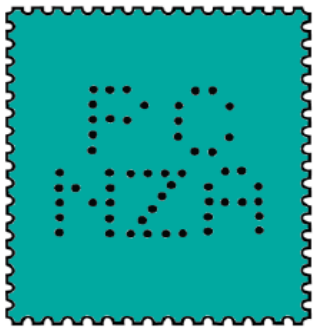




SOUTH **P**ACIFIC **P**ERFIN **B**ULLETIN



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FEATURE ARTICLES

- GNSW Type B by Tom Weir
- David Gee Collection and UNSW by John Graham
- FAI Device and History by Rod Sell
- New Zealand Reports – Stephen Jones

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 hard copies, as Pdf's, on CD or Thumb drive.

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Editors Comment

By David Coath

Welcome to the SPPB #136 and indeed as you read this, we would have already started to enjoy the New Year in 2022 and being a positive thinker, it must be better than our recent years of 2020 and 2021.

Firstly, a note of thanks to Greg Crawford from Christchurch (NZ) who has taken over mailing out the New Zealand and Overseas Bulletins from Ray Bennett. This process was established with Ray to take advantage of the lower Overseas Postage rates from NZ. Thanks, Ray, for your efforts in the past and now Greg will manage the Club's "Bank" of mint New Zealand postage stamps. If you can add to this then please forward any spares you have to me or Greg. (Address details on Page 2).

This edition is another big one and it has some important information about collecting Australian Perfins.

Tom Weir continues his articles on the GNSW Type B and this article he explains how to distinguish the 12 Dies.

John Graham starts what will be a series of articles on an important collection of forged Australian Official Perfins that were assembled by David Gee and after an introduction of the collection starts by looking at the UNSW patterns.

Future Bulletins are shaping up to be huge as well. Jason Rowe is still looking to come to Melbourne to take some internal photos of the VG Device, which is in storage. When he inspects the device, he will be joined by Ken Scudder who is a retired Engineer (see Meet a Member Article in this Bulletin), who has written on the structure and workings of similar devices.

The April Bulletin will also feature an important article on the OS patterns found on NWPI issues by new Member Robert Benoist which was slated for this issue but there was insufficient room.

The Cover for April will be a "taste" of a huge hoard of Perfin proofs and samples that come from a Victorian printer in the early 1900's, and it will take many issues to share it all and uncover its secrets. It was going to be the Cover item in this Bulletin but there just was not enough space.

I would like to thank Members who have sent postage or made donations, to help defray our high mailing costs; they were John Amiet, a regular and generous donor, Greg Howard, John Mullavey, a repeat doner, and Alan Ross.

Thanks also to our regular contributors in Greg Howard, Tom Weir, Dave Elsmore, John Amiet, Stephen Jones (NZ), Jason Rowe, John Graham, Peter Simpfendorfer, Harold Waite (NZ), Jerry Austen, Ken Scudder, Les Vincent, Ray Fleming and our many new contributors. You can join them by sending something for the Bulletin.

Front Cover

By Rod Sell, David Coath, Dave Elsmore, and Greg Howard



The front Cover this issue is an amazing new report from Rod Sell. Rod was fortunate enough to be gifted a small group of perfins from a friend at his local Stamp Club.

When he got them home, he was surprised to find that they were all a new pattern that was clearly FAI.

The group included 9d x 2, 1/-, 8/-, 10/-, £1 x 4, including a great strip of 3 all on Pre-Decimal NSW Stamp Duty Numeral issues.

Rod was pleasantly surprised and quickly contacted Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and me to share the news. Our collective findings are covered in an article in this Bulletin.

Rod has once again proved that there are still things to find in Australian Perfin collecting.

Club Auction – 2022

By David Coath

It is time to start collecting Lots together for the Club Auction that will be included in the April Bulletin.

This year we are embarking on a new format that will include more images and these will be scanned into a file that will be emailed to Members along with the Lots in order and descriptions. This will help Members choose lots that they are interested in and reduce printing and mailing costs. Members without email will receive the Auction as usual but will not get the additional images.

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.

PCNZA – Election of Committee Members 2022–24

By David Coath

As stated in the By Laws (Section 4) the Election of Committee Members will occur at two-year intervals, by the following process:

“The Secretary calls for Nominees in the October Bulletin.

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

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

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

This process has now been completed and there were a few changes as follows:

John Lee is the New Circuit Manager (Australia) Committee person

Greg Howard is now a Committee person

All other positions remained the same and these are detailed on Page 2.

The G/NSW Type B Puncture – Identifying the Dies – Part 2: An Illustrated Key to the 12 Dies

By Tom Weir

Introduction

As part of the research into this puncture I constructed a spreadsheet with various characters and character states of the 12 Dies that I considered useful in their separation. The characters and character states for the letters S, N and W are the same as those used for the OS/NSW Type A puncture, while those for the letter G provided new and useful additions to the spreadsheet. This spreadsheet was then used to construct an illustrated key that would allow any Die to be identified by following the couplets in the key until a match was made. The structure of the key follows that of the Illustrated Key to the 12 Dies of the OS/NSW Type A puncture by Weir (2021).

The numbering of the holes of this G/NSW Type B puncture follows that shown in Part 1 of this series (Weir and Coath, 2021) and is repeated here at **Figure 13** for completeness. The relevant characters are described from front view but shown with either lines or arrows on the back view of each particular Die. Kangaroo stamps of various values and watermarks are used in the illustrations.

Certain Dies have one or more unique characteristics that can make them easier to identify than others. Some are the same as those found for the Dies of the OS/NSW Type A puncture but the conversion of the O of OS to a G and the removal of the S has added another dimension to these unique characteristics:

Die 1: N1 lower than N8 in horizontal alignment.

Die 2: Line through G7 and G8 passes through G4; line through S4 and S10 passes through G6 and G7.

Die 5: Line through G1 and G5 passes through middle of G8; right arm of N more or less bent outwards with N8 and N11 vertically aligned to the right of N9 and N10.

Die 6: Right arm of N crooked with N8 and N9 vertically aligned to the right of N10 and N11.

Die 11: G6 and G7 same distance apart as G5 and G6.

Die 12: W1 slightly higher than W7 and W13 in horizontal alignment.

Other Dies share characters that they have in common, but can be separated by other characters:

Dies 4 and 7: Line through S4 and S10 just passes right edges of G1 and G5 (vertical in alignment).

Some form of magnification is recommended as some of the characters in the key are rather subtle.

ILLUSTRATED KEY TO THE 12 DIES OF THE G/NSW TYPE B PUNCTURE

1(0) G6 and G7 same distance apart as G5 and G6; G7 and G8 closer together than G6 and G7

(Figure1).....Die 11

G6 closer to G7 than to G5 (eg **Figures 5 and 12**); G7 and G8 **EITHER** further apart than G6 and G7 **OR** about the same distance apart as G6 and 7.....2



Figure 1: Die 11 – G6 and G7 same distance apart as G5 and G6; G7 and G8 closer together than G6 and G7.

2(1) Line through G7 and G8 passes through G4; line through S4 and S10 passes through G6 and G7; W6 closer to W2 than to W8 (**Figure 2**). [W5 usually missing]Die 2

Line through G7 and G8 passes elsewhere between G2 and G4 (eg **Figures 3 and 4**); line through S4 and S10 passes elsewhere through G (eg **Figure 5**); W6 and W2 **EITHER** about same distance apart as W6 and W8 **OR** W6 closer to W8 than to W2..... 3



Figure 2: Die 2 – Line through G7 and G8 passes through G4; line through S4 and S10 passes through G6 and G7; W6 closer to W2 than to W8; missing pin W5.

3(2) Line through S4 and S10 passes right edges of G1 and G5 (vertical in alignment) (**Figures 3 and 4**).....4

Line through S4 and S10 passes to the right of G8 (eg **Figure 5**) 5

4(3) Line through G7 and G8 passes lower edge of G3; horizontal line through S4 passes through top edge of S1; S8 closer to S7 than to S9 (**Figure 3**) [W5 usually missing]...Die 7

Line through G7 and G8 passes lower edge of G2; horizontal line through S4 passes through middle of S1; S8 about same distance from S7 as from S9 (**Figure 4**).....Die 4



Figure 3: Die 7 – showing full pins and missing pin W5; line through S4 and S10 passes right edges of G1 and G5; line through G7 and G8 passes lower edge of G3; horizontal line through S4 passes top edge of S1; S8 closer to S7 than to S9.



Figure 4: Die 4 – line through G7 and G8 passes lower edge of G2; line through S4 and S10 passes right edges of G1 and G5; horizontal line through S4 passes through middle of S1; S8 about same distance from S7 as from S9.

