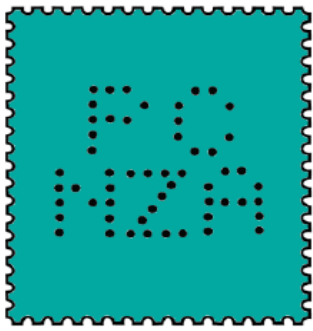




SOUTH **P**ACIFIC **P**ERFIN **B**ULLETIN



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FEATURE ARTICLES

- GNSW Type B by Tom Weir
- South Australian Officials
by David Coath, Jerry
Austen and Tom Weir
- Meet a Member – Rod Sell
-

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 #138, it is running a bit late because I was waiting for the Financials and Audit Report, but then I managed to get COVID and life got very slow for a couple of weeks.

Firstly, a message from 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. Greg reports that we are running very low on Mint New Zealand so if you see any around, please send it to me or Greg. His details are 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 deals with Missing Pins, Double Punctures, and other Varieties.

There is an article by me, Jerry Austen and Tom Weir about the South Australian State and Commonwealth Government perfins of the early Commonwealth Period.

John Mathews has written a follow up article on the Hermann Dürre material that was featured in the article in the April Bulletin.

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, Michael Kino, Ian Spencer (UK), Brad Miles, Ken Scudder, Richard Peck, Terry Sitch (Canada), Peter Panoutsos and Tony Cane. Special thanks to new Member Lynette Hayes and Michael Nicholls for their very generous donations.

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

Front Cover

By David Coath, Dave Elsmore, Ross Ewington and Greg Howard



The front Cover this issue is an amazing report that was in the recent "Tasmanian Stamp Auctions" – TSA run by Ross Ewington.

There were some excellent perfin "gems" being offered that had come from the estate of PCNZA Member John Tyson, who had lived at Low Head in Northern Tasmania.

The pattern is DWMLTD.2 in HAPP and it is the only DWMLTD pattern found on a revenue or railway stamp.

See here on the Revenue Perfins of Tasmania:

<https://www.perfins.com.au/OZ-Revenue-Perfins/T-Revenue-D-Perfins.html>

HAPP reports its usage from 1901, but this is not the case as Tasmanian usage is rare on DWMLTD.2 and we have only found usage from 1912. The miss report may have come from confusion with the similar pattern DWMLTD.1, which is actually 2 devices, one in Adelaide and the other in Melbourne that date from 1901. HAPP also reports Queensland usage for DWMLTD.2. The company certainly had offices in Queensland at Brisbane and Rockhampton, but we can find no perfin use in Queensland. The report could have possibly come from Interstate usage which occurred from 1910 – 12, in which excess stock of old States issues were transferred between States and in the main, it seems, that these excess stamps were sold to large postal users, such as Murray's.

The next Tasmanian Stamp Auction will be held in November 2022, and I would recommend that you save this link and establish an Account.

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

The G/NSW Type B Puncture – Identifying the Dies – Part 4: Missing Pins, Double Punctures, Inverted Punctures and Oddities

By Tom Weir

Missing Pins:

Andersen (2010a) appears to be the first author to explore the concept of missing pins with the G/NSW Type B puncture. He states that when this puncturing head was created by modifying the OS/NSW Type A device, all of the broken pins were repaired. From this current study, it would appear that some of the pins in this new puncturing head broke soon after it was brought into use and others broke later on. These missing pins were not replaced and so remained constant throughout the life of the puncture, being found on both the Kangaroo issues and the later QEII values. Andersen (2010a) illustrated 10 of the 12 Dies, some showing missing pins in some, but labelled them as Dies A to J and thus not allocated to Dies 1 to 12 as per the layout of this puncturing head. Identification of the 12 Dies here follows that of Weir and Coath (2021) and Weir (2021), while orientation of the punctures on the stamps follows that of Andersen (2007). Stamps other than Kangaroos are referred to by their Australian Stamp Catalogue (ASC) numbers for convenience.

Following on from the details in Weir and Coath (2021) and Weir (2021), in this present article each of the Dies with missing pins are listed and illustrated. Constant missing pins are found in Dies 1, 2, 6, 7 and 10. While it is possible that some of the other Dies may exist with missing pins, it seems unlikely, given the numbers of stamps examined.

Die 1: No stamps have been seen that have the full complement of pins. Constant missing pins W5 and W6 occur on all stamps seen, while constant missing S3 develops later and continues on to the QEII series in the 1950s. These constant missing pins are illustrated in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Die 1: 9d Violet Kangaroo C of A Wmk showing constant missing pins W5 and W6 and 2d Yellow-Green Elizabeth No Wmk (ASC 269) showing constant missing pins W5, W6 and S3.

Die 2: No stamps have been seen that have the full complement of pins. Constant missing pin W5 occurs on all stamps seen and this is illustrated in Figure 2 below.



Figure 2: Die 2: 2/- Maroon Kangaroo C of A Wmk and 3½d Red QEII C of A Wmk (ASC 291) showing constant missing pin W5.

