatura (VIC)

Editors Comment

By David Coath

Welcome to the SPPB #125. This Bulletin starts with further sad news from our Membership, with the passing of Club stalwart Arthur Taylor. See Article later in the Bulletin.

This Bulletin is a bit bigger than our usual format, this is to make amends for the January Bulletin being a little “thinner” than normal.

In this issue we have once again received some great input from Members, sharing their knowledge and new finds. Feel free to share whatever you like with me and I will include it in subsequent Bulletins.

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 donor, who also included some US postage for our Sister Club, the “Society of Australasian Specialists Oceania”, John Mullavey, Greg Howard and Arthur Taylor also donated postage.

Thanks also to our regular contributors in Greg Howard, Dave Elsmore, John Amiet, David Warren (NZ), Stephen Jones (NZ), Jason Rowe, Peter Simpfendorfer, Harold Waite (NZ), Andrew Murley (NZ), Jerry Austen, and our tireless Treasurer, Les Vincent.

Front Cover – HD&CO

By Andrew Baylis, Stephen Jones and David Coath

This is an amazing example of HD&CO (Pf.14), see page 24 of “New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Initials” Robert Samuel Edition 2 (2010). Only a handful examples of this pattern are known, indeed the pattern is Rated F, which means that only 3 – 9 examples have been reported. The stamp was listed on eBay by PCNZA Member Andrew Baylis (check out his eBay store at <https://www.ebay.com.au/str/dr-stamps>) and it sold for \$730.

Now that sounds a fine price, but Stephen Jones reports that when the first example of this pattern was Auctioned by Mowbray’s, a few years ago, the bidding for a 2d Sideface topped \$1100 (NZ). Stephen added that although others have been reported since this auction, this is the first that he has seen on a Revenue.

It is a clear manuscript showing 5 April 1875, which is very early for a perfin and according to Samuel (page 7) it predates the Post Office regulations, which were not issued until 1881 – 82. However, this is used on a revenue which were not subject to these regulations and Samuel reports (again Page 7) an example of a revenue perfin (although not with this pattern) shared by Andrew Murley that had a manuscript of 13 August 1867.

Still an amazing report and it shows that our hobby still has surprises that it can deliver.

Collecting the PCNZA pattern

By Peter Simpfendorfer

Thanks to donations from Members, Arthur Taylor, David Coath, Jason Rowe, Greg Howard and Don Wormald, we now have a huge bank of used Australian and Territories stamps carrying the clubs PCNZA pattern.

So, if you have a desire to collect these patterns then all you need to do is contact me: Peter Simpfendorfer by email at: simpy19@bigpond.com or write to me at PO Box 2099, WAGGA, NSW, 2650, and I will send you an envelope full for you to start with.

To help with building everyone’s collections, you can send back to me what you do not need and any others that you have spare.

So, join in and build your collection and share with your fellow Members.

A new updated listing of the Catalogue of PCNZA Patterns will be up on Perfins.com.au soon. To view the current Catalogue, see the Research Tab of Perfins.com.au here: <http://www.perfins.com.au/tabs/t1.html>

Club Auction – April 2019

By David Coath

You will find enclosed the Club Auction for 2019. It is smaller than recent Auctions with just 370 or so lots, but there is some good value, in particular, many Australian Private Perfin single lots and covers. These are the final part of the huge collection of Member Colin Clark Hutchison of Scotland. It has been a pleasure to work with Colin as he describes his lots so well and his material, particularly his covers, are of the highest quality.

All the details that you need are included in the Conditions of Sale which forms the cover sheet to the Auction.

The important things to remember are, to get your bids in early as in the event of a tied bid, the first bid received will be the winner and that bidding closes at Midnight on 30 June 2019.

As in past Auctions the first part of the Auction will be open for bidding and then all unsold lots will be offered in the Auction Part 2, which will form a part of the July Bulletin.

Remember you need to be a financial Member of the PCNZA to bid in the Auction, so make sure your Subscription is up to date.

More on that later, but now start looking at the Auction and remember to get your bids in early.

Club Auction – April 2020

By David Coath

The Auction, like the Circuit Books, is an important income for the Club and, as Members, I would encourage you to participate by both submitting lots and bidding.

Now if you have any material that you would like to make available for the April Auction in 2020, then now is the time to start. If so, please submit it to:

David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria, 3095, Australia.

Please email me first or give me a telephone call to let me that it 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.

All Perfin material is welcome and clearance rates are in the 90%+ range, so you can be confident that what you offer will sell.

Remember you need to be a financial Member of the PCNZA to participate in the Auction as either a Vendor or a Bidder, so make sure your Subscription is up to date.

PCNZA Subscription Notice and Membership 2019/20

By Les Vincent

In this Bulletin you will find your personalised 2019 Membership Renewal which covers your Club Membership Subscription for the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

The amount payable is clearly shown in the "Amount Due" at the bottom of the table in the notice and Payment Options are detailed on the reverse side.

I would encourage you to pay your Subscription early, as this will allow us to finalise Subscriptions payments and clear these into the Clubs Accounts, to meet key recurring expenditure such as postage and printing.

Remember if you are not a Financial Member you will not receive the Perfin Bulletin and nor will you be able to participate in the Club Auction or the Circuit.

Please note my new email address Email: lesliejvincent@yahoo.com.au and my Telephone number is 0431 871 594.

I look forward to receiving your payments.

“Australian Perfin Group” on Facebook passes 120

By Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

The “Australian Perfin Group” on Facebook has now passed the 120 Members mark. 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 it continues to grow quickly, so come and join in the fun. PCNZA Members are welcome.

Perfin Articles in “Australian Stamps Professional”

By David Coath



Recently the “Australian Stamps Professional” has featured the excellent series of articles by Tom Weir, on the GNSW Type A and then they featured an article by PCNZA Member, Michael Kino, on the Private Perfins found on the Sydney Harbour Bridge issue of 1932.

By the way, this is only the start of Michael’s articles on this subject, as he will expand it to cover other philatelic and non philatelic aspects of collectables associated with this Australian icon.

Issue 6 (Volume 12) featured a great article by Jason Rowe on the study of VG perfins and this is reproduced in this SPPB Bulletin.

It is an important article, as Jason details the various studies and catalogues that have been produced on the VG’s, from Owen in 1950, right up to Neale Scott and Brian Toop’s Edition 5 in 1993.

As Jason shows, the knowledge has altered over time, with the little known Owen study ignored by, or unknown to, the early VG Pioneers such as, Elford, Dean and Toop, with the knowledge later rediscovered by Scott and Toop.

Australian Stamps Professional have subsequently published other articles by Jason on the 1st Head Issue 1 (Volume 13) and the 2nd Head Issue 2 (Volume 13), with more to come.

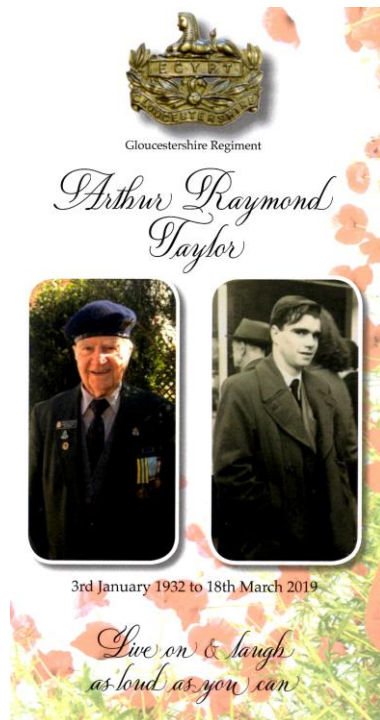
I congratulate these PCNZA Members, Jason, Tom and Michael, on sharing their knowledge and interests with the broader philatelic community. Well done. Notably this broadening of the base of the study of these patterns, on mainly KGV issues, has possibly lead to Dr Scott Starling featuring a number of Government perfins in his article in Issue 2 (Volume 13) entitled “Collecting KGV Penny Green and Violet Varieties – Part 11”.

Special thanks to Robyn at Australian Stamps Professional for continuing on with this fine publication. I subscribe and find it a most interesting read and I would recommend it to Members.

Check out their website: <https://australianstampspro.com/>

Vale Arthur Taylor

By David Coath



A VALEDICTION

When Korean Veteran Arthur Taylor,
Migrated from England to Australia,
He only had a paucity of medals to show,
That Arthur was a genuine War Hero.
He was captured in Korea by the Chinese,
And suffered, brutality, starvation and
disease,
But they couldn't break this gallant man,
Who always radiated good humour, wit and
elan,
We are gathered here for this Valediction,
Following our usual ANZAC TRADITION.
Whilst we are scattering his ashes in the
Inlet,
Together we're reciting "LEST WE
FORGET".
Vale Arthur Taylor "We Will Remember
You".
Vale Arthur Mate, I will miss you too.

Arthur Taylor passed away on 18 March 2019 following a short illness, that he did not feel was worth the trouble of going to the doctor about.

He was cremated and a special Commemorative service was held for him at his local RSL Sub Branch at Sussex Inlet on 17 April, followed by a scattering of his ashes by his sons, Graham and Brian, in the Inlet.

The service was well attended by Members of the Sub Branch as well as those from Arthur and his wife Helen's,

social and Community groups in the area.

My wife Cathy and I attended on behalf of the Club, but we were joined by local Member and long time friend of Arthur's, Ron Maher.

Arthur had many friends, courtesy of his involvement in the local RSL, Fire Brigade, Square dancing and other Community activities, but he had many long term friends through his first passion, philately and especially perfins.

Many would know Arthur from his work at PHILAS during the Auctions. Member Donald Adams remembers meeting Arthur at a PHILAS Auction some years ago and they became firm friends. Donald tells that he would spot lots for Arthur that had perfins in them and at the end of the Auction when he had picked up his lots, Donald would let Arthur browse through them for what he wanted. Greg Howard tells a similar story of catching up with Arthur at PHILAS, saying you always heard Arthur before you saw him and then you were met by his irrepressible broad smile and raucous laugh. Ron Maher tells of years of swapping with Arthur with no money ever changing hands, it was each person looking to help the other build his collection.