5(3) W1 slightly higher than W7 and W13 in horizontal alignment; S4 and S1 in approximately same horizontal alignment (**Figure 5**)**Die 12**
W1 and W7 **OR** W1, W7 and W13 in approximately same horizontal alignment (eg **Figures 6 and 7**); S4 at least slightly lower than S1 in horizontal alignment**6**



Figure 5: Die 12 – W1 slightly higher than W7 and W13 in horizontal alignment; S4 and S1 in approximately same horizontal alignment.

6(5) Line through G3 and G8 strictly horizontal (**Figures 6 and 7**) line through G7 and G8 passes through either middle of G3 or top edge of G3**7**
Line through G3 and G8 other than horizontal; line through G7 and G8 passes **EITHER** between G2 and G3 **OR** between G3 and G4 (eg **Figures 3 and 4**)**8**

7(6) Line through G1 and G5 goes through middle of G8; line through G7 and G8 passes through middle of G3; right arm of N more or less bent outwards, with N8 and N11 vertically aligned to the right of N9 and N10; W6 lower than W8 in horizontal alignment (**Figure 6**)**Die 5**
Line through G1 and G5 passes left edge of G8; line through G7 and G8 passes through top edge of G3; right arm of N crooked, with N8 and N9 vertically aligned to the right of N10 and N11; W6 and W8 in approximately same horizontal alignment (**Figure 7**) [S1 usually missing]**Die 6**

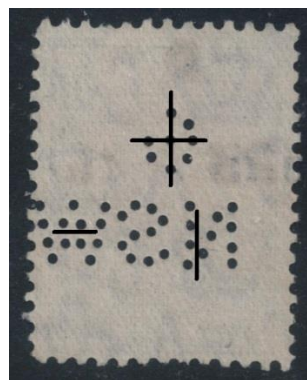


Figure 6: Die 5 – line through G1 and G5 goes through middle of G8; line through G7 and G8 passes through middle of G3; right arm of N more or less bent outwards; W6 lower than W8.

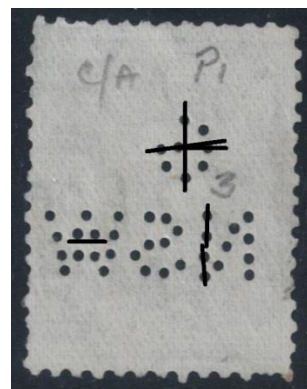


Figure 7: Die 6 – showing full pins and missing pin S1; line through G1 and G5 passes left edge of G8; line through G7 and G8 passes through top edge of G3; right arm of N crooked; W6 and W8 in approximately same horizontal alignment.

8(6) N4 higher than N11 in horizontal alignment; horizontal line through S4 passes level with lower edge of S1 (eg **Figures 8 and 9**); S4 about same distance from S3 as from S5 OR S3 missing.....9

N4 and N11 in approximately same horizontal alignment or N11 slightly higher; horizontal line through S4 goes through at least part of S1 (eg **Figures 10, 11 and 12**); S4 closer to S3 than to S5 OR S4 as above10

9(8) Line through G7 and G8 passes between G2 and G3; S2 higher than S3 in horizontal alignment; N1 slightly higher than N8 in horizontal alignment (**Figure 8**) [N1 sometimes missing]Die 10

Line through G7 and G8 passes between G3 and G4, through lower edge of G3; S2 and S3 in approximately same horizontal alignment; N1 slightly lower than N8 in horizontal alignment (**Figure 9**) [W5 and W6 usually missing and S3 usually missing on later dates]Die 1



Figure 8: Die 10 – showing missing pin N1 and full pins; line through G7 and G8 passes between G2 and G3; S2 higher than S3; N1 slightly higher than N8.



Figure 9: Die 1 – showing missing pins S3, W5 and W6; line through G7 and G8 passes through lower edge of G3; S2 and S3 in same horizontal alignment; N1 slightly lower than N8.

10(8) S8 closer to S7 than to S9; W3 very close to W5; left arm of N straight (**Figure 10**)Die 3

S8 about same distance from S7 as from S9; W3 not so close to W5; left arm of N uneven, with N2 slightly out of alignment (**Figures 11 and 2**).....11



Figure 10: Die 3 – S8 closer to S7 than to S9; W3 very close to W5; left arm of N straight.

11(10) W6 lower than W2 in horizontal alignment; S2 higher than S3 in horizontal alignment; N1 slightly higher than N8 in horizontal alignment; S4 closer to S3 than to S5 (**Figure 11**)Die 8

W6 and W2 in approximately same horizontal alignment; S2 and S3 in approximately same horizontal alignment; N1 and N8 in approximately same horizontal alignment; S4 about same distance from S3 as from S5 (**Figure 12**)Die 9

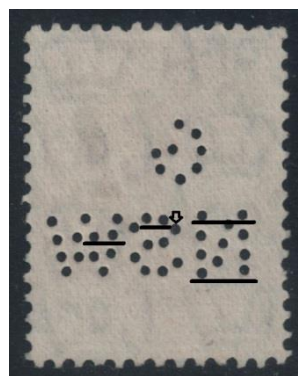


Figure 11: Die 8 – W6 lower than W2; S2 higher than S3; N1 slightly higher than N8; S4 closer to S3 than to S5.

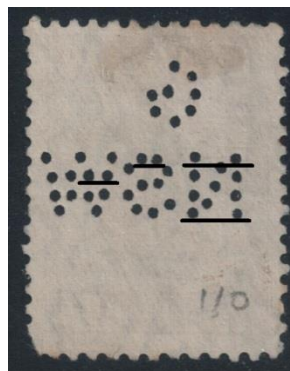


Figure 12: Die 9 – W6 and W2 in same horizontal alignment; S2 and S3 in same horizontal alignment; N1 and N8 in same horizontal alignment; S4 same distance from S3 as from S5.

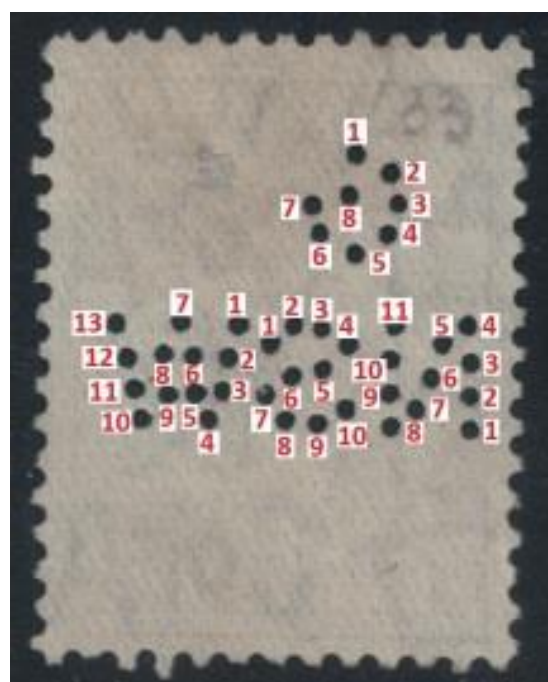


Figure 13: 9d Violet Die 4 showing the numbering of the holes from front and back.

This concludes the second part on this G/NSW Type B puncture. The next parts will have something to say about this puncture on stamps other than Kangaroos, missing pins and known forgeries.

REFERENCES:

Weir, T.A. (2021) The OS/NSW Type A punctures on Kangaroo issues – Identifying the 12 Dies. Part 2: An Illustrated Key to the 12 Dies. *Australian Stamps Professional* Volume 15, Issue 2. No. 88: 36–42.

Weir, T.A. (2021) The OS/NSW Type A punctures on Kangaroo issues – Identifying the 12 Dies. Part 2: An Illustrated Key to the 12 Dies. *South Pacific Perfin Bulletin* No. 132 January 2021: 11–15.

Weir, T.A. and Coath, D (2021) The G/NSW Type B Puncture – Identifying the Dies. Part 1: Background, methodology and illustrated conclusions. *Australian Stamps Professional* Vol. 15 Issue 6 No. 92: 38–41.

Weir, T.A. and Coath, D (2021) The G/NSW Type B Puncture – Identifying the Dies. Part 1: Background, methodology and illustrated conclusions. *South Pacific Perfin Bulletin* No. 135 October 2021: 5–8.

The David Gee Estate Collection

By John Graham

David Gee was the most serious and active forger of Australian coins and stamps in the 20th century. His activities covered most Australian rare coins (struck from original dies obtained, usually by deception or outright theft, from the Royal Australian Mint and other institutional collections) and a huge range of official punctures on Australian Commonwealth stamps.