Die 6: Stamps with both full complement of pins and constant missing pins exist. There is a date of September 1933 for a stamp with full pins so the broken pin S1 must have occurred after that date. This constant missing pin S1 persists right through on to the QEII series in the 1950s. Full pin and constant missing pin stamps are shown in Figures 3 and 4 below.



Figure 3: Die 6: 1/- Green Kangaroo Small Mult Wmk showing full pins and 9d Violet Kangaroo C of A Wmk showing constant missing pin S1.



Figure 4: Die 6: 2/- Brown Crocodile C of A Wmk (ASC 244) and 6d Kookaburra C of A Wmk (ASC 200) showing constant missing pin S1. Note misaligned puncture as usual for this puncture on stamps other than Kangaroos.

Die 7: Stamps with both full complement of pins and constant missing pins exist. There is a date of November 1933 for a stamp with full pins, so the broken pin W5 must have occurred after that date. This constant missing pin persists right through on to the QEII series in the 1950s. Full pin and constant missing pin stamps are shown in Figures 5 and 6 below.



Figure 5: Die 7: 1/- Green Kangaroo Small Mult Wmk showing full pins and 2/- Maroon Kangaroo C of A Wmk showing constant missing pin W5.



Figure 6: Die 7: 9d Grey Platypus C of A Wmk (ASC 201) and 2½d Blue QEII no Wmk (ASC 294) showing constant missing pin W5.

Die 10: Stamps with both full complement of pins and constant missing pins exist. There are no dates available to give an indication of when the broken pin N1 occurred, but this constant missing pin persists right through on to the QEII series in the 1950s. Full pin and constant missing pin stamps are shown in Figure 7 below.



Figure 7: Die 10: 9d Violet Kangaroo C of A Wmk showing full pins and 3d Green QEII no Wmk (ASC 295) showing constant missing pin N1. Note misaligned puncture as usual for this puncture on stamps other than Kangaroos.

Double Punctures and Inverted Punctures:

Watkins (1963) records an inverted puncture on the 1/- Lyrebird of 1932 and a double puncture on the 6d Kookaburra of 1932 while Laidler and Teunis (1985) mention only the 1/- Lyrebird of 1932 as having the inverted puncture. This study has not been able to sight actual stamps or images of these aberrations and so cannot confirm their existence, but three 9d Violet Kangaroo C of A stamps with genuine double punctures have come to light. They exist with Die 2, Die 10 and Die 11 punctures and the first two are shown in Figure 8 below. These double punctures result in rather severe damage to the stamps, best shown on the Die 10 stamp.



Figure 8: 9d Violet Kangaroo C of A Wmk showing Die 2 and Die 10 as double punctures.

Oddities:

During the course of this study, two 2/- Maroon Kangaroo C of A Wmk stamps showing this G/NSW Type B Puncture in Position 2 have come to light. Images of these have kindly been provided by David Andersen and Ken Yorke. Obviously, the sheets of the Kangaroo stamps were inserted sideways into the puncturing machine, thus giving rise to the Position 2 puncture, but this would have meant misalignment of many of the punctures on the stamps, as shown in the mock-up in Figure 9 below, using the OS/NSW Type A Puncture as a surrogate. It can be seen that the length of the stamps in the sheet are equal in horizontal and vertical directions.



Figure 9: Mock-up of sheets of 1d Red Kangaroo showing alignment for Position 2 punctures.

The two stamps located show Die 1 and Die 12 punctures in Position 2 and the latter has been previously mentioned by Andersen (2010b). Both of these stamps have the large Sydney Air Mail date stamps, with the Die 12 showing 28 September 1944 and the Die 1 showing 7 September 1947. Figure 10 below shows these stamps from front and back.



Figure 10: 2/- Maroon Kangaroo C of A Wmk stamps showing Dies 1 and Die 12 in Position 2.

This brings us to the end of our look at the missing pins, double punctures and oddities. In the next and final article in this series we will look at some of the known forgeries and suspect punctures.

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Club Auction – 2022 and 2023

By David Coath and Les Vincent

The 2022 Club Auction is almost over and there are just a handful of Lots remaining at Reserve and a List of what is available is included in this Bulletin. If you see anything you like just send David an email and it is yours at the Reserve. The first person in is the winner. To reduce costs the lots can be sent to you with a future Bulletin.

This Part 3 of the Auction will close on 31 September so that we can finalise payments to Vendors, so have a look at what is still on offer as soon as you get this Bulletin.

In the 2022 Auction there were 427 Lots and almost 400 cleared for a total sale of almost \$2800 which is good, but well short of the Bumper Sales that we have had in recent years.

Interest was still strong, and the clearance rate was well over 90% and there were almost 50 Bidders.

It is now time to start collecting Lots together for the next Club Auction that will be included in the April 2023 Bulletin.

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.

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 must 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.