This was Arthur, he was a giving bloke, for his family, his community, his friends and Clubs and in particular those in his Hobby.

I can recall first meeting Arthur at a Canberra show back in the early 2000's, when I came to a Dealers table and asked if they had any perfins. Arthur overheard this and he immediately took me under his wing, I was not someone competing in his area of interest, but rather, I was someone whose interest was to be encouraged.

Arthur will be sorely missed. To celebrate his life, I have reproduced the "Meet a Member" piece from SPPB #113 of April 2016. Arthur had a lesson for us all and it was written on his Commemorative Service card (see above left), "Live on and Laugh as loud as you can". An RSL friend Ramon Mason wrote a poem for Arthur (see above centre) which appeared in the "Sussex Inlet Weekly". Thanks Ramon.

Meet a Member – Arthur Taylor (from SPPB #113)

By Arthur Taylor and David Coath

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

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

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

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

After leaving school his father got him a job as "Tea boy" at the local "British Gas & Torch Ltd". Arthur reports that the "tea" part was only a small part of it as his duties were varied



and included running errands, sweeping, going down to the shops to pick up cigarettes and meals for the workers.

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

After finishing 10 weeks training, he was sent home for 6 weeks leave because his unit, at the time, was slated to go to Kenya to address growing tensions that would later climax in the Mau Mau Uprising. Arthur was placed in many units and spent an enjoyable time guarding Centurion tanks as they were being shipped around. He finished this duty and returned for more leave prior to heading to Malaya with the Devons, but was moved to the Wiltshires, who had been sent to Hong Kong.

The growing conflict in Korea saw Arthur moved again, this time to the Glosters (Gloucestershire Regiment) who were in Japan and very soon in the thick of battle on the Korean peninsula. The Glosters formed part of the 29th Brigade which was in turn part of the 1st Commonwealth Division, which included troops from Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

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

For the next 2 ¼ years Arthur was a prisoner of war and he was finally released in August 1953 after the Armistice which was signed in July 1953.

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

In 1965 Arthur, with a wife and 2 children (Graham and Brian) became what we Australians affectionately call "10 Pound Poms", which was part of an Immigration drive by the Australian Government that offered cheap travel to Australia for immigrants from England. Arthur arrived in Sydney and work was easy to find and he secured a position as a Tool

Maker working for "Aristocrat Pty Ltd", making Poker machines. But life kept moving fast and after 12 months in Australia, Arthur's wife left him and the Children.

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

In the late 1970's Arthur spent most of the week down in Berrara (near Nowra) building a house on a block of land that they had purchased. Arthur had found the block when he had first come to NSW. Now he regularly commuted between Berrara and Bondi Junction in his Mini Moke, generally overloaded with building materials.

By 1979, the house in Berrara was finished (or nearly so), so Helen retired from her TAB business and they went on a trip to Europe, and back to England for a total of 5 months, before they settled down into the Community life in a rural seaside town. They both got involved with supporting the local Fire Brigade, as well as RSL, Square dancing and most importantly the local Stamp Club, where Arthur could finally rekindle his interest in philately.

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

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

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

Editors closing note: The photo of Arthur was taken when he visited me in Melbourne in 2013 and captures him doing 3 of his favourite things, working, smiling and talking, all at the same time. Arthur has lived a challenging life of adventure, danger, hardship, and family tragedies, but on meeting him, you would never know.

The Structure of the OS Type F Device on the Issues of Tasmania

By Jerry Austen, and David Coath.

Delay in Publication

This article was slated for the January Bulletin, but withdrawn at the last moment due to some problems with the theory that we were presenting in respect to the OS device(s) used on the Tasmanian Pictorials.

When the article was in the draft stage, we sent it out for peer review by some Tasmanian experts as follows:

Jerry Weirich (USA). Jerry is an avid collector of the Tasmanian Pictorials and wrote an excellent article in "The Informer" the Journal of the Australian Specialists/Oceania (SAS/O) entitled "A Study of the Tasmanian Lithographed Halfpenny Pictorial with OS Perfin". Volume 75, Number 2 of April 2011. Most importantly for our study, Jerry's article suggested that there were 3 OS devices available to be used on the Pictorials. He also alerted us to the article by Dr K Pennicuik in West End Philatelist (July - August 1956) which established the existence of the Asymmetrical OS device. He had found this in the extensive SAS/O library. Furthermore, Jerry has plated some of the Pictorials and in particular the ½ d value and this allowed him to confirm our findings on certain multiples as well as the location of the "missing pin" OS, within the middle column of 4 dies.

David MacNamee (USA). David is a long time member of the PCNZA as well as the Australian Specialists/Oceania (SAS/O) and other Philatelic Societies. He was featured in a "Meet a Member" in SPPB #111 of October 2015. David is a Tasmanian specialist and he has created

the best Exhibits on the Perfins of Tasmania. These can be viewed on [Perfins.com.au](https://www.perfins.com.au/tabs/t5.html) on the Exhibitions tab here: <https://www.perfins.com.au/tabs/t5.html> . These include his 4 Frame “Perfin Stamps of Tasmania”, that was awarded a National Gold (US) at PIPEX in Portland Oregon (2012). David was very helpful in building our article structure, and but I will doubt that our finished product will be of the high quality that he sets in his exhibits and work with “The Informer”.

Ross Ewington. Members would know Ross from his ownership of “Tasmanian Stamp Auctions” as well as his roles in the Tasmanian Philatelic Society. Ross was able to assist with providing some of the images of multiples that we needed, as well as canvassing the TPS Bulletin Board and Members for further information.

We thank Jerry, David and Ross for their critique, assistance and the additional information that they provided, in order to steer us onto what we believe is the correct conclusion.

Background

Jerry Austen has been working diligently to build a database of the States Official Perfins of Australia. To build this he has been working with the State Study groups in Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, as well as many noted specialists in this area such as PCNZA member Ken Moore, as well as Geoff Kellow and John Pearson from the “Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of NSW”, amongst others.

The October 2018 article covered the OS Type F as it appeared on the issues of Western Australia. This was significant, as some of these issues were the smaller format De La Rue stamps and puncturing these would have been difficult with the fixed dies of the Standard 10 Die OS Type F device.

What was discovered, in discussion with Brian Pope, Arthur Tilby and PCNZA Member Malcolm Brown, was that there was a second Asymmetrical OS device in smaller vertical sets of Dies in a 3/4/3 format, which was made or modified to puncture these smaller De La Rue issues. This was confirmed by images of large multiples supplied by Brian and Arthur.

Now this potential problem had been foreseen by PCNZA Member, Ken Scudder in his excellent article on the OS Type F of Queensland in SPPB # 66 of July 2004. At this time Ken also anticipated the issue of puncturing the Tasmanian Pictorials. Ken’s article identified that the Queensland stamps were punctured with a different 12 Die vertical device (located in Brisbane) as opposed to the Victorian 10 Die vertical device (located in Melbourne).

Now Jerry and the Western Australia Study Group have uncovered the Asymmetrical OS device (located in Melbourne) and its use on the smaller De La Rue issues of Western Australia, as well as showing that the Standard OS device (located in Melbourne) was also used on the non De La Rue issues of Western Australia. This establishes the existence of two OS Type F devices in Melbourne. But this does not explain the puncturing of the issues of Tasmania, which were even more varied than those of Victoria and Western Australia.

Puncturing the various Tasmanian issues

The purpose of this Article is to take what we know of the OS Type F devices located in Melbourne and try and estimate how they were used to puncture the issues of Tasmania, which include both the smaller format De La Rue issues, as well as the larger Tasmanian Pictorials. For added complexity these larger Pictorials are found in 2 formats (wide and narrow) and the OS strikes on them are found in 2 positions (Position 1 and position 2):