His coin forgery activities led to him being sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in 1979.

Following his death, Gee's stamp collection of punctured Australian stamps was put up for auction in 2018. The entire collection was purchased by renowned Australian philatelist Michael Drury, with the intention of ensuring the stamps could never again be offered as genuine examples on the retail market.

In a wonderful show of support for the work of the PCNZA, Michael has now donated the bulk of the collection to the PCNZA, to form a vital part of our forgery reference collection.

Michael's expressed intention, which has been agreed to by the PCNZA, is that any duplicate items in the collection will be suitably annotated on the reverse and sold as "forged stamps of record" with the proceeds being shared equally between the PCNZA and the Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of NSW. In this way, Gee's efforts will finally go towards supporting Australian philately – a far cry from what we believe he originally intended.

Work has already started on analysing the Gee Estate Collection, with an article elsewhere in this Bulletin on the University of New South Wales punctures (U/NSW) providing much new information to add to that already published in AOP. Further articles will appear in future Bulletins.

Toowoomba Stamp Show – 2021

By Bob Littlehales

It is my privilege and pleasure to announce to everyone that "Toowoomba 2021" was a remarkable success, both financially and in addition we have achieved many firsts for a regional stamp club.

Despite attendance limited through COVID restrictions, the innovative tools such as the websites, virtual exhibition, newsletters and frequent contacts with supporters/exhibitors/dealers/judges etc and helping meet the needs of visitors maximized attendance and participation.

Thanks to, Toowoomba Stamp Club Members, Australian Philatelic Federation, Stamp Clubs from across Australia as well as local, Dealers, Philatelic suppliers and magazine publishers and all the Members of the Public who attended and made it such a great success.

U/NSW Perfins from the David Gee Estate

By John Graham

David Gee (c1929–2013) was a well-known forger of both coins and stamps from the Australian series. His coin exploits have been well documented in the book *Heads, I Win* by Don Thomas, but his stamp exploits are less well known. He used numerous aliases, and it is likely that many collectors at the time were in contact with Gee without knowing it.

It is likely that his motivation for forging was not financial, rather it was his desire to produce the perfect forgery, and have it accepted by the market and institutions as genuine. At the time he was forging punctures on Australian stamps (during the 1980s) techniques to identify forgeries were not as sophisticated as they are now, and it is probable that his forgeries reside in many collections to this day.

Following his death, the philatelic items in Gee's estate were auctioned in 2018. The trade made sure that the entire philatelic component of his estate was able to be acquired and taken off the market, and we have Michael Drury to thank for this. Michael has now donated many portions of the estate collection to the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia (PCNZA), and this article is the first in a series as we apply current PCNZA forgery detection techniques to the stamps in Gee's estate.

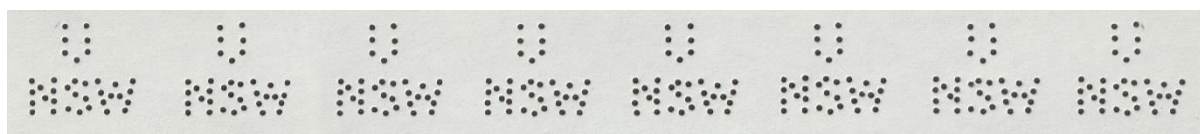
While we could assume that everything in the estate is forged, based purely on provenance, we have taken an open view, in the same manner that we approach any item submitted for PCNZA certification. Each item, or group of items, is assessed on their own merits.

The U/NSW Perfins

The University of New South Wales punctured stamps for internal use from 1962 until the mid-1970s. Because most mail, particularly that emanating from the Kensington campus, was metered, the number of stamps punctured U/NSW was not large. Consequently, compiling a set of the known punctures is a challenge.

We in the PCNZA are fortunate in that some members (in particular David Coath and Tom Weir) have been able to contribute a number of examples which we are certain are genuine. This has provided a reliable baseline for our analysis.

The U/NSW perfins were produced by the NSW Government Printing Office (GPO), for the University. It was originally thought that the puncturing device consisted of eight separate dies in a horizontal row, as per the example supplied to David Andersen in 1980 by the NSW GPO. This has since been proven incorrect by an examination of large multiples – there were 10 dies in all, with the strip of eight supplied by the GPO in 1980 being dies 3–10.



Dies 3–10, as supplied by the NSW Government Printing Office in 1980

The U/NSW Perfins in the Gee Estate

The Gee estate contained multiple examples of U/NSW punctures from two pre-decimal series – The Arms and the Navigators. No genuine examples of any of these high denominations were known when the 2nd edition of *Australian Official Perfins* (AOP) was published in 2007.

The Arms stamps are mounted on an album page and consist of the following (identified with a typewritten annotation.) Numbers included are shown in ():

5/- normal paper, upright puncture (2), puncture reads from the left side (1), inverted puncture (1)

10/- normal paper, upright puncture (1)

10/- thin paper, upright puncture (1), puncture reads from the left side (1)

£1 normal paper, upright puncture (1)

£1 thin paper, upright puncture (1)

£2 normal paper, upright puncture (1)

£2 thin paper, inverted puncture (2)

The Navigators are stored on a stock card and consist of one example of each denomination with an upright puncture.

All stamps have a laterally well-centred puncture, regardless of the size and format of the stamp. This in itself is an immediate red flag.

High resolution images of each of these stamps are shown for reference at the end of this paper.

...And on Closer Examination ...

Three obvious points of concern stand out immediately.

Firstly, the punctures on all 18 of the Gee stamps are identical. This could only happen if ALL the stamps had been taken from a column of their individual sheets which had been punctured by the same die – close to an impossibility, given the differing number of columns in sheets of various formats over a number of years.

Secondly, the hole structure of the N in the Gee punctures is completely different to all ten confirmed dies. While it is theoretically possible that additional dies had, at some stage been used, we have examples of stamps in use:

- 1 prior to the issue of the Gee Navigators,
- 2 contemporaneously with the Gee Arms and Navigators,
- 3 from the 1966 decimal issue,

which are all examples struck from the ten known dies. Given the low usage of this perfin, it is inconceivable that a separate die pattern was in use during the late Arms and Navigator period (1962–1965), and only used on the high denominations as a single strike.



2/- Flower used on
UofNSW cover 19 MY 64
(Hopper)

5/- Dampier from
the Gee Estate

4c QEII 1966 issue (Weir)

Thirdly, the hole structure of the W in Gee's punctures is completely different to all confirmed examples, as can be seen below:



3d QEII used on UofNSW cover



£2 Arms from the Gee Estate

19 MY 64 (Hopper)

Similar arguments as used in relation to the N apply equally to the W.

The Final Confirmation

While all the evidence presented so far is enough to show the Gee examples are forged, we can go further.

Using the standard PCNZA certification process, and a large multiple of the 1c Banded Coral Shrimp stamp (SG 545), we are able to measure both the width of the puncture and the distance between adjacent punctures.

Dies 1–5 on SG 545



This gives the following measurements:

Average width of a puncture: 16.3mm (range 15.8 to 16.7)

Average distance between punctures: 8.1mm (range 7.4 to 9.0)

If we apply these measurements to the Gee Navigators printed in landscape format (ie 4/–, 7/6 and 10/–) which have a width of 37mm between the comb perforations, it is clear that a single strike of the puncture in an upright position using the genuine dies is an impossibility – the width of the stamp is such that part of one or both adjoining punctures MUST be present on each stamp.

Thus, we can state with 100% certainty that the landscape format U/NSW Navigators in the Gee Estate are forgeries, because they could not have been struck from the correct dies. It therefore follows that, because all the U/NSW perfins in the Gee Estate are identical, then all are forgeries.

Sources

- 1 David Gee Estate stamps in the possession of the author
- 2 Scans of various U/NSW punctures supplied by David Coath, David Hopper and Tom Weir
- 3 Original research by Tom Weir – Determining the 10 Dies of the U/NSW Puncture
- 4 Scans of original correspondence dated 13 November 1980 from the NSW GPO to David Andersen
- 5 *Australian Official Perfins* (2nd Edition, 2007) by David Andersen

The known Gee Stamps with U/NSW Puncture



SG 224a Normal paper,
upright puncture



SG 224a Normal paper,
upright puncture



SG 224a Normal paper,
left-facing puncture



SG 224a Normal paper,
inverted puncture



SG 224b Normal paper,
upright puncture



SG 224b Thin paper,
upright puncture



SG 224b Thin paper,
left-facing puncture



SG 224c Normal paper,
upright puncture



SG 224c Thin paper,
upright puncture



SG 224d Normal paper,
upright puncture



SG 224d Thin paper,
inverted puncture



SG 224d Thin paper,
inverted puncture



SG 355 Upright puncture



SG 356 Upright puncture



SG 357 Upright puncture



SG 358 Upright puncture



SG 359 Upright puncture



SG 360 Upright puncture

Editors Note



Tom Weir, Ray Fleming and I have been working on the structure and the dies of this NSW Device and this has been greatly assisted by some large multiples that have been shared by David Andersen and others that were in the collection of Arthur Taylor.

