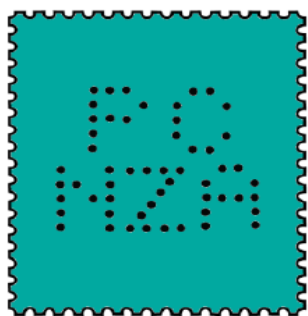




SOUTH **P**ACIFIC **P**ERFIN **B**ULLETIN



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FEATURE ARTICLES

- The Q Patterns of Australia
- New Zealand Reports
- VG 2nd Head
- Tasmanian OS Type F

The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia (PCNZA) four times each year. Club subscriptions (including payment for the Bulletin) are \$15.00 (A or NZ) per annum for New Zealand and Australian residents and \$25.00 (A) per annum for residents of other countries (including Airmail postage). Worldwide emailed copy of the Bulletin is \$10 (A) per annum. Back issues are available from the Secretary in both hardcopy and on CD.

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Brad Mills (Clifton Hill – VIC)
Alex Green (Richmond – TAS)
Jeff Turnbull (Wales – UK)

Editors Comment

By David Coath



Firstly, welcome to the SPPB #130. These are certainly peculiar times, with the response to the COVID 19 Pandemic still requiring social isolation and quarantine.

Unfortunately, due to mistakes made in my home State of Victoria, we are facing further lock downs and masks have been made mandatory.

Now I hope that this remains restricted to Victoria, but we cannot be certain that masks will not be required soon in other States.

In the spirit of compliance, but with a view to the Australian ethos of using humour in the face of adversity, I purchased this mask. The gesture is supposed to be a thumbs up, but the fingers on my right hand have never been the same since a collision with a hockey stick in the early 1990's.

But, as I said in the last Bulletin, as Philatelists we are fortunate to have a hobby that is uniquely suitable in these circumstances and this was wonderfully captured

in the Meme that was shared by Bob Szymanski in the last Bulletin.

This Bulletin contains plenty of news about perfins and as always, more information than can fit into one Bulletin.

In fact, due to space limitations we have been unable to feature all of Jason Rowe's excellent articles on the VG, that were included in recent issues of "Australian Stamps Professional". One will be in this issue, but others will have to wait for future issues of the Bulletin, along with some stunning Front Cover quality items from regular contributor, John Amiet.

In this issue we have once again received some great input from Members, sharing their knowledge and new finds including articles from Stephen Jones in New Zealand, Jason Rowe and Jerry Weirich in the US.

If you wish to contribute anything for inclusion in the SPPB, please feel free to do so and I will share it in a subsequent 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 donor, Gordon Monk and John Mullavey, both generous and repeat donors, Greg Howard, Ken Scudder, Tony Cane, Donald Adams, Harold Waite (again), new Member Rob Brennan and John Tyson, who all donated postage.

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

Front Cover – QME

By David Coath



This is an amazing report from John Amiet. It is QME on a Queensland stamp postmarked in 1912. It may be the pattern that is listed in HAPP as QME.1, which is described as, "Reported but not seen".

The Q page in HAPP is rather sparse, with just 6 patterns listed and fully 4 of these are described the same as QME.1, that is, "Reported but not seen".

As Greg Howard and I have noted in our Articles on "Questionable Items in HAPP", quite often these patterns that are described as "Reported but not seen", are miss reports of other Security type methods, such as Security Overprints, or Customised Queensland Railway stamps, which carried a Company name in the Cartouche. We talk about this, and other issues, later in the Bulletin in the article on "The Q Patterns of Australia".

Puncture your Postage stamps with the PCNZA pattern

By David Coath

With Arthur Taylor's passing, I have taken over responsibility for the Club's PCNZA Perforator.

Arthur had left me a box of envelopes pre stamped and ready to mail for a few Bulletins, but I have now used these up. Fortunately, he had also punctured 100's of a range of values and I am now using these on the mailings, along with Donated postage.

So, I have not had much perforating to do, but you can change that, by sending me postage stamps that you want to be perforated.

The rules are easy, they must be issues of Australia or New Zealand from 1998 onwards. Australian Territories (Cocos Island, Australian Antarctic Territory or Christmas Island), are fine too.

The device does not like the peel and stick stamps, so none of those please as it tends to gum up.

Send them to: David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria, 3095, Australia, for a fast turnaround.

Club Auction – April 2020

By David Coath

Part 1 of the PCNZA Auction for 2020 has closed and it was very popular, with over 40 Members submitting bids. That is a great result and certainly the most bidders that I have seen since I took over running the Auctions.

If you were successful you would have already received your lots, but if it was just a small lot, then it may be included with this Bulletin.

Payments for Lots are now due and there would have been an invoice included with your Lots. Payments for these can be made to the Treasurers, either in Australia or New Zealand. All details for these are on the Invoice as well as Page 2 of this Bulletin.

Thanks to all the Bidders and to those Members who submitted Lots for Auction.

Part 2 and Part 3 of the PCNZA Auction for 2020 is still open and it has been issued via email. Parts 2, 3 and 4 are different, as it is more like a Treaty Sale than an Auction, because all Lots are now offered at the Reserve price. There is no bidding and the first "Bid" in on any Lot is the winner.

Part 3 was created because due to mistakes made in preparation of the Auction Part 1, some lots were omitted from the final version that went to Print. These are offered on the same basis as the Lots in Part 2. That is first in is the winner. Look for the them, they are listed at the end of Part 2.

Part 4 Because some Members do not have email, I have issued a Part 4 of the Auction that includes all Lots that were not sold in Parts 1, 2 and 3. This is included in a Printed form in this Bulletin for some Members. There are still some good items available and they are all at the reserve.

Club Auction – 2021

By David Coath

The 2020 Auction will see almost all Lots sold, so we are on the hunt for Lots for next years sale.

All sorts of perfin items sell and you can be confident that whatever you submit will be cleared. Bidding is strong, % sales are high and the Club only takes a Commission of 10% on sales.

So, if you have something to offer please send it to me and I will make it available to the Members. Send them to: David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria, 3095, Australia.

New Zealand Banking Changes

By Richard Smolnicki and Ray Bennett

New Zealand Members please note, that following on from previous actions by Kiwibank to terminate the use of cheques by February 2020, ANZ bank (New Zealand), which the club uses for its main New Zealand account, has advised that it will not be accepting, or issuing cheques, from 1st June 2021.

Furthermore, the bank used by the Circuit Manager (NZ), the Bank of New Zealand, has also advised that it will not be accepting cheques from July, 2021.

Club members using cheques, are encouraged to contact their bank to arrange online payment facilities for ongoing payments to PCNZA. Cash will still be accepted for payments, but the Direct Debit process offered with online Banking is best.

Paypal is also still available via pcnzatreasurer@gmail.com, and all Banking details for the Club are included on Page 2 of this Bulletin.

PCNZA – Subscriptions 2020/21

By Les Vincent

Enclosed in the April Bulletin was a Personalised Membership Subscription Renewal Form that listed all credits and amounts due for the 2020/21 Membership year.