De La Rue



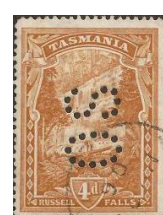
Wide Pictorial
Position 1



Wide Pictorial
Position 2



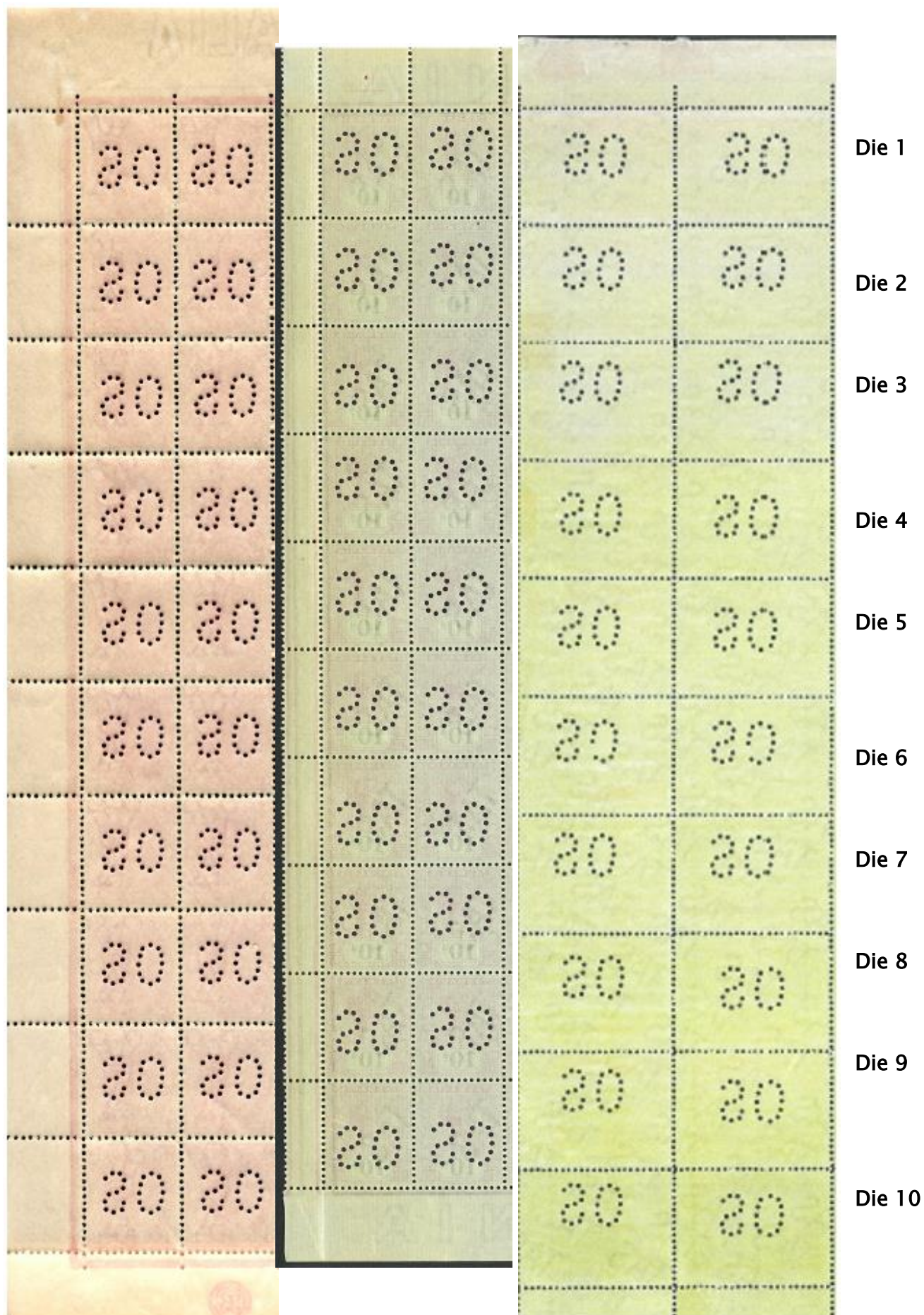
Narrow
Position 1



Narrow
Position 2

This is a complex story and takes us down a convoluted path. We will start by looking closely at some large multiples as a reference point to describe the various OS devices.

The structure of the OS Type F devices



1d Pink Vic QV
Standard device

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10d QV De La Rue
Asymmetrical device

10

3d Green Pictorial Tasmania
Asymmetrical device

South Pacific Perfin Bulletin

Before discussing these punctures in detail, we need to once again thank Richard Breckon from Australia Post's Philatelic archives, who has sourced scans of the 10d De La Rue Tablet and the 3d Pictorial, as well as other large multiples, to assist in our study.

The images on the preceding page are taken from complete sheets of the OS Type F as used on Victorian and Tasmanian issues, as well as Western Australia (not pictured).

But a word of caution, the scans on page 10 have been reduced in order to make them fit onto the page and further they have originated from 2 different scanners and have been emailed and imported into Word. The potential for inaccuracy has been cross checked in 2 ways, firstly the OS patterns have been measured in the reduced size to ensure that they are the same and furthermore, the size of the stamps based on the side perforations are the same as comparisons between full sized stamps.

1d Pink Victorian QV (Page 10)

This has been struck with the Standard OS Type F device. Note the consistent separation between the 10 vertical dies and that there is variation in the placement of the punch head between the 2 strikes and that the right hand strike, (from the reverse), is consistently slightly higher. This shows a single fixed 10 die strike up the given column.

10d Tablet Tasmanian De La Rue printing (Page 10)

Firstly, as we found with the Western Australian De La Rue printings, the 10d Tasmanian De La Rue stamp is not as tall as the 1d Pink Victoria. Accordingly, this 10d has been struck with the Asymmetrical OS Type F device that was used on the De La Rue issues of Western Australia, as shown in the October Bulletin.

Note the 3/4/3 layout of the vertical dies, showing that the column was struck with three actions. This is clearly shown in the right hand series of strikes, (from the reverse). Note that the top 3 dies are slightly higher than the left hand top group of 3 dies. Yet the middle 4 dies in both columns are consistently placed. The bottom 3 dies repeat the positioning of the top 3 dies with the right hand group slightly higher than left hand group of dies.

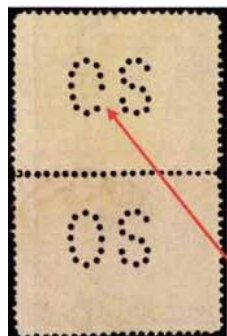
You can also note by comparison with the 1d Pink Victorian, that if the Standard OS Type F device was used on these issues, then the OS would "walk off" from dies 7,8, 9 and 10.

3d Green Tasmanian Pictorial (Page 10)

Again, this has been struck with the Asymmetrical OS Type F device. Note that although the top 3 dies and the middle 4 dies appear to be relatively consistent in terms of the vertical strikes, the bottom 3 dies in the right hand strike, (from reverse), are lower than the left hand 3 dies.

Oddly the top 3 dies of the right hand strike, (from reverse), seem to be angled slightly, suggesting that the head of dies had some variation in terms of its placement. The set of 4 dies in the left hand strike, (from reverse), also seems to be slightly angled.

The other thing to note is that the Pictorials (horizontal issues 1/2d, 2d, 3d, 5d and 6d) were only slightly taller than the 1d Pink Victorian. So, they could have been struck with the Standard device, but frankly it would be a struggle and require precise placement of the head and it seems that it was easier to use the Asymmetrical OS Type F device.

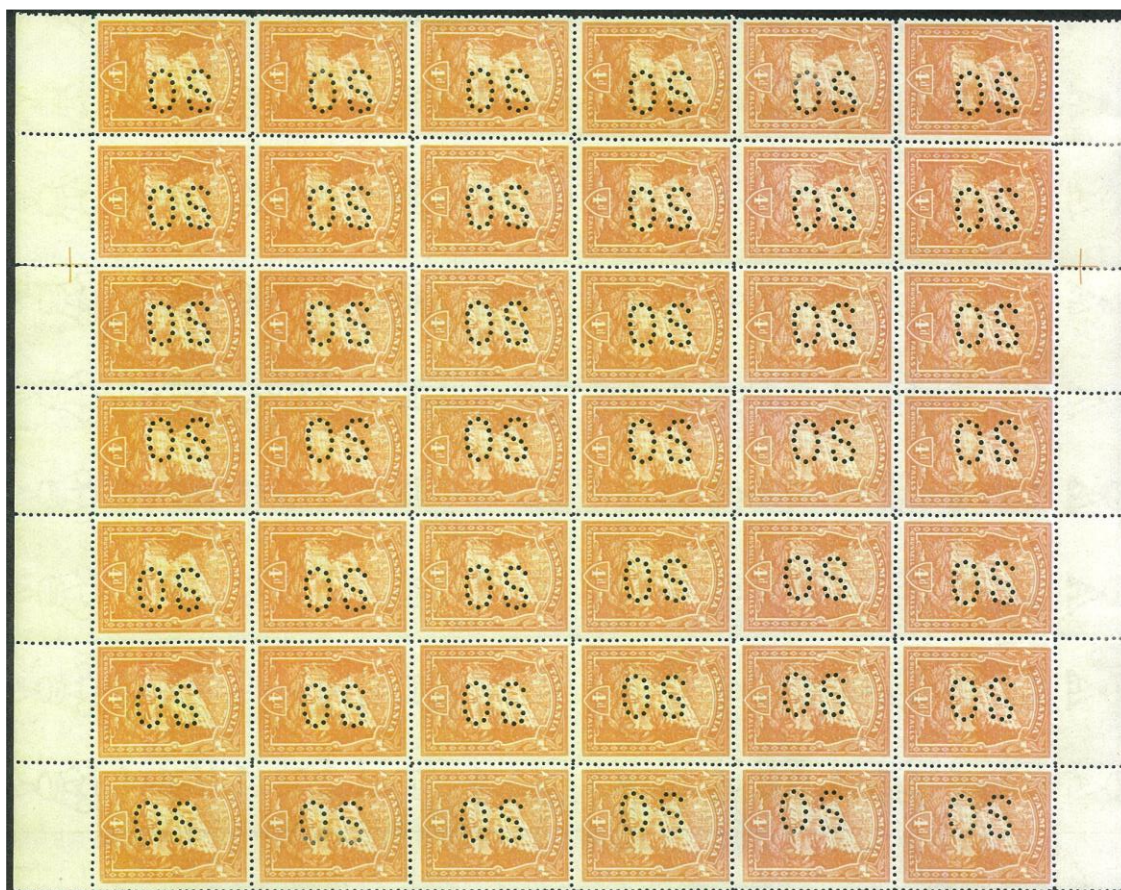


While we are looking at the 3d, it is interesting to note the strike of Die 6. This is the Missing Pin at 4 o'clock that was identified in both Ingles and Tinsley's Studies as well as David McNamee's Exhibits and later studies by Jerry Weirich. These are all discussed later in this article.

To learn more about this variation you should go to the Exhibitions tab on Perfins.com.au and look for David McNamee's exhibit entitled "Perfins on Tasmanian Stamps" (See Frame 4 Page 59) here: <http://www.ozrevenues.com/exhibits/t1/f1.html> I have included the image from David's Exhibition above at left. The variation was not present for very long and it was only on the 4 Die Column of Dies within the centre

of the Asymmetrical OS Type F Device.

The transient nature of this variation is shown by the fact that it is found on the 3d and 5d multiples, but not on the 4d multiple. (See pages 10 and 12). The variation was not seen on the Western Australian multiples featured in the October Bulletin, but these dated from around 1912. It would be interesting to try and date this variation from postmark evidence. Any information on this would be welcome so please contact the Authors. See page 15.



Die 4

Die 5

Die 6

Die 7

Die 8

Die 9

Die 10



Die 1

Die 2

Die 3

Die 4

Die 5

Die 6

Die 7

Die 8

Die 9

4d Orange Tasmanian Pictorial Multiple (Page 12)

This 4d has also been struck with the Asymmetrical OS Device. It is harder to see as the image has been reduced (due to space constraints) and the scan is from the front, but note that Dies 8, 9 and 10 vary across the columns, with columns 4 and 5 (counting from the left) being higher than all other columns of those dies.