The findings of our investigations will form the basis of an article in a forthcoming Bulletin.

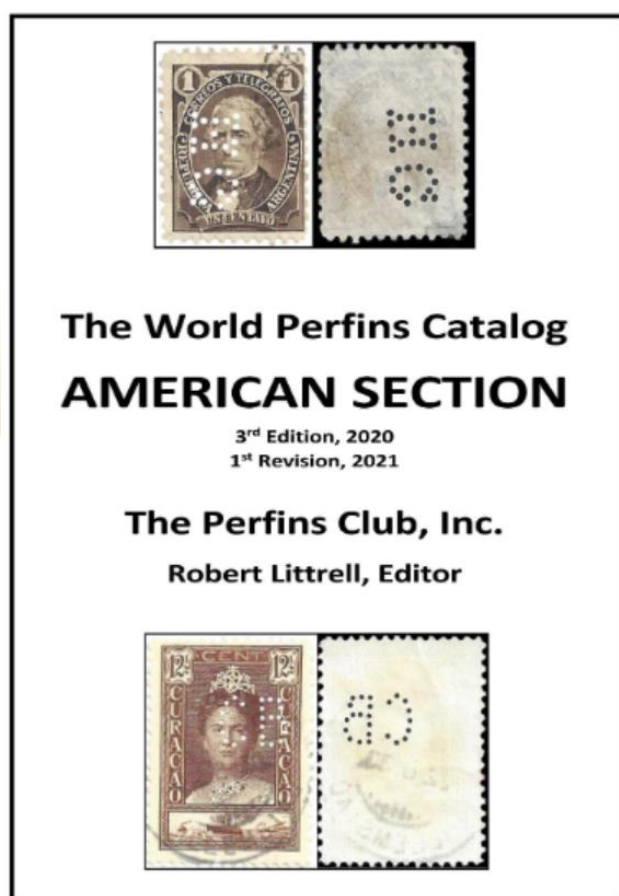
As part of this project, we are looking to build a listing of known Postmarks found with this Pattern.

If Members have any clear Postmarks on UNSW patterns, then could you please send them to Tom Weir at: tomweir@bigpond.com

Ideally location and date are preferred, such as the strike on the example above, of a crossover use of GNSW Type D and the UNSW pictured, but either location or date, will be helpful to our study.

New Revision of the World Perfin Catalog – American Section

By David Coath



The US Perfin Bulletin announced in its Jan – Feb 2022 Edition that they had released a New Edition of their “World Perfins Catalog – America Section” edited by Robert Littrell, which covers all of North, South and Central America and the Caribbean except for Canada and the USA.

The Catalogue is available from the US Perfin Club via their web site here: <https://www.perfins.org/>

Click on the Publications tab to contact the Sales Manager, Steven Sherman. Both PDF and Loose-Leaf (hard copies) are available. US Perfin Club Membership discounts apply and shipping to non-US locations is extra. Paypal is available.

The Revised Edition is a full 20 pages longer than the 2020 Edition and includes many new reports and even a new country, Bolivia.

This Catalogue is part of a set of Four World Catalogs that were issued by the US Perfin Club in the 1990's and covered the various Perfin using countries that did not have sufficient patterns to justify their own catalogue.

The Four World Catalogs were compiled by Robert Schwerdt and there were volumes for Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The PCNZA Library has copies of these for loan should you wish to investigate these collecting areas.

Collecting Australian Government Perfins

By Jason Rowe, Ray Fleming and Tom Weir

Collecting Australian Government perfins is a fun and rewarding part of the Australian Perfin landscape.

There is an excellent general reference in David Andersen's “Australian Official Perfins” (2007 Edition 2) that is available to Members for just \$25 plus \$10 postage and if you are keen on VG's then we can include “Victorian Government Punctures” (1993 Edition 5) for just a further \$10. Contact David Coath for quick delivery.

There is also “Official Aussie Perfins” by Dave Elsmore which is free at <https://www.perfins.com.au/>

In addition, we can assist you with your collecting, layout and new reports and even help you to build your collection with spares that we have.

All you have to do is choose your interest, contact us and get started:

VG's: contact Jason Rowe via email at buddahboy10@live.com .

OSNSW Type A, GNSW Type A & B: contact Tom Weir at tomweir@bigpond.com

GNSW Type C and Type D: contact Ray Fleming ray.fleming@bigpond.com

And if these do not spark your interest, there are CofA's, T's, WA's and OS's a plenty, most are cheap and easily available and well covered in Australian Official Perfins (AOP).

Have a go and with study and time you may become our Club expert in one of these other patterns.

New Circuit Manager

By John Lee

I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself as the New Circuit Book Manager. I have taken over the role from Greg Howard who has done an outstanding job over many years.

See my details on Page 2 of this Bulletin.

While I haven't been a member of the Club for a long time, I have quickly become an enthusiast of perfins and some of you may have seen in a copy of the South Pacific Bulletin that I 'found' several new perfin patterns with the first group that I came across. I was assisting a friend to sort through her late husband's collection (a large box full of loose stamps!) and she told me to keep what I wanted and auction the rest. I decided to keep the perfins and I haven't looked back.

I am a Member of the Caboolture Stamp Club and several members of the Club look out for perfins for me. I am usually guaranteed of coming home from our monthly meetings with a few.

Recently I attended the National One Frame Stamp Show in Toowoomba in October (we weren't in lockdown at the time) and met up with John Graham and Bob Littlehales who are both PCNZA Members. The Show was successful despite no Interstate people being able to attend. On the 2nd day of the Show, another member of the Club, Wendy O'Connell, approached the organisers and John and I were on hand to meet her and have a great discussion. She was so pleased that there were other 'perfin' enthusiasts in attendance.

Before the first new books for the circuits (there are currently three circuits) are posted, I have sent around an email or letter to current Circuit Members confirm that they are still wishing to receive the books and reminded them about the need to comply with the Regulations that Greg and the Committee had established. These include: using "Express Post" to pass the books to the next person on the list; and posting the books on in a reasonably quick manner. It should be noted that using Express Postage whilst expensive, has resulted in no loss of Books since the time it was introduced, thus benefitting members. A copy of the Regulations is issued with the Circuit Books. New banking details will appear on the Purchase Slips. My preference is for 'electronic funds transfer' to avoid any costs that are associated with other methods of payment.

Now if any Members wish to join the Circuit, then they are more than welcome, just get in touch with me and we arrange everything.

I am looking forward to building up the Circuit Books and helping you and your perfin collecting in any way I can.

Editors Comment

Ray Bennett will continue to manage the New Zealand Circuit and he will work with John Lee to get this started as soon as possible. The NZ Circuit will continue to operate under its own Regulations with payments in \$NZ for all Circuit material.

If you want to join the Circuit in either Australia or New Zealand then all you must do is get in touch with John or Ray, there details are on Page 2.

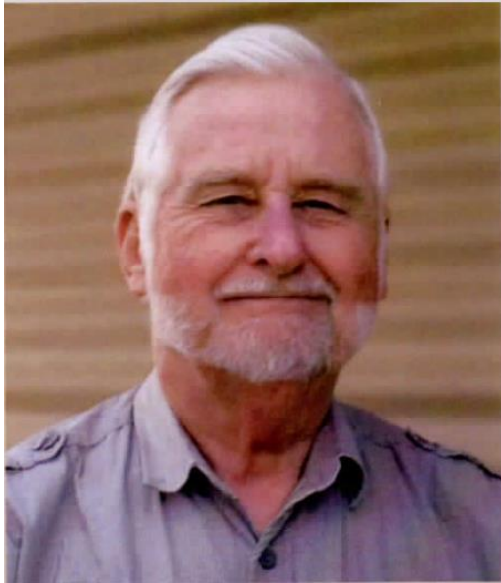
The Circuit is a great way to build your collection. The material is offered by Members, exclusively for Members. There are many bargains to be had in each set of books and the prices are very reasonable. The Club only takes a 10% commission on sales so there is a modest cost if you want to offer material for sale. Again, contact John or Ray and they can supply you with some empty Circuit Books.