Payment methods were detailed on the reverse of the form.

If you have not settled this, then your Membership is overdue and I would ask that you pay it promptly.

Remember your Subscriptions rates are very low, in fact they are below the basic costs of producing and distributing the Bulletin. Despite this the Committee achieves an annual surplus by astute management and the revenue from Advertising, Donations of postage, as well as, most importantly, Commissions from the Circuit and Auction.

For any queries, or changes of personal or mailing details, please contact me on Email: lesliejvincent@yahoo.com.au or by my Telephone number which is 0431 871 594.

Revised Circuit Procedures in Australia – COVID 19

By Greg Howard and David Coath

Recently the Circuit experienced a long delay with the circulation of a set of Books, owing to the ill health of a Member.

Such things are unavoidable, but they can cause delays and potential loss of Circuit books. To address this, we have been asking Members on the Circuit to nominate a second contact point, to ensure that books can be passed on in the event of any protracted delay.

The second Contact will need to be aware of the rules regarding posting etc.. Greg will be continuing to contact Members of the Circuit to discuss this.

In the meantime, the COVID 19 Pandemic has also meant a change in procedures with Australia Post. They are no longer collecting actual Signatures for consignments requiring "Signature on Delivery". This means that Members on the Circuit no longer need to purchase this extra service for the time being.

Further, Members may notice that Posties are not even bothering to bring the Next Day rated consignments to the door for personal delivery and that they may find them with their normal mail in the letter box.

This is far from ideal and it undermines the value of the Next Day service. But, I would ask Members to persist with it as it still provides the best tracking and speed of delivery, in a time that the standard mail services are experiencing lengthy delays and are slated to have reduced delivery frequency.

PCNZA Accounts for 2019/20

By Les Vincent

It is with pleasure that I once again submit the PCNZA balance sheet, this time for the period 1/7/19 to 30/6/20 (subject to audit):-

INCOME

Subscriptions	\$1585.45
PayPal Fee surplus	.40
Auction Sales	5,047.75
Paid in NZ A/c (-)	244.25
Other -)	64.40
Less Transfer to M/Credit	
(-) 3,576.60	1,162.50
Postage & Donations	343.16
From PCNZA NZ	1,000.00
Forgery Unit	1,110.45
Circuit Book Com.	700.00
Sale of Publications	
"Australian Official Perfins"	200.00
VG Perfins	15.00
Advertising	205.00
Sub Total	6,321.96

EXPENDITURE

Printing	\$1,537.97
Stationary & Postage	699.91
Auction Payments	805.38
Repay Member (CCH)	4016.59
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>\$7,059.85</u>

Surplus \$3,008.11

Transfers to Members Credits

4,402.00

Less transfers from Members Credits

(-) 556.00

Total \$10,167.96

\$10,167.96

Balance at Bank 30 June, 2019	\$ 1,978.11
Total Income to 30 June, 2020	10,167.96
Total Expenditure to 30 June 2020	7,059.85
Less transfer to Interest Bearing Deposit	(-) 3,000.00

Balance at Bank 30 June, 2020	\$2,086.22
Balance of statement 30 June, 2020	\$2,086.22
PayPal - \$A	00.00
Paypal - USD	<u>00.00</u>
Balance	\$2,086.22
Less Members Credits	(-) 694.36
Available funds	\$1,391.86
Interest Bearing Deposit (30/6/2020)	<u>\$20,333.87</u>
<u>Total available funds as at 30/6/20</u>	<u>\$21,725.73</u>

Summary

I would like to thank, in particular, David Coath, Richard Smolnicki, Greg Howard, and our auditor, Mr John van der Camp, for their great help during this past year, and the other Members for their support.

This year our assets as at 30/6/20 have increased by \$3,008 to \$21,725.

Interest from our Interest Bearing Deposit amounted to \$266.52 and an extra \$3,000 was added at maturity 30/6/20. The current rate for 7 months is a pathetic 0.90%.

Our subscriptions collected over the past 3 years after adjusting for subs paid in advance, for instance the \$1,090 from the 82 financial members who have already paid up for the next financial year 30/6/21 is:- 30/6/20 \$1,847, 30/6/19 \$1,906 and 30/6/18 \$1,856

The PCNZA currently has 135 members, 82 of them (or 60%) are financial for this coming year compared with 64% at this time last year.

Richard, our New Zealand Treasurer has sent over AU\$1,000 and also paid two members around \$110 from his account, which now has a balance of just over NZ\$400.

Our Members credit balance as at 30/6/20 is \$695 down from \$865 the previous year, \$4402 has been added mainly from auction sales and circuit books and \$4572 was paid out, which includes just over \$4,000 remitted to Colin Clark Hutchison (Scotland) which now clears our books.

We have made some effort to reduce Members credits but there are still 13 members for whom we are holding money on their behalf, most of these are small, but 3 have a balance in excess of \$100.

Our PayPal Account was utilised only 10 times this F/Y, previously 40, the total balance \$384.31 was transferred to our cheque account late June.

It is pleasing to note that more members are opting to pay their subscriptions by direct deposit rather than paying through PayPal or sending their cheques, which then need to be banked. This is good news as it is easier to process payments via this method.

These books will be forwarded to our auditor, John van der Camp, who generously gives his time without charge.

I hope you all keep well, stay safe and avoid the Covid19 virus.

Les Vincent, Treasurer – PCNZA

Perfins on YouTube

By David Coath

A couple of years ago I managed to fracture my right leg after a fall on some slippery steps, while hastily leaving a Baby Shower, that my wife Cathy had made me attend. Take my experience as a warning, these are dangerous events and men need to avoid them.

Following surgery to have a plate installed in my leg, I was required to sit still with my leg elevated for a couple of weeks. My loving family set me up in a room with a reclining chair and a computer and piles of perfins. During this period of convalescence, I watched a lot of YouTube, particularly long form pieces on history and science, but also shorter form political and news feeds. Even today, with two good legs, I have YouTube on at every opportunity, as it is a great source of music, information and news.

Recently I found this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwFtj2FvRuM>

It is just a short piece that goes for less than 13 minutes. It starts with the introduction of Postage stamps and moves quickly to the creation of Perfins and the associated reasons and the inventor Joseph Sloper.

To my surprise the piece was produced with the support of the American Philatelic Society and not the US Perfin Club. It is a basic overview, but it is interesting to see what can be done with this medium of communication. I have noted that some Auction Houses in Australia, Abacus in particular, have used YouTube as a way of showing Lots on offer at their Auctions. Perhaps there is an opportunity for us to share our hobby in this way as well.

Amazingly Dave Elsmore also found it and posted it up on the Facebook page as well.

EWMW perfin on a Railway Charges

By Stephen Jones

Currently, the interest in New Zealand Railways Charges stamps is strong. The bulk of the appeal with them lays in them being overprinted for the name of the station that they were allocated to. But it gets better. A number of the stations were small and would have had minimal demand for the freight stamps, resulting in examples from some stations listed as unrecorded. Coupled with these with very few exceptions, there were well over 300 stations that were allocated stamps, and just when you thought it couldn't get any better, on a very simplified basis there are two different overprint types available that were possibly used at the stations.