The centre group of 4 dies (Dies 4, 5, 6 and 7) are more consistent but columns 3, 5 and 6 are slightly higher showing that these 4 Dies were struck as a separate action to the bottom group of 3 Dies.

5d Blue Tasmanian Pictorial Multiple (Page 12)

Again, this has been struck with the Asymmetrical OS Device. Note that there are only 2 dies from the bottom group of 3 Dies, that is Dies 8 and 9. We can be confident that these are Dies 8 and 9 as the left hand column has the bottom 2 Dies set lower than the OS's in other columns. This indicates that the strike of these bottom 2 dies (of 3) is part of a separate group of Dies to the Dies 1–3 and 4–7.

The centre group of 4 Dies are fairly consistent and we are aided with numbering the Dies by the presence of the Missing Pin at 4 o'clock variation, that we know from the fuller sheet of 3d Green Tasmanian Pictorials (see page 10), is only present in Die 6.

The top 3 Dies are also fairly consistent, but Columns 1 and 4 (counting from the left) are slightly higher than the other columns. Again, showing the puncturing as 3 separate actions in the 3/4/3 Dies which we would expect from the Asymmetrical OS device.

The Various OS Type F Devices on Tasmanian issues.

Now we know that Victoria were quick to respond to the Federal Government call for the provision of OS stamps for its offices in Victoria. Frankly this is understandable as the Federal Government was located in Melbourne at the time and until 1927. As a result, they had an OS device in place by December 1902 (see "Australian Official Perfin" (AOP) by David Andersen page 30). This would have been the Standard OS Type F device with a solid vertical array of 10 dies in a fixed head and it would have been generally suitable for the issues of Victoria. But, as Ken Scudder noted in SPPB #66 of July 2004, the ½ d was turned sideways and struck with two passes of the 10 dies, and the 1½ d, £1, and £2 were turned sideways.

The issue of dealing with the variation presented by the Tasmanian stamps would not have arisen until the complaint made by the Deputy Postmaster General from Tasmania (see AOP page 27 paragraph 1). This seems to have led to the creation of the Asymmetrical OS Type F device. This may have been done by a conversion of an existing OS Type F device (perhaps there were 2) but given the time delay between the complaint, at February 1903 and the start of the puncturing of Tasmanian stamps with the OS, in September 1904, (see AOP page 30 for dates) it would be more likely that a separate device was either sourced or built.

So, by late 1904 there were two OS Type F devices located in Melbourne, the Standard device and the Asymmetrical device.

From the correspondence and the evidence we have from the Multiples, it would seem that the Asymmetrical device was the main one used on the issues of Tasmania. This makes sense as they were either the smaller format De La Rue stamps or the larger Pictorials.

But the question remains, could these 2 OS Type F devices or indeed just the Asymmetrical device, have been responsible for all of the variation that we see in the OS's on the issues of Tasmania? Let us review, we have 5 variations as follows:



De La Rue

#1



Wide Pictorial
Position 1

#2



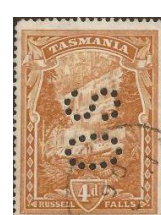
Wide Pictorial
Position 2

#3



Narrow
Position 1

#4



Narrow
Position 2

#5

#1 The De La Rue issues could be struck with the Asymmetrical device and this is confirmed by the Multiples we have shown, as well as the subsequent use of this device on similar sized Western Australian issues.

#2 and #5 The Wide Pictorial Position 1 and the Narrow Pictorial Position 2, could be struck with the Asymmetrical device and again this is proved by the multiples.

#3 and #4 The Wide Position 2 and the Narrow Position 1. These variations of the OS strike are much less common than the Variations #2 and #5 and as a result we do not have large Multiples to help us confirm the Puncturing method and/or device use.

These Variation #3 and #4 strikes are what Ingles and Tinsley's called the "narrow side" strike and these are much harder to find than the "wider side" strikes. Once again referring to David McNamee's Exhibition, "Perfins on Tasmanian Stamps" (See Frame 4 Page 57). He states that "Estimates state that less than 5% of all surviving "OS" perforations are parallel to the short (narrow) side."

So, these Variation #3 and #4 strikes are rare and therefore we do not have access to large multiples which help us to determine the structure of the puncturing device. This means that we need to change our approach and see if these strikes could have been done with either the Standard or the Asymmetrical device, or indeed part of that device.

We can easily exclude the Standard device, as we can see from the multiples on Page 10 that the 10 Dies of the Standard device (shown on the column of 1d Pink QV on the left) could not produce central strikes into the 3d Pictorials shown in the column on the right.

But could the Variation #3 and #4 strikes have been punctured with the Asymmetrical device or indeed one of the banks of 3 or 4 Dies that make up this device?

To review this, we will need to look at some scaled mock ups of the 3 and 4 Die parts of the Asymmetrical device and see how it might be used to create the Variation types #3 and #4 on a column of the Pictorials.



The image at left is a mock up of what a the height of a full sheet of 1d Pictorials (6 high by 10 wide) would look like and how it would relate to Die sets of the Asymmetrical device.

The middle set of 3 dies is the column of Dies from the top (or bottom) of the Asymmetrical device. Note, that if the operator was very careful, that the 3 dies could just barely be used to make strikes in Variation #3 (and logically #4).

Now this was our original theory as to how these Variation #3 and #4 strikes were made.

The process needed care and would have lead to strikes, in equal numbers, in 3 distinct positions on the stamps, that is, low, central and high.

However, Jerry Weirich pointed out that his examples of these OS strikes were generally central with a lesser number high. We then made a survey of our own examples of these and confirmed what Jerry had stated.

The right hand set of 4 Dies is the column of Dies from the middle section of the Asymmetrical device. As you can see this could not be used to create Variation #3 and #4 strikes as one of the Dies (either the top or the bottom, depending on placement of the punch) would make a strike across 2 stamps. This is not reported.

This meant that the Asymmetrical device, or even component sets of the 3/4/3 Dies within the device, could not have been used to produce the Variation #3 and #4 strikes.

So how did they create the Variation #3 and #4 strikes?

Well that is a very good question. One that spawned a huge email conversation with Jerry Weirich, David McNamee, and Ross Ewington, and lead to posts on the Tasmanian Philatelic Society Bulletin Board and a raft of other investigations.



It was Jerry Weirich's position that there must have been a 3rd OS Type F device located in Melbourne.

Jerry had put forward this position in his excellent article on the OS Type F entitled, "A Study of the Tasmanian Lithographed Halfpenny Pictorial with OS Perfin" which was published in "The Informer", the Journal of the "Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania" (SAS/O) Volume 75 No.2 of April 2011. (see article on pages 16 ++, "The Puncturing of the OS Type F Device on the issues of Tasmania – A History of the Study" that follows this article).

The existence of a separate OS device seemed the most plausible answer and it was supported by what we knew of the OS Variation #3 and #4 strikes and the fact that they were generally central.

Then Jerry found the image on the left (from an old Tasmanian Stamp Auction sale) and the question was answered. There was a 3rd device with separation of dies to make fairly central strikes on the "narrow" side.

What was the format of the Device and when was it used?

We know a couple of important facts and they tend to support each other in providing the answer to these questions.

Firstly, David Andersen tells us (see AOP page 27 paragraph 1) that the OS pattern was first applied to Tasmanian issues in September 1904.

Then David McNamee adds in his Gold Medal winning display (page 57) that the OS Variation #3 and #4 strikes were used first, and date from September 1904 – June 1906.

Jerry's pair (above) dates from December 1904 which places it in the start of the OS Variation #3 and #4 strike period.

Our collective research tells us that these OS Variation #3 and #4 strikes tend to be central.

The Missing pin variation (which also dates from this early period) is not found on OS Variation #3 and #4 strikes, which suggests that these were done by a different device.

Collectively this supports the existence of a separate device of 6 dies, in a vertical array, with a spacing of 25 mm between dies, which is much more than the vertical separation of letters in both the Standard and the Asymmetrical devices.

Conclusion

The OS type F 10 Die Standard device came into service in December 1902 (Andersen page 30).

The Deputy Postmaster General – Tasmania, complained in February 1903 (Andersen page 27) that they did not have OS stamps on Tasmanian issues.

The solution to this is the sourcing of 2 extra OS devices, which came into service in September 1904. The Asymmetrical 3/4/3 device to punch the De La Rue Sideface and Tablet issues. A device subsequently used on the similar sized issues of Western Australia. As well as a 6 Die device to strike the Pictorial issues in Variation #3 and #4 or to the "narrow" side.

From mid 1906 the Tasmanian issues are all struck with the Asymmetrical device.

Note

Thanks again to Jerry Weirich, David McNamee and Ross Ewington for their help in assembling the evidence and steering us towards the correct conclusion.

If you have any thoughts then contact Jerry at jausten@ozemail.com.au or David at davidcoath@onthe.net.au

The Puncturing of the OS Type F Device on the Issues of Tasmania – A History of the Study

By Jerry Austen, and David Coath.

In the preparation of the earlier article on this topic, we looked back into what had been written on the subject to date.

What we found was a series of interesting and insightful studies, that showed much knowledge of the Tasmanian issues. However, the author's were not always able to access large multiples of OS strikes, that we and others have seen and therefore they could not always build a clear picture of how the Type F OS was applied to the issues of Tasmania.

Furthermore, many of the studies did not even access, or did not have knowledge of, earlier studies. This meant that they could not build on this knowledge and in some instances, this lead to incorrect assumptions, but in other cases it produced amazing insights based on observation and logic.

We thank these Author's for their efforts and they have made it easier for us to come to the conclusions that we have made, in respect to the use of the OS Devices on the issues of Tasmania.

Dr Pennycuik – 1955

The seminal work on this topic was written by Dr Pennycuik (FRPSL) and published in "The West End Philatelist" in the November – December issue of 1955. Dr Pennycuik made some false statements in his short piece, the most glaring being that he attributed the A patterns of Tattersalls (George Adams) to the Federal Government, perhaps on the presumption that A was for Australia.