The Official Perfins of South Australia 1903 – 1912

By David Coath, Jerry Austen and Tom Weir

The South Australian Government produced four Perfin patterns for use in the period 1903 – 1913 as follows:

- Small SA and Large SA for the South Australian State Government Departments

- Small OS and Large OS for the Commonwealth Government Departments located in South Australia

SA Patterns

The SA's were the first perfins introduced into service in South Australia and David Andersen reports in "Australian Official Perfins" (Edition 2 – 2007) that:

"From 30 September 1903, South Australian State Government Departments were issued with postage stamps punctured SA."



This is supported by a report from the Minutes of the South Australian Philatelic Society in 1903 in which Members refer to SA patterns that they have already seen, and postmark evidence as follows:

Earliest reported postmarks are: Small SA: September 1903

Large SA: 13 October 1903

13 Oct 03

The South Australian (SA) Government usage was the highest priority, as there were many more South Australian Government Department users in South Australia, than there were Commonwealth Government Department users, in that State. This is reflected in the reported volume of SA and OS patterns, with SA being far more common. Furthermore, the usage by the South Australian Departments was broader and involved usage in remote locations such as schools, Police stations etc. In such environments the security of postage stamps was more difficult to manage and therefore Perfins were a more important tool.

Prior to 1902 the South Australia Government had been frequent users of official Overprints to deter misuse of postage stamps. These came in the form of OS Overprints but earlier they had used the Departmental Overprints (1868 – 74) that featured an overprinted letter or letters to denote the various Department using the stamp, such as P for Police, CD for Convict Department etc.

The South Australia Government made a request to the Commonwealth Postmaster General to continue the use of OS Overprints after Federation, however this was rejected, and the Overprinting of stamps OS ceased in November 1902.

They were informed that they needed to perforate stamps and not overprint them and this led to the development of the SA/OS Device.

The SA and OS(?) Device

The existence and use of this device is a matter of some conjecture. However, there is much evidence that points to the possibility that all four of the SA and OS patterns were produced by a single perforating device, that was built to perforate sheets of stamps, but could also permit the insertion of different sets of perfin dies, such as SA and OS.

This perforating device is mentioned in the book by Richard Venus entitled "The Kangaroo and The King – Stamp Perforating Machinery in Australia, 1850 – 1918." (2013) Although

this book focuses on the normal comb and line perforating process, in respect to this activity in South Australia, it states that a specific perforating device was built by Joseph Nash, an “Engineer, Brass founder and Toolmaker” located in Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide, in about 1890, in conjunction with John Cooke, who was then the Printer of Stamps at the South Australian Post Office.

Richard Venus states in respect to the Nash/Cooke machine that:

“...which Cooke incorporated in his was that another set of pins and dies could be fitted to perforate stamps of a different size and shape or the pattern could be modified by adding or removing pins. Or, indeed, a pin and die set could be made to perforate something quite different such as “perfin” (perforated initials) which had been in use in Britain since 1868...”

This feature of the device presents Nash/Cooke as potential visionaries, as although Perfins were in use around the world at the time of the development of the machine, they were certainly not used by the South Australian Government.



More likely it is that Cooke foresaw the need for a machine with flexibility to add pins to perforate stamps of different sizes and the ability to later insert various formats of perfin dies was a function of this flexible design.

(Image at left is from the Argus and on Page 15 of “The Kangaroo and the King” and stated to be the perforator made by Nash/Cooke)

This ability of the Nash/Cooke machine to accept the fitting of sets of Perforating dies is supported by a quote from correspondence between the Commonwealth Postmaster General and the South Australia Government regarding the ability to puncture stamps OS, that was included in an article by Bill Lloyd Smith entitled “Stamps Punctured for Official Use around 1902 – 05” which was published in “Philately from

Australia” the Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, in December 2011, as follows:

Correspondence South Australian Deputy Postmaster General – Adelaide to Commonwealth Postmaster General, 21 October 1902:

“..reported that he could arrange for all stamps required by Commonwealth and State Department to be perorated “OS” at a cost of about £40, also the dies for the “OS” one at £12 and the other at £10”

This suggests that in 1902 the South Australian Government knew of a device that could use different die inserts and that two different OS die sets would be needed, most likely due to the nature of the current South Australian stamp issues. They even knew the cost of such a device and the cost of the necessary die sets. Perhaps they were looking for the Commonwealth to give them money for something that they already had and were in the process of sourcing dies sets to address their own requirements for SA perfins, given the instruction from the Commonwealth Postmaster General to cease using Overprinting of stamps.

The Commonwealth Government declined to fund the device and this was foreshadowed in the 21 October 1902 correspondence and the matter went into abeyance, until the Commonwealth followed up on 2 September 1904, with respect to the need for OS perforated stamps, to which the South Australian Government made the following reply:

"Perforating machine now being repaired for £6, so as to perforate OS."

It is most likely that the South Australian Government made this statement confidently because they had a device on hand that could be altered by inserting a new set of dies to perforate stamps with an OS and this was most likely the same device that was already perforating the SA patterns, that had come into service in around 1903.