I find it easy to make up books for sale and the method I use is to have one or two in production all the time. When I am sorting perfins on my desk I just mount up the spares in the Books as I go. It is easy, you have the Catalogues open and your collection at hand, it is the perfect time to decide what the pattern is and confirm that it is a spare.

Circuit Books can contain all sorts of material. John Amiet, who has long been the main book producer in the Club will mix Australian private patterns, Officials, Overseas patterns, small cover, patterns on piece all together in a single Book. Some will be on their own and others will be in small packets that you can search through for what you are looking for. Join the fun.

Meet a Member – Ken Scudder –APR, FRPSV, FRPSL

By Ken Scudder



I was born at Westcliffe-on-Sea, Essex, England on the 4th July 1933, from which date I guess it became quite natural for me to be somewhat independent.

My first introduction to philately occurred before I went to school. My godfather showed me his collection of early Great Britain. But my collecting started just before WWII and shortly after I well remember buying from the Post Office the 1940 Centenary stamps which I still have.

Not long after this my mother took my sister and I to live with her cousin in Matlock, Derbyshire, away from the southeast of England in case of invasion. Another of her cousins was the Matlock Postmaster, from whom I was given a new album and further encouragement.

In early 1945, my father who also had a small “schoolboy” collection, produced a spring back album, and suggested we put our collections together. This album I still have, and on the first page, starting at 29 Apr 1945, and in true schoolboy style I totalled 2275 stamps. There were periodic additions through to the last entry in 1948, when at 14 I had other interests and joined the local cycling club, the Southend Wheelers.

As a student, funds were in short supply to buy cycling equipment and I occasionally sold a few things I possessed, but I could not of course sell the stamps, as these were not all mine. Later when my father bought my sports bike [which he never rode] so I could put together a racing bike, I realised that the new album had been his way of giving me his stamps.

The next few years were taken up with cycle racing, study and a Student Apprenticeship with the then Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company.

In 1956 the Melbourne Olympics were coming up and I was hoping to take part in the road selection trials. Unfortunately, through no fault of my own I was involved in a dispute between the three National cycling organisations at the time and was declared a Non-Amateur for riding against professionals. The National Cycling Union, which had international control of both amateur and professional cycling had backed the Hercules cycle company in forming a professional national team to ride in the 1955 Tour de France. By early 1956 these riders knowing there was no professional cycling in England had changed their minds. Unbeknown to me the NCU had refused to give them back their amateur status. However, another organisation, the British League of Racing Cyclists, who had both amateur and a semi-professional category called Independents, allowed them to ride with them as Independents.

At Easter 1956, one of the first big races for the BLRC was the Bournemouth 3 Day Race. Only 1st category amateurs were allowed to ride against Independents. The Independents were listed first, including most of these ex-Tour de France riders and I was the first amateur listed. It was probably made worse when I got 2nd in the sprint finish on the 3rd day. The next thing I got a letter from the NCU declaring me a non-amateur and putting me at the top of a list which grew as more and more riders were involved. No hope of coming to Melbourne!

Later that year, and after 5 years deferment, I commenced two years National Service in the RAF. Being stationed in the north of England I admit to riding illegally under another name on several occasions. This was followed by two years back at Marconi in the Radar Division with installations for both ships and airfields.

Engineering study led me to Membership of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, and later their Automotive Division, and later still, the Institution of Engineers Australia.

In 1960 I married my wife Iris. We were to have a son and two daughters in England and a third daughter in Australia.

At the time of our marriage, I was working with Ford of Britain as a Vehicle Development Engineer.

About 1962 I had a bad bout of the 'flu and was off work for 3 weeks. Wanting something to do I got out my album, bought two Senator Standard albums, one red and one black, with the intention of remounting the British Commonwealth stamps in one and the Foreign in the other. The first task was successful but the second was never accomplished.

Not long after I joined my first philatelic society, the Rayleigh & District P.S. of which I am still a member having been made a life member when I came to Australia in 1969. It was with this club that I first got interested in the stamps of the Australian Colonies.

In 1965 I was headhunted by an American exhaust system manufacturer, Walkers, who were setting up in Northern Ireland to supply the Car Industry, and spent most of 1966 living there as Director of Product Engineering. Not a good place to live and, fortunately I got out before most of the troubles started. Later I found they had moved to Belgium.

Returning to England I spent the next two years back at the Marconi Company in the Space Communications Division. At that time building the second 120-foot diameter dish down in Cornwall as part of the satellite communications system. This system has three geostationary satellites – over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans.

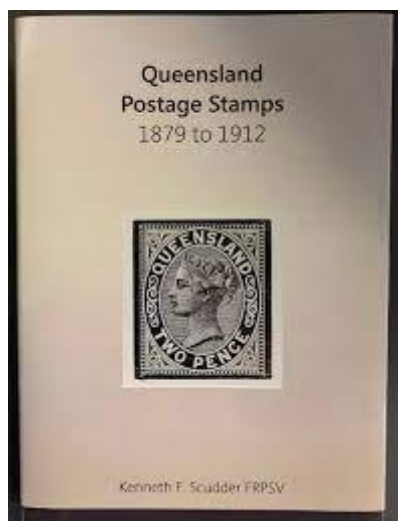
In late 1968 I was recruited in London by Ford of Australia to work as a Vehicle Development Engineer and in the following April came to live in Geelong, and I am still here.

One of the first things I did was to join the Geelong Philatelic Society. "Oh, a new member, what can you show us?". "Only Australian States". "Oh, that's good, we have not seen these for a long time." So, a general display was given. After which it was suggested, we form a States Study Circle. This we did and it went on for several years mostly seated around one members snooker table, followed by supper.

In the early 1970's I helped form the Corio Bay Sailing Club and was its first Treasurer. I later also joined the Royal Geelong Yacht Club.

In 1970 I joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. This was one of the best things I ever did. It was here that my interest in the stamps of the Australian Colonies really expanded and to later concentrate on those of Queensland. Soon after I also joined the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club and their very active State Study Group.

It soon became obvious there was a gap in the literature for Queensland. The Royal Philatelic Society London had, in 1930, published *The Postage Stamps..... of Queensland* based on the original research of A.F.Basset Hull together with Notes of the Publications Committee, the book becoming known as the *Basset Hull Queensland Vol I*. This covered only the issues from 1860 to 1880 with the Chalon Head design, plus the 1882–1912 Chalon Head issues of the Bradbury Wilkinson design. A Vol.II to cover the later issues, for various reasons, never eventuated.



After many years of research, exploration of all available sources, and much help from many fellow collectors, in particular Dr. Geoffrey Kellow who collated the book for me, *Queensland Postage Stamps 1879 to 1912* was published in 2013 by The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. (See at left) It was to be awarded the Grand Award for Literature at Chicagopex 2014 and at Sydney 2015 a Literature Large Gold and the Grand Prix National.

Also, in 2015 and to my great delight The Royal Philatelic Society London awarded me The Crawford Medal. This was presented at the 2015 Annual General Meeting in London, by which time I had applied for Membership.

So far I have not mentioned The Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, which is very remiss of me. But to be honest I feel my collecting field here to be somewhat limited. It basically started based on the Melbourne Type "F" O.S. but has since extended into how & why things are as they are, i.e., how things are produced. So, admit to not collecting Perfins as such, although I find the research articles of others of great interest.

From information in the BULLETIN I have since learnt that a small statement in my *Queensland Book* needs correcting although it is a bit late now. Thus – “The pattern of the O.S. is *exactly* the same as that which was used in Melbourne” should read *nominally* rather than *exactly*. One can always learn.

Other activities since coming to Australia and following sailing have been racing with the Geelong Veteran Cycling Club and Geelong West C.C.; forming the Bellarine Philatelic Society with the late Hugh Freeman; and for the last 20 years or so being in the Geelong M.G. Car Club with an MGRV8. Reminiscent of my first car, an MG.

Also, since retiring I have been collecting the stamps and postal history of the Channel Islands under WWII German Occupation, and of late I have joined the Rhodesian Study Circle who at present are having the most interesting Zoom Meetings. Both of these ventures being influenced by my late friend Donald Napier.

It all keeps you busy. As a friend once said, “I don’t know how I ever had time to go to work.”

Editors Note

Photos courtesy of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria who also sell Ken’s book: *Queensland Postage Stamps 1879 to 1912*, go to their web page at: <https://www.rpsv.org.au/> and go to the Publications tab.

Unofficial Overprints and Perfins of New Zealand

By Tony Mansfield, and David Coath



This is an amazing, colourful and informative Catalogue that lists the Unofficial Overprints and Perfins of New Zealand. It was produced by PCNZA Member Tony Mansfield and is 134 double sided colour pages comb bound.