And then you have perfinned examples. Examples have been recorded perfinned with "MGM", Metro Goldwyn Meyer and "K", Kodak. Those punched "MGM" are obtainable with patience but examples with "K" are very thin on the ground. The second edition of Samuels "New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Initials" also illustrates examples of both. See pages 26 and 29.

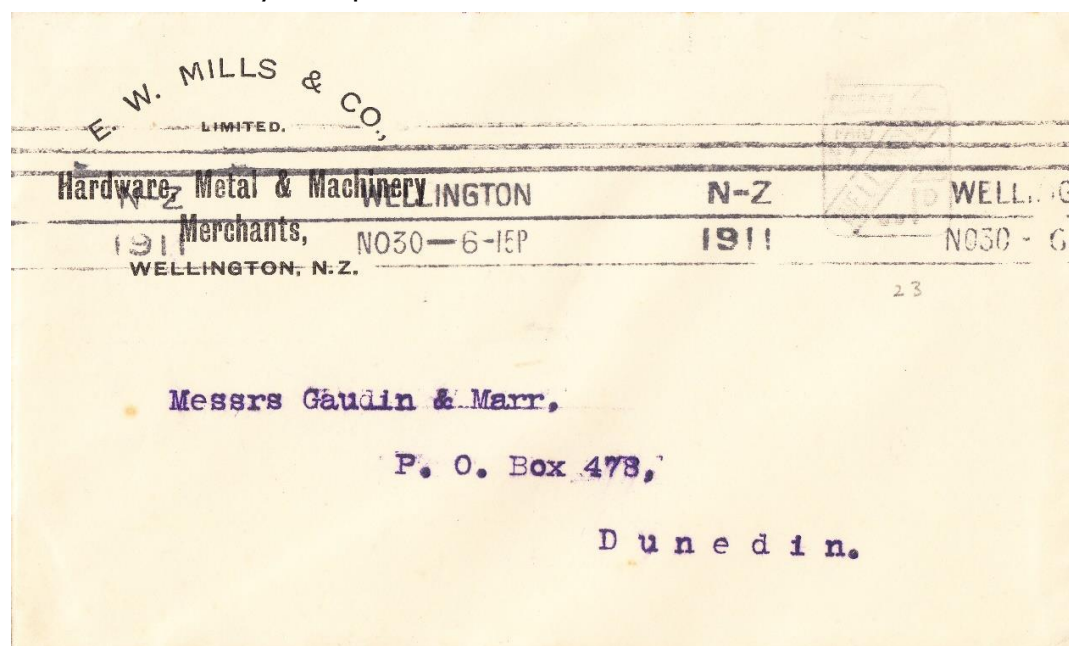
			
"K" Kodak	"MGM" Metro Goldwyn Meyer		
Dr Alan Craig collection			

Recently in May an example of a 3d value, overprinted with WN CBO, for Wellington Central Booking Office, was listed on Trade Me. The exciting feature of this stamp was that it was perfinned "EWMW", EW Mills Wellington. (see pages 19 – 20 of Samuel) The station overprint is in the earlier style used from 1925 when these stamps were first issued. In the description, the vendor indicated this may be the only example known, however I am aware of at least one other example held in Dr Alan Craig's exceptionally fine collection of Railways Charges stamps.

The reserve was \$200, and the bidding ramped up to over \$850 before being knocked down for \$865 to a specialist collector of this issue. Based on realisations of other sales of rare Railways Charges items, I thought it would go higher. Given that it was found in an accumulation of rather ordinary stamps, this is a rather good return.

			
"EWMW" Trade Me	"EWMW" Dr Alan Craig		"EWMW" 1916 usage

It is a very unusual find in the respect that EW Mills was an early adopter of postage franking machines and in 1908 began using a Moss Model C machine, meter number 23, to process their mail and duty receipts.



Cover for EW Mills, Wellington, dated November 30, 1911 and franked with meter number 23

Stamps used by EW Mills and clearly demonstrating post 1908 perfin usage are very desirable, and barring an example punched on a George V recess 2d yellow (See page 6), all the examples I have of this perfin are from the pre 1908 period. This 2d stamp would date usage from 1916 as this stamp was only on issue for a short period between January and September of that year.

Samuel's book also states that the authority to use the perfin was withdrawn between 1927 and 1930, making this an exceedingly rare survivor.

Temporary Punctures – The “Elephant in the Room”

By Greg Howard, and David Coath



This is a reprise of an article that was featured in the April Bulletin.

Thanks to all the Members who enquired about what has been written on this central part of the Collecting of Australian Private Perfins. As promised in the April article on this subject, we have produced extracts on what has been written about these Temporary Punctures in the SPPB, Overseas Bulletins and out of print Publications such as “Commercial Perfins of Australia”, from the Club Library. We are able to send these to Members as either a series of Attachments to an email or in a hard copy form. There is not cost.

In any case if anyone is interested just get in contact with David and he will send them to you.

New Zealand Report – Telegraph Punctures

By Stephen Jones

Under New Zealand Reports on page 20 of the April SPPB, I made a comment re the existence of New Zealand stamps found with telegraph office punch holes and indicated that I had not seen any examples. Subsequently Dr Alan Craig was able to provide three images of stamps from his extensive revenue collection that would contradict this.

Two of them, 1880 Long Type (LT) revenues, have been used for the payment of either telegraph or telephone charges as evidenced by their cancels. The third item is a vertical pair of the 1/- value from the 1920 Victory issue, cancelled at Otaki with an "A" Class datestamp. The interesting aspect of this pair and the four shilling LT value is that they have what I would call a "bus ticket" style punch hole, very unusual.



Telephone Office
Palmerston North



Telegraph Office
Oamaru



Otaki

Craddock's book on New Zealand "A" Class cancellations lists a 24.5mm date stamp, in use from 1902 to 1942 to cancel mail at Otaki. As Otaki was a smaller office, and while the cancellation of the Victory stamps appears to indicate postal use, it is not uncommon for postal date stamp to be found cancelling stamps used for a non-postal service.

In the revenue section of my collection I have probably 70 – 80 examples of LTs cancelled with telegraph office (TO) date stamps plus a sprinkling of other non-revenue issues with TO cancels. The bulk of my LTs were used at the four main centres, but there are one or two from smaller offices such as Napier and Gore. None of them have any form of punch hole and given what seems to be a scarcity of examples punched in this manner, I believe this indicates it was not a widespread practice to punch the stamps in this manner. There are other possibilities to explain these examples including punching for some sort of audit purposes, which I feel is most likely, or a post office regulation interpreted by an employee requiring the stamps to be punched in some manner to prevent reuse.

"Australian Perfin Group" on Facebook continues to grow

By Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

The "Australian Perfin Group" on Facebook has now exceeded 200 Members 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, then answer some basic questions about your knowledge and interests. There are some requirements about identity that are also important as we do not wish to have people writing on the site and pretending to be someone that they are not.