Furthermore, Bill Lloyd Smith records the following statement from correspondence about the device as follows:

"On 17 December 1902, the firm of J E Nash, Hydraulic Engineers, offered to perforate the stamps of South Australia. Two "dies" for this task would be produced..."

This confirms Nash as the supplier of the device and the dies, and this is consistent with what had been reported by Richard Venus in "The Kangaroo and the King."

Bill Lloyd Smith goes on to quote from correspondence dated 8 April 1905 in respect to a device needed to puncture OS that:

"alterations consisted of a New Die"

The timing of this correspondence is consistent with the introduction of the Small OS, but most importantly it again supports the view that the device, most likely the Nash device, was capable of puncturing other letter combinations merely with the provision of a set of new dies.

This is further supported by a contemporary reference from "The Australian Philatelist" of 1 April 1905, that was quoted in "The Kangaroo and the King" and also in an article prepared by South Australian Specialist Tony Presgrave, entitled, "The Punctured Official Stamps of South Australia". The article featured a passage by early English Philatelist Leslie L. R. Hausburg who was, amongst other philatelic areas, an expert in the perforations (line and comb) of the stamps of Australia. He had travelled to Australia in 1903 and while here, visited Commonwealth and State Stamp printing facilities in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

This is an extract from the Australian Philatelist, it is hard to read but the key points will be emphasised later.

The Australian Philatelist of 1 April 1905 recorded the following:

"The Postage stamps of South Australia for official use by the State are now perforated and supplied according to requisition in the following values, viz. ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 1s., 2s6d., and 5s., to the different departments of the service. The head of a department requiring stamps forwards a requisition to the Treasury for same who in turn procures them from the G.P. Office. They are then sent to the Government Litho. Department for perforation and subsequently returned to the Treasury who thus issues them in that condition. The values mostly in use are from 1d to 6d, the others being seldom met with. The stamps are punctured with the letters "SA" by a small machine measuring about 2 feet by 6 feet and 3 feet high, made by J G. Nash of this city. It has two large driving wheels about 2 feet in diameter, and in appearance it reminds one at first of the useful household mangle except that it has stampers instead of rollers. The sheets of stamps are placed on the machine and as soon as the handle is turned the clicking sound that follows it denotes the perforation of each horizontal row. The machine is capable of puncturing five sheets at a time but as a rule only four are done. The whole process takes a few seconds. To suit the larger stamps another die is inserted of the same type with the letters more spaced. I might mention that this machine is the same one as used for perforating the S.A. duty stamps and is simply altered by substituting another die."

Hausburg gives us a good overview of the ordering and supply function for stamps for South Australian Government Departments, before talking about the Perfin device itself, which he describes as: (Note comments in brackets added are our clarifications):

"The stamps are punctured with the letters "SA" by a small machine measuring about 2 feet (wide) 6 feet (long) and 3 feet high, made by J G Nash of this city (Adelaide)"

Again, this confirms the Nash device as the "SA" device, but Hausburg continues: (Again comments in brackets are ours)

"It has two large driving wheels about 2 feet in diameter, and in appearance it reminds one at first of the useful household mangle (see image at left below of a contemporary mangle, mangles were used to remove water and straighten clothes etc) except that it has stampers instead of rollers."



This is generally consistent with the image of the Nash machine from the Argus shown earlier on Page 10, and Hausburg added:

"The sheets of stamps are placed on the machine and as soon as the handle is turned the clicking sound that follows it denotes the perforation of each horizontal row."

This is consistent with what we know of the puncturing of the SA pattern on South Australian stamps, in that they were punctured in horizontal rows, see Description of Puncturing below. Hausburg goes onto report:

"To suit the larger stamps (Long Stamps) another die is inserted of the same type with the letters more spaced."

Again, this is consistent with what we know from the strikes of the SA pattern onto the larger format "Long Stamp" issues. The dies for the Small and Large SA were essentially the same but the separation between the dies in the puncturing head differed.

Conclusion on SA/OS Device

The Nash/Cooke perforating device was designed and built in about 1890 as a specialist perforating device, with flexibility to have a variety of pin settings fitted, to do various small perforating tasks.

In late 1902 there was a requirement to perforate stamps SA for South Australian Government Departments and later OS for Commonwealth Government Departments in South Australia.

It would appear from all we can find out about this Nash/Cooke device, that it allowed various sets of perfin dies to be inserted into the puncturing head and this was most likely the device that was used to create the various formats of SA and OS perfins found on South Australian issues starting from around 1903 – 06 until 1913.

One amazing thing about the use of the Nash/Cooke machine as a Perforating device, is that it seemed that the device not only allowed the perforating of sheets of stamps in different Letter combinations, 2 x SA and 2 x OS, but it allowed puncturing across a horizontal array, as seen with the Small SA and OS and the Large SA, but also as a vertical array, as seen with the Larger OS. This feature will be discussed in the next Bulletin.