The story starts with the Security Overprints and then moves to the emerging use of special overprints on New Zealand stamps, which starts in the late 1950’s before growing through the later part of the 20th Century to become a more common feature for Philatelic events and the like.

PCNZA Members will be interested in the section on NZ Perfins (pages 92 – 104) that starts with the Kodak “perfins” and lists the usual patterns that are reported in Samuel, such as “ROYAL/100”, “PANPEX 77”, “NZ/1990” and various Perfin Clubs such as the GB Societies, “PS” and our own “PCNZA” pattern.

But there are a few surprises as Tony lists a pattern, GA/OTU, (see left below) that I had not seen on a NZ stamp. Tony acquired it in a group of patterns that included strikes on US issues. So, we asked US Perfin Guru Bob Szymanski. Bob was prompt and knowledgeable as always and advised that it was Masonic message “Great Architect of the Universe” which makes it a vanity pattern that fits nicely into Tony’s study.



The Catalogue is available from Tony direct, for a cost of just \$45 (NZ) with postage to Australia at \$12 or \$17 via Courier.

Tony can be contacted on email at: Tony Mansfield tonybmanz@gmail.com or by mail at: 164 Ladies Mile, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051 New Zealand.

As a bonus each copy from the 1st Print run includes its own Unofficial Overprinted mini sheet.



Keep Brothers & Wood

By David Coath

A Lot of Advertising covers was listed in the recent Status International Auction, #371 of 3 February 2022. The covers were all associated with the Automotive industry, and one was noted to have a perfin.



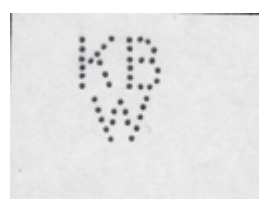
It is hard to tell the pattern but on very close examination it is most likely a strike of KBW.4. It is reversed but some of the pin holes are visible from the scan, and I have highlighted these in Red (see at left). KBW.4 and KBW.5 are very similar patterns, and this may have led to some miss reports.

HAPP lists KBW.5 as 1921 – 37 but I have found it as 1922 – 24

HAPP lists KBW.4 as 1929 – 40 but I have found it as 1927 – 40



KBW.4



KBW.5

The key difference in the patterns is the scale and KBW.4 is larger and given that they have almost the same number of pins in the pattern KBW.4 is more open like our example on the cover.

Keep Brothers and Wood were prolific perfin users and are almost certainly responsible for the entire KBW and KB&W group and possibly the KB's.

The KBW and KB&W group starts in 1900 and is made up of Temporary patterns mainly KB&W's and then later mainly KBW's until about 1916. Later they purchased a Customised device KBW.5 (1922 – 24) and then another device KBW.4 (1929 until 1940).

Now HAPP lists them as Coachbuilders and Ironmongers at 100 Franklin St, Melbourne but the cover bearing a slogan about Ford and Chevrolet Parts suggests that there is a bit more to it than that.



Inside the envelope was a flyer from the Company announcing that they had been appointed Co Distributors with "Replacements Parts Pty Ltd". Replacement Parts Pty Ltd was a renaming of a company that had been started in 1922 by Robert Russell as "Automotive Grinding Company" but later was known as "Replacement Parts Company" or as we know them today, REPCO.

But Keep Brothers and Wood had not always been in the automotive business.

John Francis Keep, his brother, Albert Edward Keep, and Harry Wood, formed Keep Bros and Wood in 1899 but this was not their first business.

John had arrived in Melbourne in 1876, and had been in partnership with his cousin, Edward, trading as Edward Keep and Co.

The business was located in Lonsdale St, Melbourne and in October 1899 it was destroyed by fire and stored, amongst other things, cartridges and 200 lbs of Gunpowder. This, and Edward's departure seems to have led to the formation of Keep Bros & Wood.

John remained as a director until his death in 1945 aged 89, Albert died in 1940 and Harry Wood had died in October 1918.

The photo (at left) is from a trade Journal entitled the "Australasian Coachbuilder and Saddler" and it shows the Keep Bros & Wood's Wheel Factory at Franklin St in 1912 (or 1913).



The building was most likely numbered 96 – 102 Franklin St. At the time the company were listed as Coachbuilders, Ironmongers and Hardware Merchants as stated in HAPP.

The company transitioned into the growing automotive industry during the 1920's and moved to premises at 55 – 67 Batman St, West Melbourne soon after. (See left)

They remained in the automotive industry as an after-market supplier of parts and seat belts well into the 1960's but they had also expanded into manufacturing bicycles including the popular Hallmark Brand.

The early perfin use was most likely at the 96 – 102 Franklin St location and the Company were certainly Coachbuilders but at the time of the usage of the KBW.4 and .5 devices they had most likely moved to the 55 – 67 Batman St, West Melbourne premises and would be best described as Automotive suppliers.

The transition from Coachbuilding to Auto manufacturing in Australia was a complex story and there is an excellent article by RMIT here that looks at early automotive design in Australia: tinyurl.com/2p8h576y (copy paste into your browser)

Sources: Flicker, Wiki, Status International, University of Melbourne, RMIT and TROVE

PCNZA Facebook Page

By Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

**Steal a man's wallet and
he will be poor for a week.**



**Teach a man stamp collecting
and he will be poor for life.**

The PCNZA Facebook page is entitled the “Australian Perfin Group” and it continues to grow and now has more than 260 Members.

These sites are what you make them, and they rely on Members posting questions and finds. They can also be a source of humour and good-natured banter between collectors.

This was recently posted by Melbourne Stamp Dealer Tony Shields on the BSAP (British Society of Australian Philately) Facebook page.

It is a gem and Tony had reposted it from a post by well-known US Perfin collector Robert Litterell, who, coincidentally is the Editor of the new edition of the “World Perfin Catalog – American Section” that we feature on Page 17.

You will find our Facebook page here:

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

New Zealand Reports

By Stephen Jones, Dave Elsmore, Tony Mansfield and David Coath



Dave Elsmore shared these New Zealand Railway stamps some with perfins (see at left), that were recently listed on the NZ site “Trademe”, and yes if you were wondering that is carpet that they are being presented on.

Stephen Jones said that the “NRUAWAHIA” station is uncommon and noted the 2 MGM perfins on the 1/- and 2/- (top and left).

Proving that quality will win over presentation the lot sold for \$900 NZ.

The patterns have now been listed on Adam Miller’s excellent listing of “New Zealand Railway Charges Stamps 1925 – 1959” which is available for free in a Pdf form at the link below.

Adam’s listing is frequently updated and is currently at Version 16 of December 2021.

The listing has a section on Perfins that can be accessed via the index, and it is well worth seeing.

The link to it is below:

<http://www.78rpm.net.nz/couriers/NZR/New%20Zealand%20Railway%20Charges%20stamps%20ebook.pdf>

These rarities can also be seen on Dave Elsmore’s Revenue and Railway online catalogue:

<https://www.ozrevenues.com/tabs/t12.html> the specific NZ tab is:

<https://www.ozrevenues.com/Revenue-Railway-Local-Perfin-Catalogue/nz-rail-catalogue.html>



In use: 1965–Current.
 Dates: 16 Dec 1972 –
 Issues: U(MC) 4d
 V ½d
 W ½p–28p, 50p
 W(ell) 1p, 2p, C
 W(ell) 20p, 25p
 W(ell) 1st, 2nd, 1st G
 W(ell) 1st SA (SG1789)
 X 3p (SG916)
 X 6½p (SG1018), 10p (SG1095)
 X 15p, 20p (SG1467/9)
 X 18p (SG1634/9)
 X 19p (SG1873/1896/1901/2111)
 X 20p (SG1945/2069)
 X 25p (SG1816/1916)
 X 1st (SG2171)
 X 2nd (SG1950/2138/2238)
 Z(Wales) 24p
 Z(Northern Ireland) 25p
 QEII Post Card (1965), with a full strike 2x2.

Also known on Eire stamps

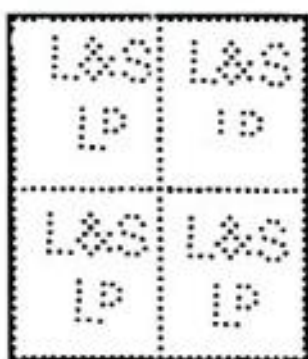
Note: Multihedded die, 2x2, originally "L&S/L" (L5090.03M), used by Lepard & Smiths Ltd, Wholesale Stationers, 15-18 Great Earl St, and c3 & 44 Castle St, Long Acre, London WC2.