The Facebook group recently hosted a very interesting and informative discussion about the MCB pattern group, found on the issues of Victoria. These have been stated to be proved to McCracken City Brewery, however evidence from revenue cachets and other research by the Facebook group, suggested there is another user. These findings were slated to be featured in an Article in this Bulletin, but they have had to be moved to the October Bulletin due to space limitations.

Evidence for the 6-Die Perforator on the First OS Issue of Tasmania

Jerry Weirich

Introduction

In the April 2019 issue of the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin (SPPB), Jerry Austen and David Coath discussed the structure of the OS perforating devices used on Tasmanian stamps. They reviewed the long history of research and showed that multiple perforating devices were used. The primary device was a vertical 10-die device in a 3-4-3 OS set configuration. They also showed that this configuration would not account for the OS stamps that were perforated with the OS parallel to the short side of the stamp. These stamps were what they described as OS position 1 or upright orientation on the vertically orientated pictorial stamps (1d and 4d values) and the position 2 or sideways orientation on the horizontally orientated stamps (1/2d, 2d, 3d, 5d, and 6d values). (See their articles for more detail on these descriptions.) As a result, they conclude that all the collective research supports a separate vertical device of 6 OS dies that was used for perforating the stamps with the OS parallel to the short side.

Since publication of the SPPB articles, this author was asked to show my evidence for the 6-die OS perforator. What follows is that evidence with more details on the stamps and the perforating device. The evidence falls in three areas: the position of the OS perfin on the stamps, the position of the OS stamp in the sheet, and the measurements between the OS dies. This evidence only applies to the stamps with OS parallel to the short side and these stamps represent the first OS issue of Tasmania.

Position of the OS perfin on the stamp

The position of the OS perfin is highly consistent on the stamps with OS parallel to the short side. The position is either central or high. These are not exact positions in every stamp and there will be some variability of up to several millimeters around the central and high positions. However, one does not need a measuring device and the two positions can be recognized visually. In both positions, the first top hole in the S of OS is used as the reference point. The scans below show the central and high positions for each denomination. All first OS issue stamps are one of these two positions. Note that all stamps, regardless of orientation, are shown with the OS upright. This was the orientation of the stamps while being punctured OS.



For the 1/2d green, the central position is recognized by the first hole in S of OS being adjacent or under the SM of Tasmania. In the high position, the first hole is adjacent or under the TA of Tasmania.



For the 1d red, the central position is recognized by the first hole in S being lower along the right vignette frame. In the high position, the first hole is opposite or just below the right scroll of the vignette frame.



For 2d purple, the central position is recognized by the first hole in S being adjacent to under the SM of Tasmania. In the high position, the first hole is adjacent or under the TA of Tasmania.



For the 3d brown, the central position is recognized by the first hole in S being adjacent or under the SM of Tasmania. In the high position, the first hole is opposite or below the TA of Tasmania.



For the 4d yellow brown, the central position is recognized by the first hole being opposite the lower floral ornament. In the high position the hole is opposite the smaller upper floral ornament.



For the 5d blue, the central position is recognized by the first hole being adjacent or below the SM of Tasmania. In the high position, the hole is adjacent or below the TA of Tasmania.



The 6d red is similar to the other horizontally oriented stamps. In the central position, the first hole in the S is adjacent or below the SM of Tasmania. In the high position, the hole is adjacent or below the TA of Tasmania.

Position of the OS stamp in the sheet

Determining the position of the OS stamp in a sheet is accomplished by plating the plate and print flaws on the basic stamp. All the stamps in the first OS issue can be plated, but this author has only attempted the lithographed (1/2d and 2d) stamps and electrotyped (1d) stamps. The other values (3d, 4d, 5d and 6d) of the first OS issue are recess printed and difficult to plate. However, this author believes that plating the three values (1/2d, 1d and 2d) is enough to prove the same approach and device was used to produce all the first OS issue stamps.

The 1/2d lithographed stamps have been completely plated so all 1/2d OS stamps can be positioned in a sheet. Significant plating research has been completed on the 1d electrotyped and 2d lithographed stamps, although neither value has been completed. The 1d is about 75% complete and the 2d is about 70% complete, for the plates used. While that means we are not yet able to completely position all the OS stamps for these two values we are able to position most of them.

The current plate positioning for the three values are shown below. Each sheet consists of 60 stamps (represented by the small blocks). The letter in each block represents what OS positioning has been found for each stamp position: C for central, H for high.

The sheets of the upright-oriented stamps (1d (shown) and 4d) were perforated OS with the stamps upright. The upright-oriented stamps have the top three rows with central OS positioning and the bottom three rows with high OS positioning.

The sheets of the horizontal-oriented stamps (1/2d and 2d (both shown) and 3d, 5d, and 6d) were all turned 90 degrees to the right and then perforated OS. The pattern is the same except for the fact that the sheets were turned before perforating resulting in the first three columns with the central OS positioning and the last three columns with the high OS positioning.

The 1/2d plating:

C	C			H	
			H		
C	C	C		H	H
		C			
		C	H		
C					
C				H	H

The 1d plating:

				C				C	
				C	C				
H								H	
						H			
					H				

The 2d plating:

		C	H		H
C					H
	C			H	H
			H	H	
	C		H	H	
C	C		H	H	H

Although the OS plating is not complete for any of the first issue values, the pattern clearly shows two groups of three OS dies. The author believes this points to a vertical 6-die perforating device configured in two sets of three OS dies. In addition, since the OS position on every stamp across every column is very consistent, the device was probably fixed meaning that all six dies perforated at the same time. This is different from how the 10-die device operated which perforated each column of stamps in three separate actions—the top three stamps first, then the middle four stamps, and then the bottom three stamps to complete the puncturing of the column. Stamps punctured with the 10-die device can show wide variations of the OS position which has not been seen in the first issue stamps perforated with the 6-die device.

For the same reasoning, this author also eliminates a single 3-die perforator that would have been used twice per column. The human factor of a workman aligning the perforator so consistently across every column in every sheet is less probable than the 10-die device perforating in the three steps.

Measurements between the OS Dies



In the April 2019 SPPB articles, the authors discussed the separation between dies. Although this author adds nothing new to that discussion, he thought it worthwhile to show an example of the different spacing between the 6-die and the 10-die perforating devices for the same OS dies. The first pair (rotated vertically) shows Die 1 and 2 from sheet positions 7 and 8 of the first Tasmanian OS issue. This pair was perforated OS using the 6-die device and has a separation between dies of 25 mm. The second pair shows Die 1 and 2 from sheet positions 2 and 8 from a later (not first) printing using the 10-die device. This pair has a separation of 16 mm. These two pairs which show the same OS dies provide the final evidence of a different perforating device.