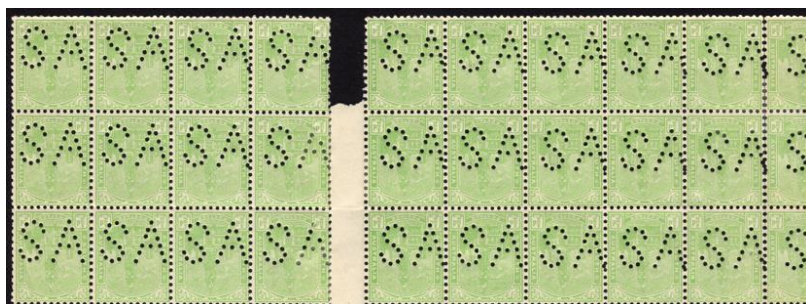
Description of Puncturing

When considering puncturing methods, it is important to look at the format of sheets of contemporary stamps and then consider the evidence from multiples and other examples.

Small SA

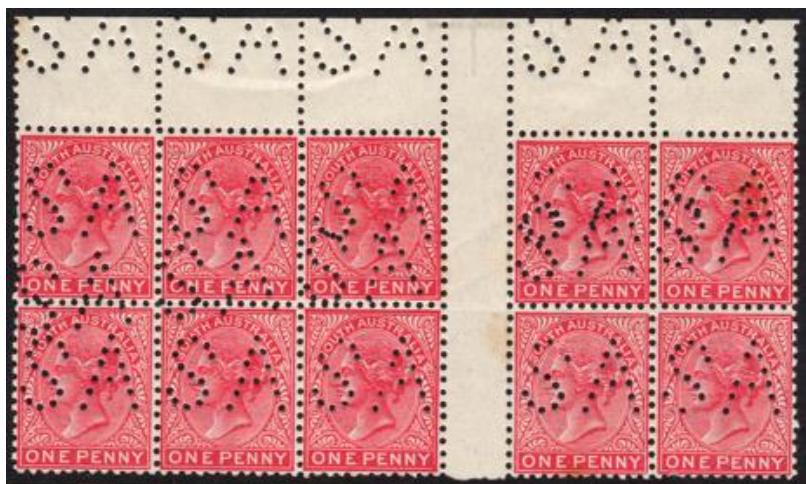
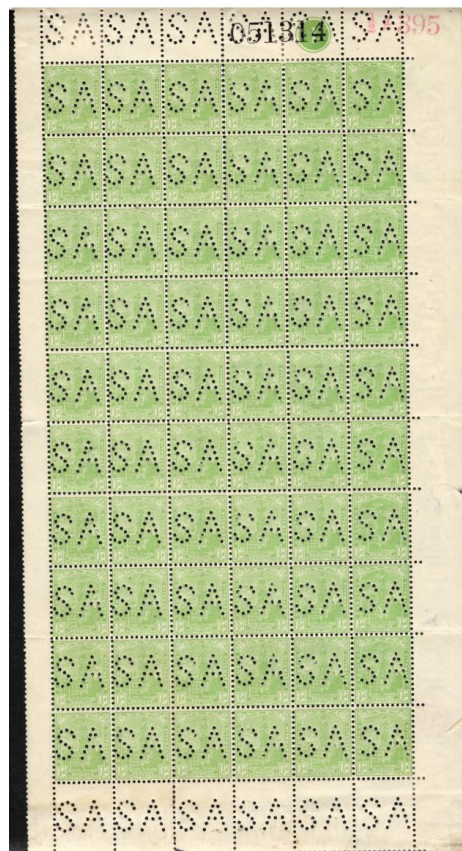
To assist us in this study we were fortunate enough to acquire some large Multiples including a half sheet (see at right, considerably reduced) that had been punctured SA.

The example below when considered with the half sheet on the right, supports the reported structure of the sheet layout as 2 panes of 60 stamps in 6 columns of 10 per pane with a central gutter. This appears to have been punctured by a horizontal device of 12 dies in 2 banks of 6 dies with a space for the central gutter.



The full pane at right supports the 12 Die horizontal puncturing head of dies and in particular note the missing pins in the 5th column (from the left) are added evidence of this. The missing pins are consistent with a horizontal set of dies.

But it could have been 2 strikes from a bank of just 6 dies.



Fortunately, we also have this Block of 10, 1d Reds, (see at left) with a rather bizarre puncturing error, that sees a diagonal strike of the punch head across the sheet.

The fact that the error is horizontal confirms that the device is a horizontal array of dies, but the fact that it carries across the central gutter confirms that the device is made up of 12 dies in a 6+6 format with a space for the central gutter.

The separation of the individual SA's within the banks of 6 Dies is 20 – 21 mm (top of A to top of A)

Large SA

As with the Small SA pattern we first need to look at how the sheets were structured, and the best reference is "*South Australia: The 'Long' Stamp 1902-1912*" by J.R.W. Purves (Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, 1978).