The OS perforations (Type 5) are regular in appearance, quite plentiful and in use from 1905 onwards. They appear to have been made from two settings, for both 1d. and 2d. stamps are found with sideways and upright perforations. The commoner type is sideways on the vertical format stamps (1d. etc.), and this is called Type 5W in the check list in order to distinguish it from the other setting 5N. The absence of blocks, however, makes it difficult to decide whether there really are two settings, one wide horizontally, the other narrow horizontally and vice versa vertically.¹

a single column setting is illustrated."

This indicates that as early as 1930 these English philatelists were aware of the structure of the Queensland OS device, something we did not become aware of until the Ken Scudder's article in SPPB #66 of July 2004, which lead to a correction in the 2d Edition of David Andersen's, "Australian Official Perfins" in 2007.

Dr Pennycuik – 1956

Dr Pennycuik did a follow up article in the "The West End Philatelist" in the July – August issue of 1956. We are thankful to Jerry Weirich who provided this from the library of the "Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania" SOS/O.

The block suggests that this OS perforation was applied by a 3-set vertical punch, a 4-set vertical punch and perhaps a 3-set vertical punch (sheet 10 wide). The same 3-set can be used for both left and right sides of the sheet (Columns 1-3, 8-10). The irregularity between stamps 3-4 and 7-8 differing between rows 5 and 6 of the sheet, shows that the sheet is not punched a complete row at a time.

But his thoughts on the OS (seen at left) are interesting, as he considered that the OS was made "from two settings" of the device.

But lamenting the lack of multiples, he could really only speculate about the structure of the device.

The Footnote 1, is interesting in itself, because it refers to the sister OS device used in Queensland from 1905 in stating: "1 But see Queensland, Vol 1 (Plate XIII) RPSL, 1930 where

Dr Pennycuik starts this article with the correction on the status of the A pattern. He then goes onto report that he had sourced some multiples, including an 8 (high) by 2 (wide) column and from this he was able to deduce the structure of what we term the Asymmetrical OS Type F device. See extract at left.

This is an amazing advancement from his 1955 article and it confirms what we had found on the issues of Western Australia (De La Rue) and the Pictorials of Tasmania.

What is equally startling is, that this knowledge was then lost and so it is absent from many later studies.

Owen G Ingles – 1967

The next Philatelist to attempt to better understand these S patterns on Tasmanian issues was the well known Tasmanian specialist Owen G Ingles. He wrote an article in "Philately from Australia" (Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria) in December 1967, entitled: "Tasmania – The Perforated Officials and Other Punctures".

Ingles article acknowledged Dr K Pennycuik's earlier study and corrected the record regarding the A patterns. (which suggests that he referenced the 1955 article and not the more informative 1956 article.)

Ingles also sighted some multiples, and as a result he had a fair understanding of the structure of the OS device, as well as noting the existence of the OS with missing pin at 4 o'clock, which helped him to describe the puncturing device as follows: "Pairs and multiples of these varieties (missing pin at 4 o'clock) prove that the puncturing was effected by a vertical, single column comb, progressively moved from column to column." ..."

Ingles then went on to speculate on the structure of the OS devices increasing Dr K Pennycuik's two settings (i.e. different devices) of a device to three, as follows:

perforation teeth, with many sheets being punctured at the same time. At least three puncturing combs must have been in use at various times (though dated copies of all extend back to 1904), since the small format stamps (Queen's Head and Tablets) and the pictorials are both perforated OS, the pictorials perforated either parallel to the wide side ("W") or the narrow side ("N"). These stamps are scarce on cover, but much more common in mint condition than the very elusive T perforation mint stamps.

Ingles position was that given the 3 main formats of stamps being punctured, that 3 OS devices would be required. The 3 formats were the strikes in Position 1 and 2 on Pictorials and the strikes on the Tablets and Sidefaces, which were on the smaller De La Rue issues. Ingles speculation on the structure of the devices was very good and in many ways it is close to what we know today.

David Andersen – 1987

The matter of the Tasmanian OS is taken up by David Andersen in the 1st Edition of "Australian Official Perfins" in May 1987. David refers to Ingles article but does not take up the matter of the 3 OS devices, stating simply that: "The OS Type F, the "Melbourne puncture" was used, the puncturing being done by the Victorian Government Printer, Melbourne".

Walton Tinsley – 1986

In 1986 Walton Tinsley (FRPSL RDP) issued his book entitled "Stamps and Postal History of Tasmania", which was published by The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

The book covers all aspects of Tasmanian Philately including, Postal, Railway, Revenues and Postal Stationary and more. Chapter 13 was entitled "Perforated Initials (Perfins)" and in it he covers the OS, T, A and Private Perfins on Tasmanian issues.

Tinsley collaborated with Owen Ingles and others in the production of the book, but he did not take up where Ingles had left off with his excellent insights into the OS puncturing.

Accordingly, Tinsley makes some errors with respect to the OS patterns, stating that there were 2 OS patterns a Type A and a Type B with the Type A being most common. From his description (there were no images of perfin patterns in the book) his Type A is the OS Type F, but his Type B seems to be a Commonwealth OS (Type H). These are known to have been forged onto Tasmanian Pictorials and other State and Commonwealth issues. David Andersen covers this on pages 44 and 45 of the 2nd Edition of AOP (2007) but there is also an excellent article by David McNamee (FRPSL) in "The Informer", the Journal of the "Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania" (SAS/O) Volume 68 No.1 of January 2004. The matter was also discussed in later editions of that journal. Examples of these forgeries were shown in David McNamee's Exhibition, entitled "Perfins on Tasmanian Stamps" here: <http://www.ozrevenues.com/exhibits/t1/f1.html> See Frame 4 Page 61. I have reproduced them on the following page below:

Perfin "OS": Fakes

Tinsley was the first to identify a second "OS" pattern. The size of the perfin is 8mm high x 16mm wide with 4mm between letters and 11 holes in the "S" similar to later Australian Commonwealth issues. Subsequent study and analysis found these unusual "OS" perfins to be fakes.

Personal Research



*A dangerous fake
5 April 1905
Canceled Corina*



*"OS" on the short axis
12 January 1908
Canceled Derby
Too late for short axis
perforation and
holes too small*



*A complete fantasy
"OS" Inverted & Reversed
14 May 1903
Canceled Sydney, NSW
Dated prior to "OS" perfin
introduction*

Tinsley went on to speculate about the structure of the OS device (page 124 paragraph 3) as follows:

The OS pattern is consistent, is always oriented parallel to an edge, and is usually well centered, leading one to speculate that the 24 punches were prepared as a cliché, one per stamp, and the clichés set in a row or column at least three different times, for punching in the same manner as a comb or line perforator.

Like Dr Pennycook and Ingles before him, Tinsley seems to be speculating on the structure of the device based mainly on what he sees in the OS strikes, as well as what he knows about the structure of the sheets being punctured. Unfortunately, Tinsley does not advance our knowledge. It is a shame that he did not have access to the multiples that Owen Ingles had seen, or indeed had read Dr Pennycook's 1956 follow up article.

Ken Scudder – 2004

As previously stated, Ken Scudder (FRPSV) wrote an excellent and broad ranging article in SPPB #66 of July 2004, that addressed a number of issues and misconceptions regarding the OS perforators used on the States issues. His particular focus was the issues of Queensland as he was at the time writing his definitive study of Queensland Postage stamps which became: *"Queensland Postage Stamps 1879-1912"* (Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia, 2013).

Ken's main point was to state that the OS Device used on the issues of Queensland was a separate device to the Melbourne OS Type F device and that it consisted of 12 dies in a vertical array.

But Ken made some additional observations about other States OS's and some of these were noted in the article on the Western Australian OS's in SPPB # 123.

In reference to Tasmania OS punctures, Ken stated the following:

Tasmanian Issues

Tasmanian Pictorials - The Melbourne printings were in sheets of 6 x 10, either 6 horizontal rows of 10 for the 1d & 4d, or 10 horizontal rows of 6, for the ½d, 2d, 3d, & 6d. The size of these stamps did not allow puncturing of 10 positions at a time, however, if the sheets were split in half, thus giving a column of only 5, the standard Melbourne puncturing head could be used. Supporting this suggestion is the variation found in the high and low positions of the OS, and the fact that only upright or sideways OS's occur which eliminates the possibility of the sheets being folded.

Ken was right that the Standard OS device could puncture the Pictorials in some positions, see the comparison blocks on page 10. Furthermore, his reference to folding is also correct as if the sheets were folded under the Punch head, as was done with the large Queensland Chalons, then you would have had more variation in the positions of the OS Strikes, (such as this example below) and other variation, depending on the folding method:



This matter was discussed in detail in an article entitled “The OS Perfin on Queensland Queen Victoria Large Chalon Issues by Donald Adams, Dave Elsmore, David Coath, Dan Ryan and Jerry Austen, SPPB # 103 of October 2013, pages 7 – 12.

David Andersen – 2007

In Edition 2 of Australian Official Perfins (2007) David restated his position that this OS Type F was used in Melbourne, Victoria and he describes the Standard OS device as “**having 10 dies in a vertical arrangement...**” see the section on Victorian issues on page 30. Referencing Ken’s 2004 article in the SPPB he identifies the 2nd OS device of 12 dies that was used to puncture the Queensland issues.

Jerry Weirich – 2011

Jerry produced an excellent article on the OS Type F as it is found on the issues of Tasmania and this was published in “The Informer”, the Journal of the “Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania” (SAS/O) Volume 75 No.2 of April 2011.

Jerry is a specialist in Tasmanian Pictorials and has plated these and as a result can locate particular strikes of the OS, to specific locations within a sheet.

In his “Informer” article he starts by acknowledging the Tasmanian Philatelic Society (TPS) and in particular their online Bulletin Board, which is an excellent tool for sharing information.

His article starts with the missing pin at 4 o’clock variation and this is important as his assessment based on the plating of 17 examples on the 1/2d issues is that they can all be confirmed to Row 6 of the sheet which corresponds to Die 6 of the Asymmetrical device.

We already have the evidence that several perforators were used to produce OS perfins on the lithographed half-penny pictorial. The first was used to perforate the OS sideways (in line with the short axis). To produce these stamps, the pins had to be spaced differently from the OS upright stamps in order to get the OS centered on the stamps, and the centering of the OS perfins was generally very good throughout the life of these stamps.