Ident: C J T Carr, Dover, Kent.
 Later moved to Broadstairs, Kent (2005), and then to Holton-le-Clay, Lincs (2014). {Private Perfin}.

Pinks: Dover, and Canterbury, Kent.

Lepard & Smiths Ltd used the Perfin from c1905 (ED: 14 June 1907) until it fell out of use c1940. Its use was later revived, between April 1962 and July 1964, to perforate stamps for the 'Security Endorsement & Perfin Society of G.B.'.

The machine was then donated to the Perfin Society and from March 1965 has been used in a modified form to produce "CJ." (C0020.01M) produced by pin removal.



'Full' strike from the early '960s showing missing pins in the upper right-hand pattern.

Tony Mansfield reported this Vanity perfin found on New Zealand stamps.



The device is owned by Chris Carr who is from the GB Perfin Society but New Zealander Barry Pawson, accessed it on visits to England and it is understood that he has obtained permission from NZ Post to perforate it onto NZ postage stamps.

Detailed at left is an extract from the GB Perfin Catalogue that was provided by the Catalogue Editor Roy Gault to Tony.

For those of you not familiar with the GB Catalogue just take a moment to note the enormous amount of detail that it contains.

As well as the normal image of the pattern and catalogue number, the catalogue lists the issues that it is found on, the structure of the device, owners of the device including address and nature of business as well as likely Postmarks and usage ranges. It is an amazingly detailed reference especially when you consider that the scope of the GB Perfin Study extends to almost 25,000 patterns.



The catalogue is massive but shortly GB Perfin Society Members will be able to obtain the entire catalogue and its related publications on a single thumb drive for just

£30 plus postage.

The contents are as follows:

- 'The Gault Catalogue of G.B. Perfins (Gault-2)' - sections A-Z, Designs, Numbers, and Monograms. {over 3,450 pages}.
- The Tomkins Catalogue of Identified G.B. Perfins. {700 pages}.
- The complete set of updated files forming the website project 'G.B. Stamps known with Perfins - 2022'. {1,560 pages}.
- 'The Gault Catalogue of Irish Perfins' - 2022 edition. {170 pages}.
- 'The G.B. Coils Catalogue' - 2022 edition. {155 pages}.
- A complete set of Perfin Society Bulletins 1957-2021. {8,700 pages}.
- 'Sloper Records' - Maurice Harp {320 pages}.

More details about how to order this in the next Bulletin or see the GB Society web site here: <https://perfinsoc.org.uk/>

Auction Watch and New Reports

By David Coath, Greg Howard, John Amiet, Michael Kino, Wendy O'Connell, and Dave Elsmore



This from Greg Howard, it is an A on the 2 1/2d Overprint on the 9d Blue. It is a very hard to find issue and this one was lurking in a group of Tasmanian stamps recently sold on eBay.

The pattern is the A that is listed in HAPP as A.3 or A.4. These 2 listings describe, in part, what is a 6-die device all with similar styled and sized A's.

2 examples of this rare stamp and perfin were featured on Page 3 of David McNamee's excellent Tasmanian Private Perfins Exhibit. It and other great perfin Exhibits can be found on the Exhibitions Tab on <https://www.perfins.com.au/> or here:

http://www.aape.org/exhibit_view_page.asp?intExhibitNumber=81&intCurrentPageNumber=3



This report from Wendy O'Connell. It is R&SLD.1 which is proved to Reckitt & Sons in Sydney from 1906. This proving example is the first that has been seen on a Revenue and will shortly be included in the revised R Section of the Revenue Perfins of New South Wales.

<https://www.perfins.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfins/NSW-Revenue-Perfins-A-Z.html>



This PRT.1 was reported by John Amiet and is rated in HAPP as rare and provisionally assigned to Melbourne Solicitors, "Pentland, Roberts & Thompson". The pattern is only reported on revenue stamps, and this is one of 3 that have now been reported on postage stamps.

"Pentland, Roberts & Thompson" are almost certainly the user as the mix of high value revenue usage suggest a Solicitor as the user and the history of the partnerships in the Company between 1888 and 1892 fit the usage period. For more information and a history of the company compiled by Jenny O'Donnell see the Revenue Perfins of

Victoria here:

<https://www.perfins.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfins/Victoria-Revenue-P-Perfins.html>



Michael Kino noted this SHB that sold in the recent Phoenix Auction # 89 for \$260

It is one of about 9 known with this F pattern of "Farmer & Co Ltd" of Sydney.

This is F.1; the pattern is quite similar to F.2. You can tell F.1 as the cross bar of the F is directly in line with a pair of pins in the upright of the F.



Another report from John Amiet, this time it is a new report of a security overprint that has been used by D & W Murray. In size the overprint has many characteristics of a company cachet but note that on this piece the overprint is isolated to the stamp and does not carry across onto the surrounding receipt part.

This shows that the overprint has been applied prior to the stamp being affixed to the receipt.

The company were large perfin users, but this is the first security overprint reported.

The Perfect Gift for Next Christmas

By Dave Elsmore, and David Coath



Dave Elsmore reports this great 1000 piece which his daughter purchased from her local Australia Post outlet in November.

A perfect gift for a Philatelist, you might think, but the keen observer would note that the pair of 1d Purple Queen Victoria in the 2nd column from the right, 3rd stamp down from the top, is actually a GB

issue complete with a London postmark.

This is something common to "School Boy" collections but that is not the best part.

The jigsaw comes in a tube, which is also adorned with stamps but the real treat for us is that the 1d Emu on the tube is carrying a nice Perfin.

It is WG&CO.1 which with WG&CO.1 and WG&COLTD.1 and .2 were all used by the Sydney Warehouser and Soft goods Retailer William Gardiner & Co, (later Ltd) who in 1926 joined with fellow perfin user Sargood to form Sargood Gardiner Ltd.



Check your local Post Office.

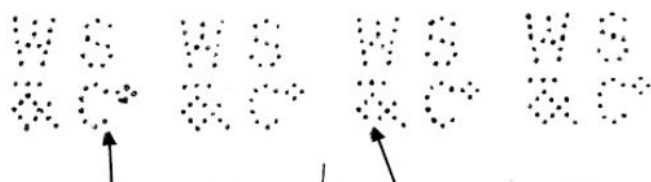
Update on WS&CO.1 of William Sandover

By Roy Gault, John Mathews and David Coath

In the last Bulletin there was an article about the Western Australian retailer William Sandover & Co, see SPPB #135 pages 20 – 21 an extract of which is below:

WS/&CO Device

The WS/&CO.1 device is a four-die device in a 4 x 1 format giving 4 dies in a horizontal array.



No.

consistent spacing between dies 1 and 2 and the same spacing between dies 3 and 4, however the spacing between dies 2 and 3 is slightly narrower. There are some missing pins found in Die 1, base of C and Die 3, base of ampersand as shown above.

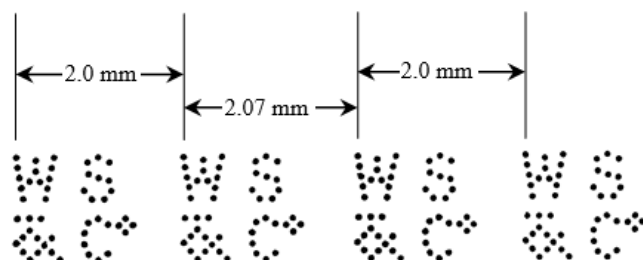
The dies are very similar but on clear strikes, there are some subtle differences, but overall, it is very difficult to differentiate between the dies.

The 4 x 1 format has

John Mathews wrote to report that the mock-up of the 4 dies of the WS&CO.1 done by me was in error, stating that:

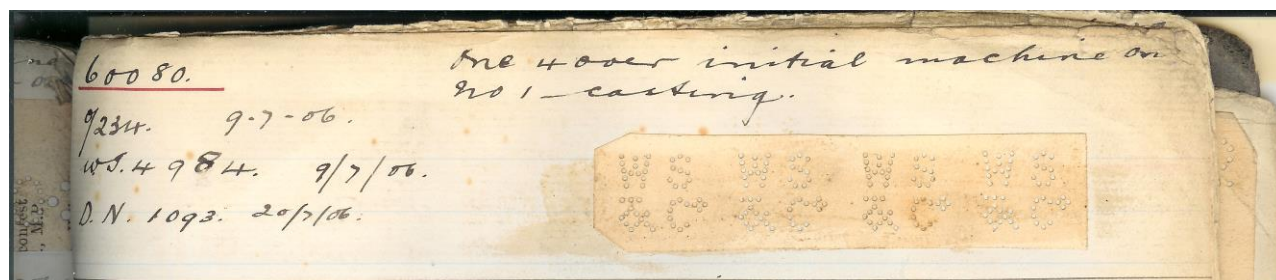
"It looks as if your depiction of the 4 x 1 perforator is made up of a strip of 3 (dies 2, 3 and 4, which are aligned) and a separate single image as die 1 which does not align with the other three. Also, your text says that the "spacing between dies 2 and 3 is slightly narrower". In fact, the spacing between dies 2 and 3 is slightly wider than the spacing between dies 1 and 2, and between dies 3 and 4."