Final Comments

Nothing in this article changes Jerry Austen and David Coath's conclusion that two type F OS devices were used for perforating the Tasmanian stamps. This author believes that the 6-die and 10-die devices were not used simultaneously. The original device used for Tasmanian stamps was the 6-die perforator. It was used only once (in late 1904) for each of the seven pictorial values and was used essentially as an emergency device to get OS stamps into Tasmania after almost two years of delay. The quantity of each value punctured OS was very small, although records have not been found detailing the number produced.

All subsequent Tasmanian OS stamps were produced (beginning in early 1905) using a 10-die device. The 6-die device was probably cannibalized to make the 10-die device because the 6-die device was not used again.

The reason for the change from the 6-die device to the 10-die device has not been found in the archives, but most likely was the result of genuine ingenuity to create a single device that could be used to puncture both the large-size pictorials and the small-size sideface and tablet issues.

Acknowledgements

The author extends great appreciation to the following collectors who provided scans of OS stamps that were used in the plating of these stamps: Jerry Austen (Australia), Bill Lloyd-Smith (Australia), David McNamee (United States), John Pearson (Australia), and Richard Singleton (New Zealand). The author also thanks Jerry Austen and Bill Lloyd-Smith for scans of several OS stamps shown in this article.

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Weirich, Jerry. "Plate and Printing Flaws on the Halfpenny Lithographed Pictorial". The Courier, Tasmanian Philatelic Society, December 2016.

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Editor's Comment

This is an important and ongoing study by Jerry Weirich and we are delighted to have been able to share it. The work that I have done with Jerry Austen on these OS devices was originally based on Jerry Weirich's premise of the 6 Die Perforator, as published in "The Informer". A bit like the Voyage of Columbus, we went looking for something that we knew was there. Our method of proving was largely based on multiples, often large ones.

Jerry has approached this from a different perspective to produce the same findings, using a different methodology. His use of plating and the survey of the positions of strikes has proved his premise of the 6 Die Perforator and would do so even if Jerry and I had not written a word.

This is how a science based study, such as ours, works best, with theories tested and proved by multiple methods.

Well done Jerry, I will look forward to keeping track and sharing news of his continued progress with this pattern on the issues of Tasmania.

Offer to Buy Members Mint Australia

By Lin Peterson

I am an eBay seller and need Mint Australia for postage. I am prepared to offer PCNZA Members 60% of Face on any that they want to sell. I can be contacted on email at: Lin Peterson lin@linbe.com or by mail at: PO Box 137, Portarlington, VIC, 3223.

“A Closer look at the 2nd Head VG Perfins”

By Jason Rowe

Introduction

This article first appeared in Australian Stamps Professional Issue #80. In this 6th article of this series Jason Rowe looks at the various large type pre-decimal stamp issues found perforated with the 2nd head of the VG.

This takes up the story of the 2nd head that was featured in SPPB # 128 of January 2020.

The 2nd Head

With the requirement to perforate larger type, non-letter rate stamps, the operator of the VG 2nd head device was confronted with a new set of challenges.

With the heads design and fixed die spacing, the folding methods used on the smaller type issues was ineffective, as the sheet layouts and sizes of individual stamps varied.

The operators endeavour to create a central puncture would have been quite a difficult task. As the various VG perfin positions and die types found to date would suggest, the methods and perforating procedures were less regimented than in the past.

Many of these higher value VG perfins are extremely rare, with only a handful of copies known. Contributing to the rarity, was the range of contemporary high value stamps that could be perforated, and the usage of these on overseas and large mailings, where the survival rate was very limited.

As the requirement to perforate full sheets of stamps was minimal, this allowed the operator to fold and perforate smaller blocks of stamps. From 1934 to 1948 dies 1 to 6 can be found used once again, suggesting the operator utilised the left-hand side of the perforating head. Then from 1948 up until the heads replacement in 1953, stamps are predominately found struck from Dies 6 to 12.

In the 1993 “Victorian Government Punctures” Neale Scott & Bryan Toop, it lists 33 known large type stamp issues with VG perfin 2nd head in various Positions and die types.



First to be punctured was the 1934 3d Blue Centenary Victoria Perf 10 ½ and 11 ½ which came in sheets of 80, 2 panes comprising 10 rows of 4. With the stamps found to date, it appears the operator has folded the sheets vertically using the narrow side of the stamp, inserting a bank of 10 rows of 2 under dies 1 and 2 And creating VG Positions E, F, G, H.

Figure 1 (above) 1934 3d Blue Centenary Victoria Perf 11 ½ VG Position “E” die 2 & VG position “F” Die 1

The 1937–48 1/6 d Hermes (thick and thin Papers) were of the same sheet layout as the 3d Blue Centenary of Victoria. Therefore, the same folding method was used, producing strikes with VG Positions E, F, G, H. The Majority of the die types found are 1 and 2 but on occasions, the operator has not folded the sheet and dies 3 and partials of dies 4,5,6 have been found.



Figure 2 (above) 1937–48 1/6 d Hermes thick and thin Papers. VG position “E” Die 1 VG Position “G” Die 2 VG position “H” Die 2 & VG Position “H” Partial strike Die 3 & Die 4

1938–49 5/- 10/- and £1 Robes (thick and thin Papers). The sheet layouts for the 5/- and 10/- were a total of 80 stamps on 2 panes (upper and lower) comprising 4 rows of 10. VG Positions A, B, C, D are found, but it is unclear how the operator folded these sheets to be perforated, as dies 1 to 3 have only been sighted. One theory is the sheet was broken in

half and this created a part sheet of 8 rows of 5. The sheet was then folded in a 8 row 2,3 this would have then be placed under dies1, 2 and 3 of the puncturing head.



Figure 3 (left) An example of how the 5/- 10/- robes may have been folded



Figure 4 (above) 1938-49 5/- 10/- Robes (thick and thin Papers) VG Position "A" die 2, VG position "C" die 2, Joined pair VG position "B, D" die 1 and 10/- VG Position "A" Die 1

The £1 Robes had the same sheet layout as the Centenary of Victoria and Hermes and so it is found in VG positions A, E, F, G, H. Only a handful of these £1 issues have been sited with the majority showing die1, die 1 partial die 2 and die 2 partial die 3. The variety of different perfin positions found and the limited demand for this issue would suggest smaller blocks where inserted under the head at the operator's discretion.



Figure 5 (above) £1 Robes Thick Paper VG position "A" Die 1 and partial Die 2 Position "F" die 2 and partial die 3 Position "G" Die 2

1940 1d 2d 3d 4d Australian Imperial Forces printed in sheets of 80 on 2 panes upper and lower 4 rows of 10. VG position "E" dies 1 to 12 are found. In this instance the operator has reverted back to puncturing full sheets. They were rotated using the long side of the stamp creating a strip of 8 to be placed under the head of 12 dies. The sheet was then placed under the head and punctured one at a time until all 10 rows were completed. The outcome was 8 stamps with all 12 dies represented. Due to the heads die spacing each stamp shows full and partial strikes of 2 dies, exception to this is die 6 and 12 these appear as single strikes.