A second perforator produced the first upright OS perfins (in line with the long axis). This perforator had the missing pin, and it was a single vertical column of OS pins that was moved horizontally across the panes; hence the missing pin variety are all in one row³ (Figure 4, next page).

A third, or new, perforator was used to produce more OS upright perfins. I have not determined whether this perforator was actually the same as the second perforator but with the broken pin repaired/replaced that eliminated the variety, or this was a new perforator.

In the literature, there are speculations of different perforators being used to produce OS perfins on the pictorials. One theory was a multiple (3 or 4) set vertical perforator.⁴ Another was a row or column of at least 3 different OS clichés.⁵

Based on postmark evidence he was able to narrow down the timing of the variation, to between May 1905 until August 1907, and by looking at full strikes of the OS in Row 6 he was able to confirm that these dated from 1908.

But Jerry’s study does not stop there, as he goes on to take Ingles position about multiple perforators being required to puncture the various formats of the Tasmanian issues in the various positions that are known. (See left)

Jerry, with his appreciation of the positions of the strikes and the plated locations, was well placed to uncover the truth of these punctures, but he did not have access to the multiples that Ingles had, and nor did he

have access to the ones provided to us by Richard Breckon.

But, despite the lack of this important information, he essentially describes the Asymmetrical Type F device, (See left) in saying that there may have been a perforator “..(3 or 4) set vertical perforator.” And going onto suggest that there may have been “...at least 3

different OS clichés.”

It was Jerry's "Informer" article and subsequent emailed correspondence and sharing of theories and images, that confirmed to us that there must have been 3 OS Type F perforators. It is the only way to explain the existence of the OS patterns in the various positions that they are found on the Tasmanian issues and in particular, the Pictorials.

Conclusion

The study of the use of the OS device on the issues of Tasmania has been a long one and has had many valuable contributions from serious and well respected philatelists from around the globe, including England, the United States of America and Australia.

We thank them for their efforts that help us to better understand this complex part of our hobby.

"Official Aussie Perfins – A Basic Guide"

By Dave Elsmore and David Coath

Dave Elsmore has produced a simple guide to collecting Australian Official Perfins.

It can be found here at [perfins.com.au](http://www.perfins.com.au) <http://www.perfins.com.au/Official-Aussie-Perfins-Dave-Elsmore.pdf>

Dave developed this for Members of the "Australian Perfin Group" on Facebook as few Members had the resources to do a basic sort of what they had in their Official patterns. Dave has referenced David Andersen's "Australian Official Perfins" AOP (2007) for further study.

Well done Dave, it is a useful tool and thanks to those Members that assisted you in finalising it, including, Tom Weir, Greg Howard and Jason Rowe.

Auction Watch

By David Coath, Greg Howard, and Dave Elsmore

Private perfins on the various Railway stamps of the Australian States are rare, but recently eBay has thrown up a few and there has been some strong bidding. All of these were already listed in the "Revenue Perfins of Australia" but some were new values that have now been added.

Keep your eyes out for these Railway issues with perfins, as they do not surface often. Queensland ones are the most common, but all other States are rare and you will need to bid aggressively to secure them. Good luck.



Sold for \$105



Sold for \$65



Sold for \$250



Sold \$193



The stamp at left was seen on eBay by Greg Howard. On first inspection it is not an exceptional stamp and pattern combination. It is early use of the SA.1 which is attributed to the Salvation Army.

The odd thing about it is the use as a revenue, the first report of such use. It sold for \$80 US, which is an enormous sum for this pattern, which is only rated as Uncommon. Clearly, more than one avid collector noted this odd usage.

Victorian Government Perfins – A Fresh Look

By Jason Rowe

Editors Note

The following is a reproduction of an Article by Jason Rowe that appeared in Australian Stamps Professional Issue 6 of Volume 12. Jason along with Neale Scott, also did a series of Articles on the VG's in earlier SPPB's as follows:

SPPB #106 July 2014 – A Closer look at the 1st Head VG Perfins

SPPB #108 January 2015 – A Closer look at the 2nd Head VG Perfins

SPPB #109 April 2015 – A Closer look at the 2nd Head VG Perfins – Part 2

SPPB #110 July 2015 – Some Further thoughts on the 2nd Head of the VG Perfin and A Closer look at the 3rd Head of the VG Perfin

SPPB #114 July 2016 – A Closer look at the 4th Head of the VG Perfin

SPPB #118 July 2017 and SPPB #119 October 2017 – New VG Perfins Fabulous Finds

In these SPPB articles Jason and Neale covered all the Heads and some recent rare reports, but they did not cover the summary of the development of the VG Study. This is why Jason's article in Australian Stamps Professional is so important, as he lays out how the Study came into being, who was involved and how it progressed, sometimes with the various participants co-operating and other times in isolation.

Some of the images that Jason used have not been included and the numbering of images has been altered to reflect this and furthermore some of the text has been edited slightly.

Article from Australian Stamps Professional Issue 6 of Volume 12.

Over the years there has been a significant emphasis placed on the forgeries found on these VG perfin patterns, and we believe that this has served to turn many existing and new collectors away from what is a very rewarding and challenging field.

In recent times, with the formation and study of several major collections, the full extent of the forgeries has become clearer and our aim with this series of articles is to dispel some of the myths associated with these perfin patterns.

The Victorian Government, as mentioned in ASP Vol 11 Issue 3 on the GNSW Type A Punctures by Weir, Taylor & Coath, were no different to the NSW Government, in producing and implementing perfin stamps across all Departments, to discourage theft and aid in account keeping.

Introduced in 1933 the practice ceased in 1988 and throughout this 55-year period 4 distinctive puncturing heads were used.

Various Departments would request postage from the Government printing office where upon current values would be perforated and distributed, in this time frame over 820 different stamp issues were used, which is more than any other State.

The complexity intensifies when you consider that the 1st and 2nd Puncturing heads had 24 identifiable die types (12 each) and the 2nd, 3rd & 4th heads can be found in 8 different positions.

The perfin positions are identified looking at the stamp from the front and as a result any complete VG Perfin collection would amount to many 1000s of stamps.

One of the earliest written articles relating to the VG perfins was in the 1 July 1948 "Australian Stamp Monthly" (ASM) by H Rostron and G.E.Owen. At this time the earliest known VG usage was 17 May 1933, which would have been a strike from the 1st Head, but no individual die identification was given at this point.

Then in May 1950, G.E Owen produced, "The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia Punctured for use in State Government Departments". Not only did this cover all of the other State perfins, but it provided the first detailed descriptions and images of the various 1st and 2nd head die types and the associated puncturing methods.

The copy of the Owen Publication held by the PCNZA President David Coath, was created with a Roneo Machine and has hand written notations and cut out photographs of the dies

throughout. It would have been very difficult to assemble each copy and it is unclear how many were distributed. They may have only been printed upon request.