John is correct and this is shown by the image of the strike from the Sloper Work Sheets that was provided by GB Catalogue Editor Roy Gault. Roy has also gone to the trouble to overlay the separations between the dies. See below.



Roy states that: "The 4x1 multiheaded die was well made with no real discernible differences between each individual pattern – any differences that there are (and there will be some because it's been handmade) are too subtle for me!"

John and Roy also shared the actual reference page from the Sloper Workbooks, see below:



John was also able to explain the text above the pattern image as follows:

"4 over" means 4 dies. Unless stated otherwise (e.g. "2 x 2" mentioned) all the dies are in one row.

"Initial" means letters (ss distinct from date punches)

"no 1 casting" refers to the style of the body.

Editors Note

Thanks to Roy Gault and John Mathews for their input to improve what we know about this pattern.

If anyone has anything to add or any correction to make to articles printed in this Bulletin, then they are more than welcome. – David

New FAI Perfin Pattern

By Rod Sell, Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath



These FIA patterns were all in a group that was given to Rod Sell by a friend at his local stamp club meeting.

Your friends at your local Stamp Clubs are a great source of material as they are not filtering them, just giving you what they find and what they have. Make sure to encourage them by helping them with their collections. I find Postmark collectors and those looking for varieties to be the best fellow collectors to groom, as they are looking at bulk amounts of material and often perfins are hidden in things like bundleware and other bulk lots.

Whatever Rod Sell's system is it paid dividends with this amazing group of previously unreported patterns.

We can clearly see that the pattern is FAI and it seems to be consistent across all of the examples. The strip of 3 of the £1 Numerals suggests that it is a single die device, and

this is further supported variety of positions that the pattern is found in.



Now the pattern is straight forward but the user is no known.

FAI is the name of a well-known Sydney based Insurance Company and if you look at the 1/- (above left) the cancelling cachet has some readable bits at 1 o'clock to 4 o'clock. "...RANCE CO LTD" is just visible although the small part of the cachet at 11 o'clock is not helpful.

There are no readable dates on the stamps but we know that FAI Insurance was established in 1960 (see Company history below) and that many Insurance companies had Perforating devices at this time.

In fact, the late 1950's and early 1960's was a growth period for perfin devices, and these were centred in the Sydney Insurance Industry and included: AMP/F&G, BC, CEN, CIC, EL, GAC, GB&CO, ICNA, LG, M, N&G, PAC, S&G, SIC, T&G/ML, UIC and V. It was not something that lasted as most of these devices were not used after 1967. But the point is that it would be entirely consistent for a start up Insurance company in Sydney in 1960 such as FAI, to use a perforator, it was common practice.

A final piece of anecdotal evidence comes from Rod's friend at his stamp club who he asked about the origin of the stamps. She stated:

“You are quite right, I think he worked for FAI or he had close connections there because a lot of the stamps on paper showed part of the address on the envelope - FAI, so I think while he worked there and after he retired they saved the stamps for him which are mostly from the 70s, from 1966 onwards. Hence the various big envelopes with a lot of rusty stamps....”

I think that we have enough evidence to say that the pattern is FAI and that on the balance of probability the user was FAI Insurance Co Ltd of Sydney.

A great find by Rod Sell.

History of FAI Insurance

Larry Adler, full name: Lawrence James Adler, original name: Laszlo James Adler, was born 2 November 1931, in Budapest, Hungary of Jewish parents. Adler's father died in a NAZI Concentration Camp and Larry left Hungary in 1949 arriving in Australia in 1950 as a refugee who had no money and knew no English.

He initially worked in Melbourne as railway labourer but later as a cleaner and a taxi driver in Sydney.

Adler incorporated FAI in 1960 as the “Fire and All Risks Insurance Co”. (Later, renamed FAI Insurance, Ltd.) with paid up capital of a mere £7,500, although he increased that to £25,077 and he also borrowed £20,000 to pay the mandatory deposit to the Insurance Commissioner.

Larry Adler's life was detailed in his biography, “From Cabbie to Chairman”, by Peter Denton, published shortly after Larry's death in December 1988.

FAI opened for business in November 1960 and had a shaky start made worse by the Government imposed credit squeeze of 1960–61 which saw interest rates rise, credit restricted, and a higher sales tax imposed on cars, creating a slump in car insurance which was one of FIA's target businesses.

FAI was in trouble immediately and they were considered too risky, but they support by a small financier called “Direct Acceptance Corporation” whose own finances were like FAI's. Later FAI gained some Workers Compensation business through Julius Charody, who had owned a taxi that Larry Adler had driven in his Cabby days.

FAI began to grow, and they absorbed some small car insurance companies and expanded interstate but the “word” around Sydney was that the company was built on a poor base. Some of these comments could be attributed to prejudice as the Insurance business was heavily influenced by well-established British based firms and Larry Adler was not inclined to play by the established rules.

One joke that circulated in the early days of FAI was that they were “an insurance company without a claims department”, but no Insurance company gets rich paying out claims and most insurance companies are rich with substantial funds under management.

Here Larry Adler was again different and rather than keep his funds in secure investments he was aggressive and unorthodox risking large sums on speculative shares through Investment Companies started by Adler.

This behaviour drew the attention of the “NSW Workers' Compensation Commission”, which began an inquiry into FAI in September 1971. This placed FAI's Licence at risk, but the slow action of the Commission and Adler's enthusiastic litigation managed to keep the matter in the courts and undecided until the early 1980's.

The case was ultimately decided by Justice Frank McGrath of the Compensation Court of NSW on 31 October, 1980, and he criticised FAI, its practices and its poor financial viability and recommended that the Licence be withdrawn. However, Adler announced he would appeal to the Privy Council and FAI was again able to continue in business pending the appeal. In the end it never eventuated.

FAI continued to grow by acquisition, something common in the Insurance Industry but his crowning achievement was securing funds through the sale of its shares from the Mosbert Group that was investing in Australia and South East Asia with finance provided by the Moscow Narodny Bank.

In the 1980s, Adler was an enthusiastic player in the roaring takeover boom, along with such legendary figures as Robert Holmes a Court, John Elliott, Alan Bond and John Spalvins. Adler was a canny trader, and this made FAI one of Australia's best-performing stock in the decade from 1975 to 1985, when its share price rose from 32¢ to \$15.

But Adler ultimately misjudged and he lost heavily when the markets collapsed in 1987, losing half of his capitalisation as it went from \$2.1 billion to \$1 billion overnight.



When Larry Adler died in December 1988, FAI was still unstable and the markets were not reassured when the Larry's son, the untried, 29-year-old Rodney Adler took over. Photo of Rodney and Larry Adler in the 1980's.

Perhaps Rodney Adler's greatest feat was that he kept FAI "alive" from the death of his father until its sale of the company to HIH in 1998. HIH paid \$300 million for FAI and this included subsidiaries such as FAI Life, Anaconda Nickel, One.Tel, Financial

Services company "Godfrey Pembroke" and Oceanic Coal.

HIH itself would enter Provisional Liquidation in March 2001 with losses of \$5.3 Billion and the management and activities of the company were investigated via a Royal Commission. Subsequently HIH founder and Director Ray Williams and Rodney Adler were found guilty of Criminal Charges arising from the Royal Commission.

Sources: Australian Financial Review article by Trevor Sykes (8 June 2002), Britannica, Wikipedia,

Recent Private Perfin Forgeries on Ebay

By Greg Howard and David Coath



PE++ Symbol GNSW? WA?

We suspect that more things like this will surface in time. If you find something share it but do not buy it as it only encourages more to enter the market.

The perfin patterns pictured at left were all listed on eBay in the later part of 2021 and early 2022.

Some were as individual items and other were in groups and they were listed by a series of individual sellers.

They are all most likely forgeries, and, in some cases, they appear to be half finished attempts at a private pattern or failed attempts at a Government pattern.

If you see something odd like this in your travels, then please share it with us so that we can list it.

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<https://www.ebay.com.au/usr/edenzac> Tim Papadopoulos (Dandenong – VIC)

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<https://www.ebay.com.au/usr/scrubwren> Lindsay Parker (Kingston - SA)

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