Figure 6 (above) 1d AIF Lower Pane strip of 4 showing Dies 7 to 12



Figure 7 (left) 1940 1d, 2d, 3d and 6d Australian Imperial Forces (AIF)

1945 2½d, 3½d & 5½d Duke and Duchess of Gloucester printed in sheets of 60 with left and right panes of 30 (6 rows of 5), found in VG positions “E” and “G” the 2½d die types 1 to 6. The operator has folded the sheets vertical through the gutter then rotated the sheet creating 5 rows 6 and inserted under the left-hand side of the head. The 3½d & 5½d values of this issue are very rare with only a few copies of each sited.



Figure 8 (left) 1945 2½d, 3½d & 5½d Duke and Duchess of Gloucester

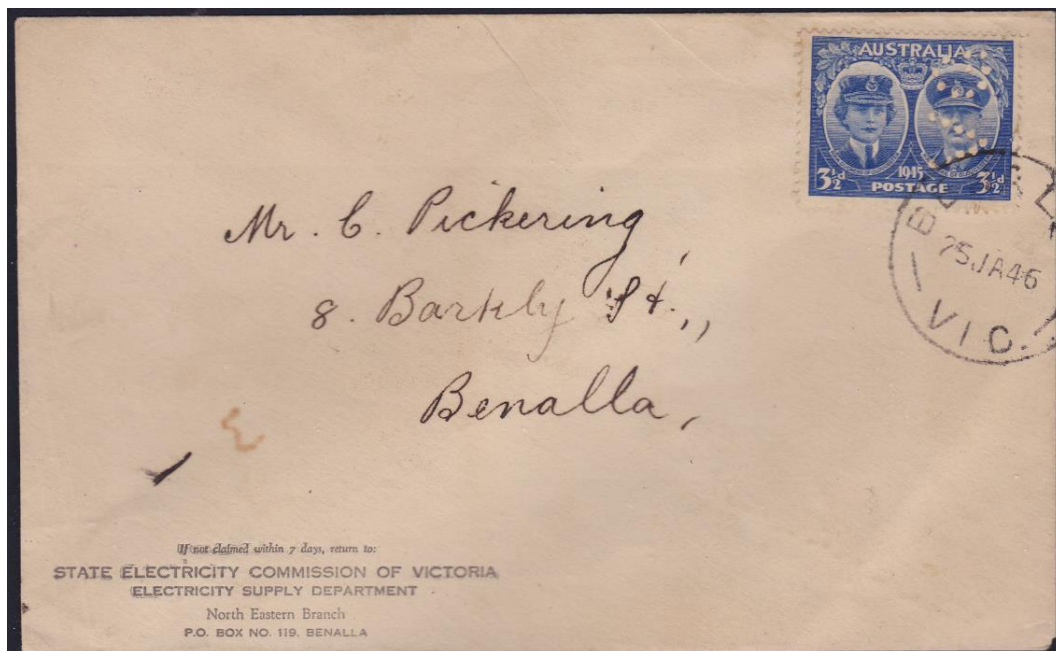


Figure 9 (left) 1946 3½d Duke and Duchess of Gloucester OHMS from State Electricity Commission VG Perfin position “G” die 4



Figure 10 (left) 1945 5½d Duke and Duchess of Gloucester Registered OHMS from Office of Titles VG Perfin position “E” die 4

References

“Victorian Government Punctures” (1993) by Neale Scott & Bryan Toop,
The Australian Commonwealth Specialist Catalogue

Note

If you are keen to learn more about the VG pattern, have questions or want to collect them contact Jason via email at, Jason Rowe buddahboy10@live.com.

Auction Watch

By David Coath, Greg Howard, Jamie Davidson, Jason Rowe, Tom Weir, John Graham, Jerry Austen and Dave Elsmore



This Auction Watch is starting with an apology. In the last Bulletin we featured the Sheet of OS Type F (above) on the 1929 Air Mail issue, which was listed in the recent Philatelics (Australia) Auction # 147 of 20/21/22 of March 2020 as lot 270.

We are yet to do an analysis of the dies, but we do have a better scan of the item to work with. In the April Bulletin I wrote that “the catalogue image was not great and the Auction House did not respond to John Graham’s request for a better scan”. Well they did provide a scan to John and it will be interesting to see what it shows. Thanks to Philatelics (Australia) for their assistance with our research on this important OS puncture and apologies for our error.



The OSNSW Type A on a £1 Kangaroo was found on eBay by Jamie Davidson and reported on the Perfin Facebook page.

This is a very nice example of a rare stamp and pattern mix.

It looks like Die 4 of the 12 die device. Good news is that Tom Weir is building up his knowledge of this very collectable pattern and we will shortly have an article by Tom that will allow Members to detect all 12 dies. The £1 sold for \$1100.



Another item that surfaced on eBay. This £2 is in the standard format, being CTO.

A lot of discussion about the 2 rather odd looking hinges, but there was enthusiastic bidding and it sold for over \$350. If you missed out, then you just need to wait for the next major Catalogued Auction as these regularly emerge and sell for around \$400 – 500. Often hinged, but almost always nicer than this.



Another eBay gem, proving that there is always something to find. This is a very rare 10/- Kangaroo (CofA wmk). It is struck with an ED&CO.2 pattern of Edwards Dunlop in Sydney.

Patterns on the 10/- are very rare and only a handful are known.

Another superb find reported by Jamie Davidson.

Meet a Member

By David Coath



The other day I was talking on the phone with long time Member Derek Cowen and he said that he saw himself on the TV the other night.

Derek said that there was a News story about the AFL Team the Western Bulldogs and they had chosen to interview the current President, Peter Gordon, in his office. Above his desk he has a picture of this amazing mark by VFL and Footscray (now Western Bulldogs) Legend Teddy Whitten, who was nicknamed "Mr Football".

Derek is in the picture but not Number 5 (John Jenkins) but rather the poor bloke being used as a "step ladder" by Teddy. The location is North Melbourne's home ground at Arden Street near the now defunct Gasometer.

Derek played almost 20 games for North Melbourne before being sidelined by a knee injury, but later had a very successful football career in Mildura and Castlemaine as a Captain Coach.

Now, we have not all played in the VFL, like Derek, but we have stories to tell and they deserve to be shared with Members.

Meet a Member has featured some great stories like David McNamee's journey through philately, Arthur Taylor's war time

experiences, Enid Honiss's building her stamp collections through pen pals, David Warren's travels and "colourful" work experiences, Murray Lawson's amazing stories of moving around as a young man for work and many others.

So, why do not you share your story with Members, all you have to do is drop me an email, a letter or a phone call and we can get started.

I have a few in production, but join the queue and share your story. Look out next Bulletin for my interview with John Tracey.

Collecting the PCNZA pattern – Updated Catalogues

By Peter Simpfendorfer

Updated versions of some of the PCNZA Perfin Catalogues are now live on <http://perfins.com.au/> these are located under the "Research Tab" at: <https://www.perfins.com.au/tabs/t1.html>

The New versions include updates of both the Australian and Australian Territories stamps and a new listing of the New Zealand issues found with the PCNZA pattern.