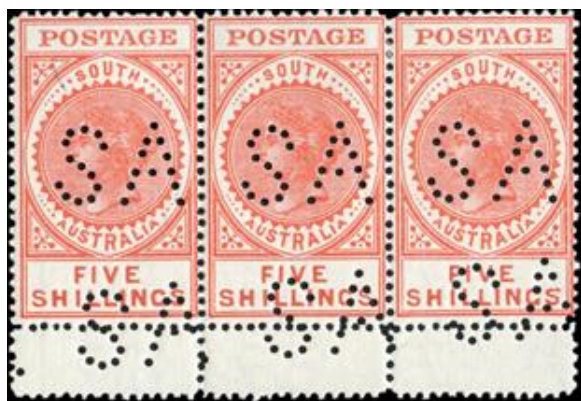
Purves states that these Long Stamps were in sheets of 60 in a format of 10 stamps wide and 6 stamps high, sometimes with a horizontal gutter between 3rd and 4th stamps in the vertical.



The multiples that we have sighted suggest a horizontal array of dies similar to the Small SA die set.

In fact, the Large and Small SA's are essentially identical with only subtle variation in some pin locations between dies.

As with the Small SA we are aided in determining the structure of



the dies by viewing multiples, this time a strip of 3 on the 5/- value. (see at left)

Once again, the strike has a puncturing error that confirms some aspects of the structure of the die set.

This error proves that the dies were in a horizontal array.

However, we have not sighted larger multiples, but it is reasonable to suggest that the most likely format for the dies was a horizontal array of 10 dies in a single bank.

The separation of the individual SA's within the bank of 10 Dies is 23.5 – 24.5mm (top of A to top of A)

Multiple SA strikes

As with many Government perfin patterns odd strikes exist, such as multiple or inverted strikes. Generally, these are more commonly found on State perfins types than Commonwealth ones. This is the case with the SA's which are sometimes found with multiple strikes as doubles and more rarely triple strikes. These are most commonly mint examples which suggests that they were perhaps done per favour or that they were discarded as waste and not issued.

OS Patterns

The OS's were the second perfin patterns introduced into service in South Australia and this occurred in about mid 1905 for the Small OS and October 1906 for the Large OS.



Earliest reported postmarks are:

Small OS: 4 February 1905

Large OS: 30 April 1905

Small OS



The Small OS was the first OS to be produced and that is logical, as it was suited to the small format South Australian issues which included the most common values, of ½d, 1d and 2d as well as others.

Given that the sheet structure for these issues punctured with the Small SA and Small OS are the same and furthermore with the evidence that we have collected that suggests that the device used to puncture all the SA and OS Perfins for the South Australian Government was the same device, with different dies sets inserted, it is reasonable to believe that the structure of the dies for the Small OS mirrored that of the Small SA.

This is supported by the limited number of multiples that we have seen which show a similar structure of strikes of the Small OS to those of the Small SA.

Therefore, we have concluded that the Small OS was most likely punctured with a set of 12 dies in a horizontal array of 2 banks of 6 dies with a separation for the central gutter.

The separation of the individual OS's within the bank of 6 Dies is about 20mm (top of O to top of O). Again, this is like the separation of the dies of the Small SA and the fact that it is consistently about 20mm across the horizontal multiples that we have seen, supports a horizontal array of dies.

Large OS

Now the introduction of the Large OS was later than the Small OS and there are other inconsistencies.

The last word on this device was written by David Andersen in "Australian Official Perfins" Edition 2 of 2007, and is as follows:

"A larger OS puncture, OS type E, was introduced to puncture the larger format stamps in late 1906, the earliest date recorded by Bill Harley being Oct 3, 06."

The Large OS was clearly designed for use with "Long Stamps" issues and the size of the pattern would have been unsuitable for the smaller format issues.

Little has been reported about the structure of the Large OS die set, but we were able to get some images of large multiples of these from Richard Breckon the Team Leader at Australia Post's Philatelic Archives, and they are the largest Multiples that we have seen of this pattern, and it gives us some insight into the possible structure of the Large OS die set.

As stated for the Large SA, we know that the Long Stamps were in sheets of 60 in a format of 10 stamps wide and 6 stamps high, sometimes with a horizontal gutter between 3rd and 4th stamps in the vertical.

Again, as we know from the Large SA, this sheet layout suits a 10-die horizontal die set but this does not seem to be the structure of the Large OS die set.



The first multiple is of the “Thin Postage” issue (see at left, image is reduced) and at first glance it is hard to see the structure of the die set, as the puncturing seems to be consistent in both the horizontal and the vertical.

Close examination of the pin locations of the component OS's from this multiple, other multiples and many single examples by Tom Weir and Jerry Austen, shows variation in the dies down the vertical and consistency across the horizontal.

This supports the view that die set was in a vertical array which is different from the other SA (Small and Large) and OS (Small)

which all appear to have been horizontal arrays of dies.