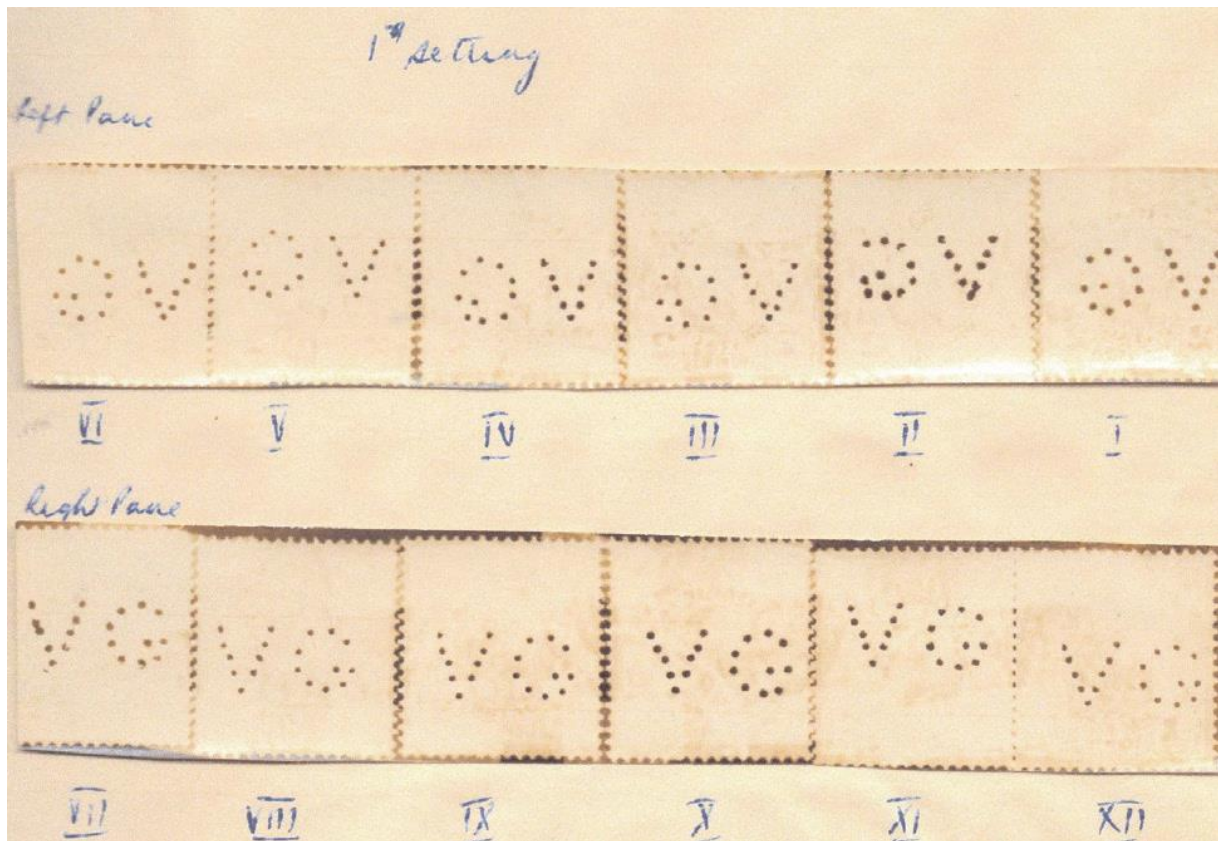


Figure 1, 1950 G E Owen 1st head die types

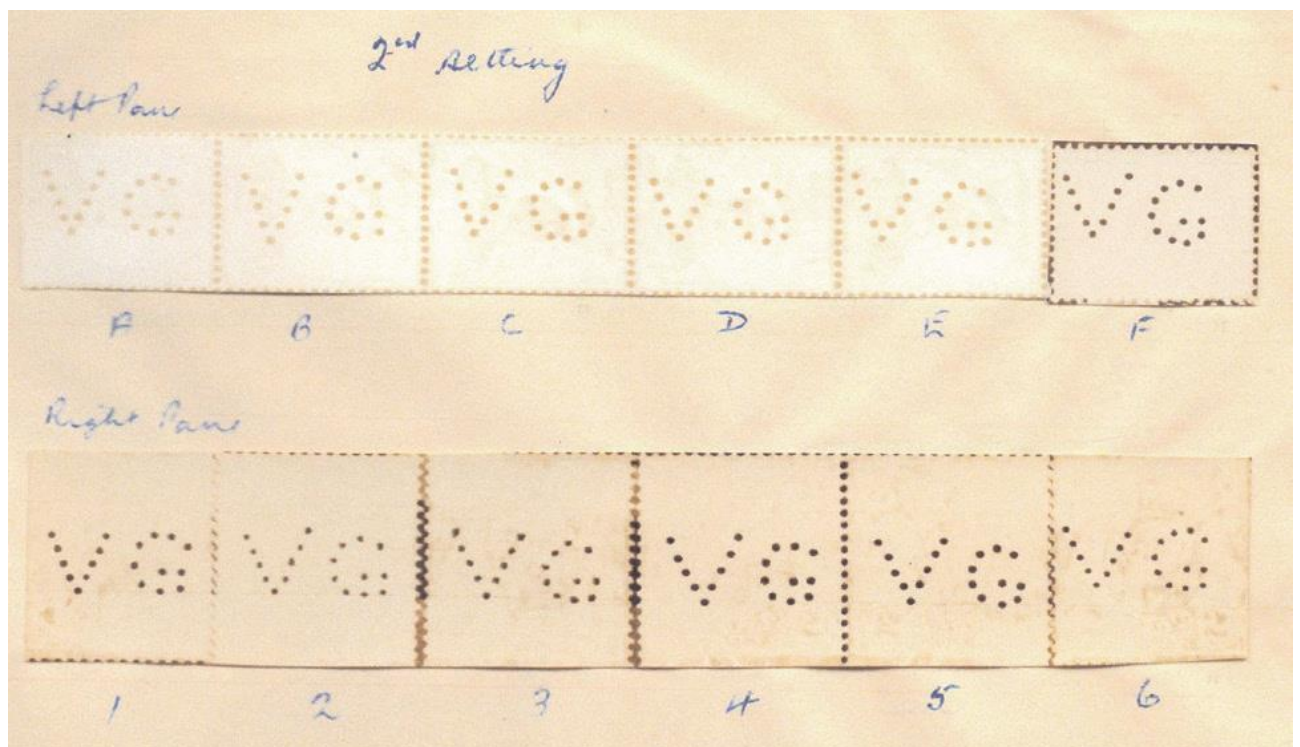
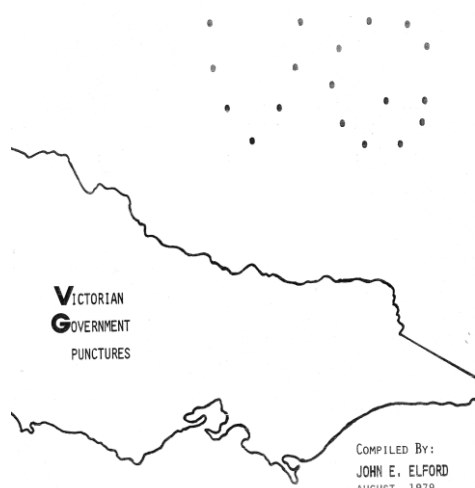


Figure 2, 1950 G E Owen 2nd head die types

The life span of the 1st Head was very short, less than 2 years, but the 2nd head was in service for 18 years, however there were no other published reference to VG Perfin in this period.

In the 1 March 1954 edition of "Australian Stamp Monthly" (ASM), N.E.Reinitz wrote about the implementation of a new type of VG puncture appearing late in August 1953. This was the 3rd head and the known puncturing methods were presented in detail.



25 years lapsed before the next published material on VG's when in August 1979, the first edition of "Victorian Government Punctures" was issued by John. E. Elford.

At left, Figure 3, The first VGP 1979 J.E. Elford (image reduced)

The 4th head had already been in use for 7 years and unlike Owen in 1950, the Elford catalogue contained no individual reference to the 1st and 2nd head punctures and labelled all of the 4 heads as "types" as follows:

1st head = Type 1

2nd head = Type 1

2nd head (11 hole G) =Type 2

3rd head = Type 3

4th head = Type 4

This "type" reference became the standard collecting method, but as we will cover in a future article, Type 2 (11 hole G) is a die variance of the 2nd head.

In November 1982, two VG collectors, Jim Dean and Bryan Toop, combined with John Elford, to publish the 2nd Edition "Victorian Government Punctures".

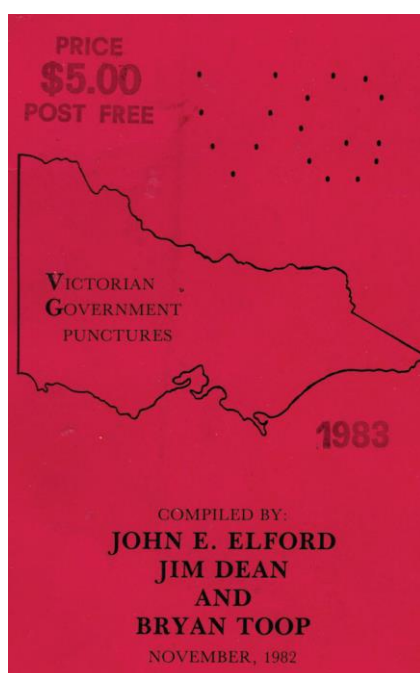
At left, Figure 4 1982 2nd Edition VGP Elford, Dean & Toop

The authors refer to Rostron and Owens 1948 ASM article, mentioning the minor die differences in the 1st and 2nd head and included photos of the 4th head perforator in operation.

This edition also contained over 1400 VG perfin varieties using the "Type" reference, including puncturing methods and perfin positions.

However, the Catalogue did not correctly define the 4 puncturing Heads and conflated the 1st and 2nd Heads

See below, Figure 5 Type classifications in the 1982 2nd Edition VGP Elford, Dean & Toop




There are four **types** of V.G. perfins.

Type 1: 9 hole V, 10 hole G.
Used from 1933 to 1953.


Type 2: 9 hole V, 11 hole G.
Used in combination with Type 1 from 1936 to 1953.

Type 3: 7 hole V, 10 hole G.
Used from 1953 to 1972.


Type 4: 9 hole V, 11 hole G.
Used from 1976 to present date.




Type 1



Type 2



Type 3



Type 4

The 3rd Edition by Bryan Toop alone, was published in September 1984, adding another 250 listings including diagrams of various stamp sheet layouts showing how the VG Puncturing positions arose.

In the ASM of July 1986, D.M Kott presented an article entitled "Australian Punctures" with reference to the 1st Head die types as "the short-lived punctures from February 1933 to

May 1935, there appeared a series of punctures with distorted V's and G's". However Knott only showed 6 of the 12 Dies.

The 4th edition Victorian Government punctures (Toop), was published in January 1988 and once again another 250 VG Perfin varieties were added to the catalogue, plus illustrations of all of the 1st and 2nd head die types.

Scarcity ratings were also given for each listing, numbering from 1 to 5, with 5 being the rarest.

This edition also included a list compiled by David Anderson, of Government Authorities who used VG perfin, based on an accumulation of proving covers.

At this time there was also comments that the life span of the 4th head was coming to an end, as quoted by Bryan "There have been thoughts of changing the head once more, with a sideways head, the majority of stamps are punctured with a sideways V.G. which is not altogether satisfactory. The limiting factor for a new head is the cost." Unbeknown to Bryan, later that year the decision was made to end the puncturing of VG perfin. Bryan confirmed this in the July 1989 issue of the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin titled, "Last of the V.G. Perfin"

During that period the popularity of VG collecting perfin was strong, as the 4th head had been in use for 22 years and with regular updates of the Victorian Government Punctures keeping up with new finds.

In 1993 Bryan teamed up with fellow VG collector Neale Scott to publish the 5th Edition in December 1993, but during the production process, Bryan was presented with a multitude of new and unlisted material to include in the upcoming catalogue.

The source of this material raised suspicion and in the October 1991 issue of the SPPB, Bryan raised his concerns in an article, "Perfin Collectors Beware" and there was a resulting delay in the upcoming Victorian Government Punctures (VGP) Publication.

Bryan & Neale with the assistance of Jim Dean (VGP 2 1982), set out on an intensive investigation of the suspect items. After considerable effort and analysis of the plate flaws and strikes of various dies of the heads, they were able to prove the suspect items to be forgeries. With the assistance of the Queensland Police enough pressure was placed on the perpetrators to cease their operations. This information was presented by Neale in the January 1992 SPPB and Stamp News issues, titled "VG Fakes and Forgeries"

In the 1993 5th Edition VGP, the findings and methods used by Neale to identify forged patterns and the listing of all identified forged copies were published. However, at this point, the scope of the selling activities of the Queensland perpetrators and therefore the amount of the forgeries created, was still unknown.

Neale, in an article in the July 1994 SPPB titled "Victorian Government Punctured Stamps", gave a detailed account of events that had transpired leading up to the publication 5th Edition VGP

25 years has passed and while the VG Perfin has been forged onto a large number of issues, most of these exist in very small numbers and many were unique examples that were presented to Bryan.