If you have any new reports of issues carrying the PCNZA pattern, then let me know so I can update the Catalogues.

We now have a huge bank of used Australian and Australian 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 (with 100 or so) for you to start or build your collection.

This is for all Members and is free of charge so start collecting now.

The Q patterns of Australia

By Greg Howard, Dave Elsmore, and David Coath

Overview

The Q page in the study of Australia Private Perfins is the sparsest of all the listed letters. This is understandable and consistent with most other Countries. What sets the Australian Q Page aside is that there is so little known about the listed patterns.

In "Commercial Perfins of Australia" (1992) there were 5 patterns listed of which 4 were described as "Reported but not seen".

In "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins" (2003) there were 6 patterns listed of which 4 were still described as "Reported but not seen".

The patterns are:

Q.1 Confirmed to Queensland Farmers Co-operative Co. but "Reported but not seen"

QA.1 Provisionally assigned to Queensland Agency Co. Ltd. But "Reported but not seen"

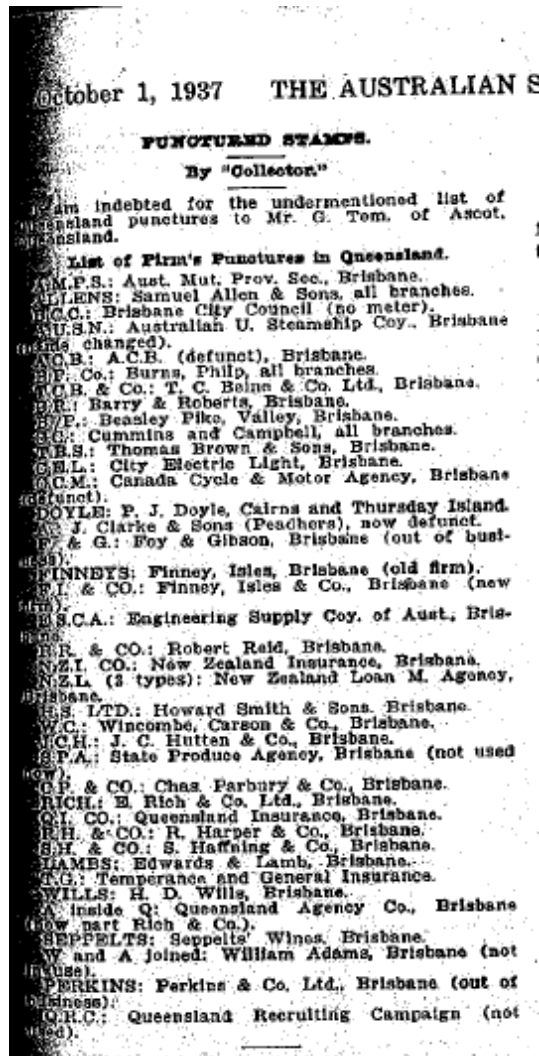
QICO.1 Confirmed to Queensland Insurance Co. Initially in Brisbane but later listed with addresses in Brisbane and Sydney. Assigned usage AQn for Australian and Queensland Postage stamps and NSW Revenue stamps.

QME.1 Confirmed to Queensland Meat Export & Agency Co. but "Reported but not seen".

QRC.1 Provisionally assigned to Queensland Recruiting Campaign but "Reported but not seen".

QUEENSLANDGOVTRAILYS.1 Confirmed to (not surprisingly) the Queensland Government Railways. This pattern was added in HAPP. The rating in HAPP for this pattern as Scarce is misleading, as the only stamp that it is found on is listed at \$500 each. Rare is accurate.

Why so many Q patterns are "Reported but not seen"



The easier question is why so many Queensland patterns starting with Q?, but the answer is obvious, they are from Queensland and could have the State name in their Company name. But this is part of the reason.

Starting in 1937 "The Australian Stamp Monthly" featured 4 articles by an Author nicknamed "The Collector". They came out in May, July and October (see left) of 1937, with a follow up article in March 1938.

These articles which were titled "Punctured Stamps", are listed in the Bibliography for Commercial Perfins of Australia (see Page 271) and the patterns reported in these articles were almost all included into CPA as reports of perfins.

I apologise for the quality of the scan, but if you read carefully you will notice some important details.

Firstly, the October issue focussed on Queensland and it was based on reports from Mr G Tom of Ascot, an inner northern suburb of Brisbane. It was headed: "List of Firm's Punctures in Queensland"

Now these are early days for the collecting of Private Perfins and the Articles on the subject had not spent any time in defining these and "The Collector" seems to be just printing what he is sent.

For this reason and other possible confusion, Mr Tom's list includes some reports that are not Perfins as follows:

1 A.U.S.N. for Australian Union Steamship Co. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page A – 17) This pattern has never been seen, but the Company were known to use a Security Overprint in the form of “Received by/A.U.S.N. Co Ld/per” and this can be found listed in the Commercial Security Overprints of Australia, Queensland Chapter under R.

2 A.C.B. This is most likely a reference to ACB Drapers of 282 Wickham St, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page A – 5) No perfin pattern has been seen with these letters. However, the company are known to have used Customised Queensland Railway stamps inscribed “The A C B Ltd”. Such Customised Railway stamps featured the company name in the cartouche in the place for the Railway Station and served as a manner of security against misuse.

3 B.R. for Barry & Roberts. Not listed in CPA/HAPP. No pattern has been seen for this user. Known users of Customised Railway stamps featured the company name in the cartouche as “Barry & Roberts Pty Ltd”.

We could go on in much more detail, but to summarise, the “List of Firm’s Punctures in Queensland” as provided by G Tom lists 38 “patterns” of which almost half are listings of Security Overprints, Customised Queensland Railway stamps, possibly company cachets and other erroneous reports as follows:

4 B/P for Beasley & Pike, Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. (See Next Bulletin for more).

5 DOYLE for PJ Doyle. No pattern sighted. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page D – 7)

6 A J Clarke & Sons. No pattern sighted. Not listed in CPA/HAPP.

7 E.S.C.A. for Engineering Supply Co Ltd. No pattern sighted. Provisional user in HAPP (Page E–10) and the company were known users of Customised Railway stamps.

8 S.P.A. for State Produce Agency. No pattern sighted. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page S–14).

9 CP &Co for Charles Padbury & Co. No pattern sighted. Provisional user in HAPP (Page C–8) Company used Security Overprints as “Received by/Charles Parbury Co Ld/per” and this can be found listed in the Commercial Security Overprints of Australia, Queensland Chapter under R.

10 LAMBS for Edwards & Lamb. No pattern sighted. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page L–1) Company used Security Overprints as “Received by/Parbury Lamb Co/per” and this can be found listed in the Commercial Security Overprints of Australia, Queensland Chapter under R. Edwards & Co were also known users of Customised Queensland Railway stamps.

11 T.G. for Temperance & General. No pattern sighted. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page T–3) Company used Security Overprints as “T&G/Life Society” and this can be found listed in the Commercial Security Overprints of Australia, Queensland Chapter under T.