The next large Multiple is on a “Thick Postage” and again the puncturing seems to be consistent in both the horizontal and the vertical. But, as with the first multiple the individual OS's have variation in the pin positions which are consistent across the horizontal and this confirms that it was a vertical array of dies.

It is hard to be certain but there appears to be 6 dies in a vertical array, but some dies are so similar as to be almost indistinguishable from each other.

Given the layout of the sheet (10 wide x 6 high) a 6-die array seems most likely, but in order to confirm this we arranged for a detailed assessment of the die characteristics of the OS's that we have. This is a complex process, so we sought the assistance of Perfin expert Tom Weir, who has published detailed die assessments of various GNSW and OSNSW patterns and was the first philatelist to confirm the order of dies in the Punch head of these patterns.

Tom's assessment was at least 6 dies in a vertical array, with the possibility of variation in some dies over the life of the device.

The detailed assessment of the Large OS die types will be the subject of a follow up article in a future SPPB.

Conclusion

The study of the way that perfin devices operated is complex one and it is made more difficult by the lack of records, limited access to larger multiples and absence of surviving devices.

For these reasons and others, we have to rely on piecing together the most likely story from the various shreds of evidence that come to hand. Multiples, contemporary records, postmark information and analysing dies, all help, but in the end some things will remain a matter of conjecture.

You can help. If you have a postmarked example of a South Australian Perfin that is outside the bounds of our examples, then please share it. Furthermore, if you have a multiple of the Large OS, preferably a vertical multiple, then you may hold the key to us better understanding these patterns and their parent device.

References

"The Kangaroo and the King – Stamp Perforating Machinery in Australia, 1850 – 1918" and its companion Bibliography, by Richard Venus (2013)

"Australian Official Perfins" 1st Edition (1987) and 2nd Edition (2007) by David Andersen

"The Shilling Violet" Research papers of the South Australian Study Group – Various

"Stamps Punctured for Official Use around 1902 – 05" by Bill Lloyd Smith from "Philately from Australia" Bulletin of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, issue of December 2011

"The Australian Philatelist" 1 April 1905 article by Leslie L. R. Hausburg, as quoted in the article by Tony Presgrove, "The Punctured Official Postage stamps of South Australia" undated.

"South Australia: The 'Long' Stamp 1902–1912" by J.R.W. Purves (Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, 1978).

"The Melbourne Printings of South Australian Postage Stamps, 1909 – 1912" by Geoff Kellow

"Punctured and Overprinted Official Stamps of Australia 1902 – 1933 by Richard Breckon from "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" November 2002.

Images supplied by Richard Breckon Team Leader at Australia Post's Philatelic Archives, Melbourne.

Images supplied by Campbell Bickerstaff, Curator – Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences, Powerhouse Collection

South Pacific Perfins Bulletin (SPPB) – Various issues

Correspondence with Martin Walker, Geoff Kellow, Stuart Wattison, Bill Lloyd Smith, Harold Lower, Richard Breckon, David Andersen and Tom Weir.

Access to Harold Lower's Exhibition pages that cover the SA and OS Officials courtesy of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (RPSofV), here:

https://www.rpsv.org.au/exhibits_category/sapostage-longstamps/

Minutes of the "Philatelic Society of South Australia" Circa 1903. As noted in correspondence with Harold Lower