David Anderson in 2007 published the 2nd Edition "Australian Official Perfin" (AOP). While not listing VG Perfin (referencing 1993 VGP Scott and Toop), history of each VG Head was given.

This concludes this article on VG Perfin – A fresh look.

If any readers can assist with other publications regarding VG Perfin I would be happy to hear from you at buddahboy10@live.com

References

1 July 1948 Australian Stamp Monthly (ASM) by H Rostron and G.E.Owen "State Punctured Officials"

May 1950 "The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia Punctured for use in State Government Departments". G.E Owen

1 March 1954 Australian Stamp Monthly, "New Type V.G Puncture In Use", N.E.Reinitz

August 1979 1st Edition "Victorian Government Punctures", John E Elford

November 1982 2nd Edition "Victorian Government Punctures", John.E.Elford, Jim Dean & Bryan Toop

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July 1986 Australian Stamp Monthly "Australian Stamp Punctures", D.M.Kott

January 1988 4th Edition Victorian Government Punctures", Bryan Toop

July 1989 South Pacific Perfin Bulletin # 8 "Last of The V.G Perfins", Bryan Toop

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July 1994 South Pacific Perfin Bulletin # 28 "Victorian Government Punctured Stamps", Neale Scott

September 2007 2nd Edition "Australian Official Perfins", David Anderson

October 2013, South Pacific Perfin Bulletin, #103 "VG Perfins a Fresh Look", Jason Rowe and Neale Scott

Members Wants

By Robert Dedecker, Peter Keeda, Gordon Monk, Michael Behm and Mike Hert

Robert Dedecker a PCNZA Member in France (our only one), and Author of the French Perfin Catalogue, is looking for a French Perfin cover sent to Australia. If you have one that you wish to sell then please contact Robert via email: dedeckerr@yahoo.fr or mail: 4 Les Gerioles, 60520, Pontarme, France.

Mike Hert is keen to build his collection of Lebanese perfins and is prepared to purchase spares that Members may have. Mike can be contacted by mail at PO Box 864, Bankstown, NSW, 2200 or by email at mikehert@hotmail.com or phone 0450 011172.

Peter Keeda is interested in buying covers of Jewish Perfin users as follows:

Benjamin Bros- BB/LD, David Cohen & Co- DC/&Co, F Aronson & Co- FA, FA/&Co
Feldheim Gotthelf Ltd- FG/&Co., J&B Sniders- J&B/S, Levy Bros - LB/&Co.,
Lazarus, Aronson- L&C, LC, Lazarus, Rosenfeld- LR, Michaelis, Hallenstrin- MH/&Co
Mayer, Meltzer & Jaden- MM/&J,(Rosenthal, Aronson & Co.- RA/&Co), S Cohen & Sons-
SC/&S.

Also, non-Australian (preferably covers) of Palestine - APC, קקל (KKL) and Portugal - A1, ZAGLO

Peter can be contacted by email: Peter Keeda keedad@gmail.com or by mail at: 56/22 Gadigal Ave, Zetland, NSW, 2017.

Gordon Monk is keen to get more PCNZA patterns on New Zealand stamps to fill out his Exhibit on the Club's pattern. Gordon is also looking for AMP Security Overprints on South Australian Revenues. You can contact him via his son on: Andrew Monk acharman@sa.chariot.net.au or by mail to Gordon Monk, 4 Kinnear Cres, Rostrevor, SA, 5073. Gordon is happy to buy or swap as exchange.

Michael Behm is seeking "perfins from South-East Asia". His contact information is:
Michael Behm, 39 Roslin Ave S, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 2G7, Canada email:
behmmj@gmail.com

New Reports

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

There was no room for this section in this Bulletin and these will be put aside for the July Bulletin which will have a bumper section in order to try and catch up with these reports.

The Club Circuit

By Greg Howard

The Circuit is doing well and the number of Books in circulation has increased over the recent year, and accordingly sales are up, Members collections are growing and vendors are happy.

However, this has served to reduce the stock of Books ready to enter the Circuit. On current rates we need about 24 books a year and on current numbers we are receiving less than 20.

To help in this process we have started some Multi Vendor Books, that have contributions from more than one Vendor, so you do not even need the full 10 pages A5 to start as a Vendor.

So now is the time to make up some Circuit books, all you need to do is contact me: Greg Howard, PO Box 31, Blackmans Bay, Tasmania, 7052, Australia
Email: dhow3371@bigpond.net.au Telephone: 0418 135 351

Most perfin items sell and the Books have a very good clearance rate. Australian private patterns are popular and certainly more popular than Government ones. Overseas patterns are sought after and covers are in high demand. So, if you have some spares, then try moving them on via the Circuit, and if you want to build your collection then consider become a Member of the Circuit.

A quick note to current Members of the Circuit, please remember to move Books on quickly, as this is the best for your fellow Members as well as vendors.

As you all know we use Australia Posts "Next Day" pre paid envelope and satchel service, with "Signature on Delivery" to circulate Circuit Books. This is expensive, but it has proved very fast and reliable and we have not lost any consignments since adopting this method.

One slight change is that Consignments sent to PO Boxes do not require the additional cost of "Signature on Delivery", this is now only required when sending to Members with street addresses.

Any issues contact me on Email: dhow3371@bigpond.net.au or Telephone: 0418 135 351

The OSNSW Type A

By David Coath, Ralph McKenna and Dave Elsmore

Recently a US Perfin Collector, Ralph McKenna contacted Dave Elsmore via perfins.com.au regarding an example of the OSNSW Type A that he had on a 1d Red Kangaroo.

Now this is a common combination, but Ralph's was interesting as it was inverted. He was seeking an opinion on it.

Now these are covered in Australian Official Perfins (Edition 2 – 2007) by David Andersen on pages 90 – 92.

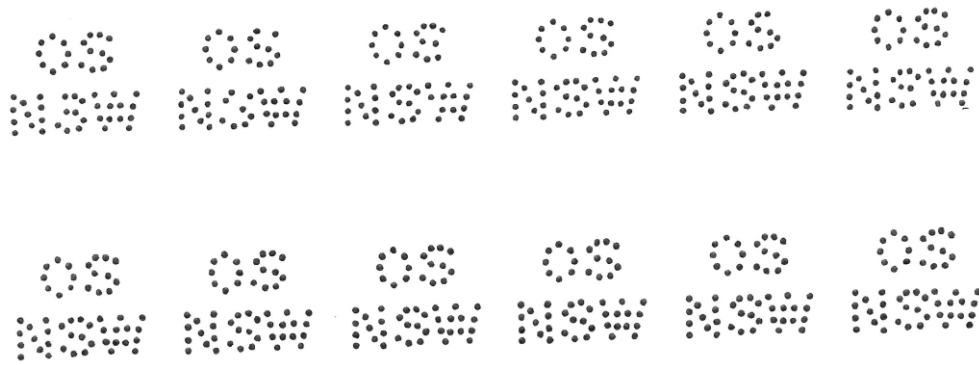
David explains that the original OSNSW that was found on NSW State issues between 1902 – 03 was amended to create a 12 Die device in a Horizontal array with allowance for a central gutter, so as to be suitable for the Kangaroo issues.

Now the device did not prove to be very robust and it started to "drop" pins almost immediately. Oddly there does not seem to have been many, if any, repairs and the missing pin variation is reasonably consistent over its life from 1913 until around 1930.

On the next page I have scanned a copy of a set of the 12 Dies. I have managed to produce this by working with various multiples that I had acquired. I show these on the next page, but in a reduced format due to space requirements.

I have selected a Jpeg format for the scan of the Dies so as to make sure that it is a 1:1 scale, but if you cannot match your patterns to the scanned image then please let me know and I will reproduce it in a future Bulletin and/or send you a photocopy.

You will also see that some Dies, in addition to missing pins, also have some distinct characteristics to some of the letters. Particularly in the "S" in the NSW.



Dies 1 – 6 on the top row and Dies 7 – 12 on the bottom



These were my working patterns and you will notice that I have been able to use examples with selvage to place them at Dies 1 and/or 7 and then in each case build out into the sub set of 6 Dies in that bank. Then I double checked by using pairs, triples and in rare occasions larger multiples, to confirm the relationships between each Die.

Now I caution that this process, although sound, has not been double checked by building a database of Dies from singles that may expose repairs, other variation or indeed transient missing pins.

Many of the multiples that I have in my working patterns are ½ d and 1d values and these were mainly used in the early period of the device. Later use may show more missing pins or other variation.

It is a ripe area of research and I would welcome anyone's input, double checking and correction.

This methodology is on the surface reasonably sound and it was the one that Arthur Taylor, Tom Weir and I used to build the first set of Dies for the tricky GNSW Type A pattern.

So have a look at your patterns and if you have anything to add or correct then please drop me an email or letter to David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria, 3095, Australia Email: davidcoath@onthe.net.au Telephone: 03 94370 366

I look forward to hearing from you.

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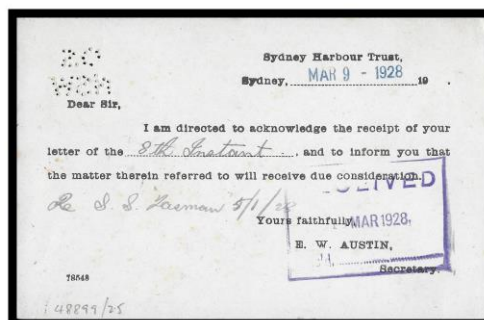
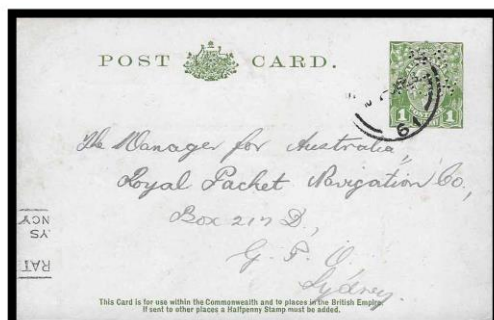
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