12 SEPPELTS for Seppelts Wines. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page S–12) No pattern sighted.

13 W and A Joined for William Adams. Not listed in CPA/HAPP. No pattern sighted.

14 PERKINS for Perkins & Co. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page P–5) No pattern sighted.

Q Patterns from: “List of Firm’s Punctures in Queensland”

In his list, G Tom specifies the following Q Patterns:

15 Q.R.C for Queensland Recruiting Campaign. Listed as QRC.1. Provisional user in HAPP (Page Q–1). No pattern sighted. Given the extremely poor “strike rate” of Tom in identifying Perfin users and the absence of any sighting or Application for such a pattern or Organisation the odds are stacked against this being a true perfin.

16 “A inside Q” for Queensland Agency Co. Provisional user in HAPP (Page Q–1). No pattern sighted. Listed in HAPP as QA.1, but was Tom attempting to describe a pattern that just looked like an A inside a Q.



SYMBOL.3

SYMBOL.6

Like SYMBOL.3 and SYMBOL.6. They were both in use prior to Tom’s List. More likely to be confusion with an odd looking pattern than a pattern that has not been seen at all.

Queensland Agency Co made no Application to use a Perfin.

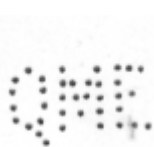
Other Q Patterns

To recap, there were 4 Q patterns in CPA/HAPP that were “Reported but not seen”. We have dealt with QA.1 and QRC.1, lets look at the balance.

Q.1 for Queensland Farmers’ Co-operative Co. Confirmed user in HAPP (Page Q – 1). No pattern sighted and what is more the pattern is reported as “known only on Queensland railway parcel stamps” See HAPP “Notes re “Q” perfin” (Page Q – 2).

Having collectively compiled the “Private Revenue Perfin of Australia” which includes revenue and railway stamps, we can confirm that there are only 3 known perfin patterns that are exclusively found on Queensland Railway stamps. Those are L for Lowood Creamery, the Queensland Government Railways pattern (QUEENSLANDGOVTRAILYS.1) and the rejected essay “333” of the Queensland Government Railways. Yet there are 100’s of Customised Queensland Railway stamps with a huge variety of users, some very rare. No, Q or QFC Customised Railway stamp has been reported to date. In fact, it is not included in any of the Lists of these that we have seen for these Railway stamps. Neither it should be, if it has not been seen. The fact that it is listed with a confirmed user in a Catalogue of Australian Perfin and has not been sighted, is mystifying.

QME.1 for Queensland Meat Export & Agency Co.



This is the front cover item. It is a pattern that has been produced on a Customised device. The postmark is Registered Brisbane and the date, although hard to read, is 1912.

Unlike all of the other Q perfin patterns reported for Queensland, the QME pattern is the subject of an Application and Approval, which was sought and concluded in January 1912. Also, there is no reported Customised Queensland Railway stamp or Security Overprint for this letter combination or user.

The timing of the application, approval and possible purchase of a perfin device is consistent with the Companies huge Government supported investment in 1912, that saw massive improvements to the Companies Eagle Farm (Brisbane) and Ross River (Townsville) meat processing and freezing facilities.

Yet we have nagging doubts about this pattern/user. Customised perfin devices are expensive and therefore they tend to be well built and stay in service for extended periods and the patterns that they produce, tend to become relatively common. This is not a rule, but if the company that purchased a Customised device stays in business, then the patterns tend to become common. We know from the Company history that the Queensland Meat Export & Agency Co. traded profitably through WW1 (1914 –18) and continued as a preferred supplier to the British Government until at least 1921.

The example of the strike that we have is reversed, which suggests (but does not prove) that the strike was made into a horizontally folded multiple. What is more the stamp bears 2 cancellations, one in part at the top of the stamp, which also suggests that it was part of vertical multiple, at the time of use. This suggests that there were at a minimum of 4 stamps struck with this known usage. There should be more found and known.

Doubts remain and we will take up this discussion in the next Bulletin.

QICO.1 This pattern has been listed in CPA and HAPP and even graced the flawed list from Mr G Tom. The main error in all of these listings is that the device/pattern were not used in Queensland. Yes, it is a Queensland Company, but by 1921 the Head Office was in Sydney, see Company History at the Q page of the Revenue Perfin of New South Wales: <https://www.perfin.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfin/nsw-Revenue-Q-Perfin.html>

The other error was that the QICO.1 device/pattern was one of 2 devices used at the companies’ head office. They were:



QICO.1 Book pattern. Used C1920– 1953 on postage stamps but use on revenue stamps until 1966

Thicker pins fitted in C1930

Only used in Sydney.



QICO.new. Used 1951– 1961, but possibly later. Only found used on NSW revenue stamps and only in Sydney.

The image at left is slightly distorted but you can identify the different QICO pattern by the extra pins needed to make up the wider Q. Check what you have, you might be surprised. We were.

This pattern is not listed in either CPA or HAPP yet oddly it is referred to in the Purcell Worksheets that were the basis of CPA. See below.

4.1 Q.1/c° 86/6 125186 NGA Queensland Ins. Co.
[4.2] Q.1/c° " " 1955

Note that 4.1 refers to QICO.1 and incorrectly states “N” (New South Wales) and “Q” (Queensland) use on postage stamps, but accurately “A” for Commonwealth use on postage stamps as well as “n” for use on NSW revenue stamps.

Note that 4.2 (the QICO.new) is limited to “n” use, for NSW revenues and usage is stated at 1955.

These are the only Q patterns listed in the Purcell Worksheets. The nature of these worksheets is that they tended to be based around the physical reporting and sighting of pattern examples.

Conclusion

The Q page is built around some rather weak reports largely from part of an ill defined group of articles in an early Philatelic publication. In fact “Confirmed” and “Provisional” reports from these weak sources litter both CPA and HAPP and they should have been seen for what they are, when they were not supported by the Purcell Worksheets or the various State Surveys conducted in the early issues of the SPPB by David Andersen.

The existence of a pattern and the proving of a particular pattern/device to a user, must be based on rigorous evidence and cannot be awarded lightly. As custodians of our Study we hold the examples of what is known and we must be careful what we allow in.

More on this in the next Bulletin.

References:

“Commercial Perfins of Australia” (CPA) by John Grant and John Mathews – 1992

“Handbook of Australian Private Perfins” (HAPP) by John Mathews – 2003

“State & Australian Commonwealth Private Perf – In Worksheets” Compiled by Joe Purcell and others – Circa 1970–80.

TROVE

“Revenue Perfins of Australia” by Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

“Commercial Security Overprints of Australia” by Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

TROVE

“The Australian Stamp Monthly” 1937 – 38 Articles by Author nicknamed “The Collector”, on the subject of “Punctured Stamps” listing various Readers inputs, including a List of Queensland entitled “List of Firm’s Punctures in Queensland” as provided by Mr G Tom

“Queensland Railways Private Users” (Unpublished) by Dave Elsmore

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