Die Assessment of the Large OS Dies by Tom Weir and Jerry Austen

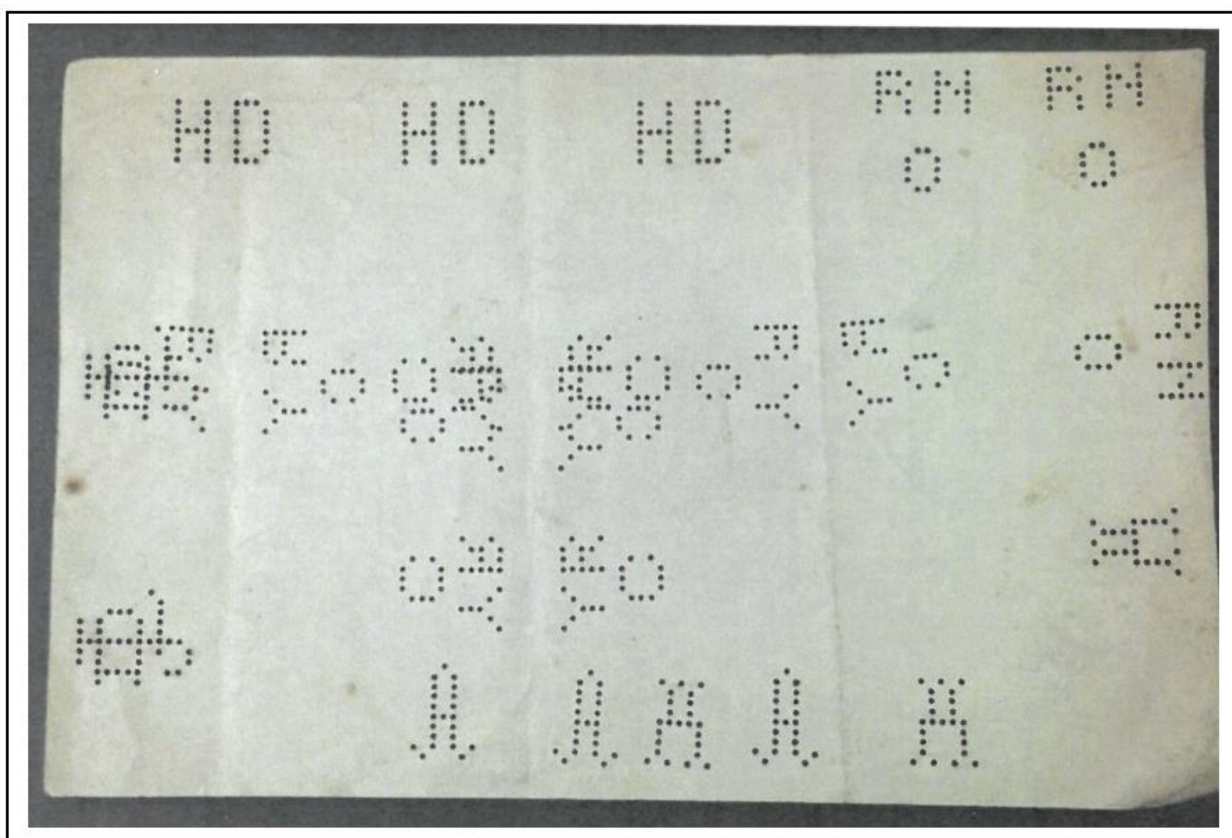
HERMANN DÜRRE – A FOLLOW-UP

By John Mathews

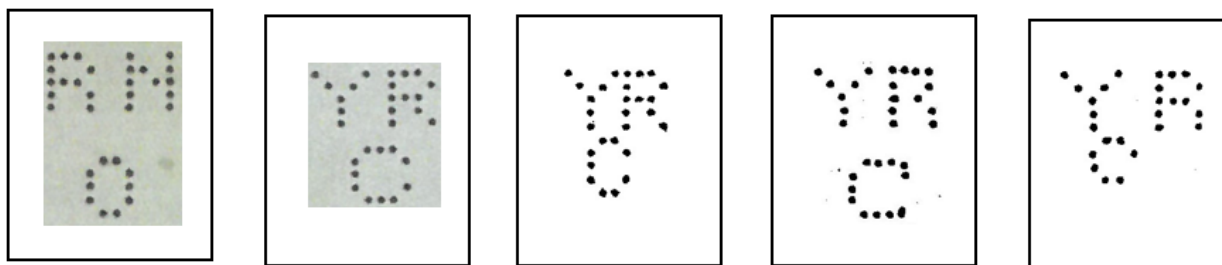
In the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin of April 2022, page 23, there is a very interesting article (“Amazing Horde [sic] of Printers [sic] Samples and Proofs”, by David Coath and Dave Elsmore) which describes a quantity of paper material which had recently come to light and which is said to have originally come from a Melbourne printer named Dürre. The authors of the article identify the printer as Hermann Dürre, who was also shown as being an engraver and manufacturer of brass stamps, etc., in Melbourne directories around the beginning of the 20th Century. In one of his advertisements in 1915, it says “Brass and Steel Stamps, Seals, Punches, Crests, &c., cut to order.”.

Of particular interest from this material are what look like strikes of perforating dies, and pages from catalogues showing perforating devices similar to those already known to have been used to perforate postage stamps. Among these dies are known Australian private perfins JMP&S.2, B&WPTYLTD.1 and RICOLD.1

The illustration below, taken from the article, appears to show trial strikes of perforating dies of a style similar to those of Victorian Service Punctures.



The authors cite RN/O, RY/C, and HD patterns, adding that none of these is a known Australian private perfin. However, they did not mention strikes of another die which can be seen in the illustration – YR/C. This YR/C is almost identical to YRC.6, YRC.9 and YRC.16 in “Handbook of Australian Private Perfins” (HAPP). They are all from a “square” grid, share the same letters, the same spacing between individual rows of pins (approximately 1.5 mm), and the same wire gauge. Also, YRC.9 and YRC.16 include the letter ‘R’ with a distinctive style, and this style is the same as the ‘R’ of the strikes of RN/O and RY/C shown in the illustration above.



RN/O

YR/C

YRC.6

YRC.9

YRC.16

There are many other private perfins in HAPP which show the same style and other characteristics as RN/O, RY/C, and YR/C, so it would seem that they were all produced by the same person using this square grid – for example, J&BS.1, JMSM.4, LB&CO.11, MH.27, VBFCCL.1, YRC.4, and YRC.7 among others.

The company of Max L. Lober Pty. Ltd. was registered on 8 December 1933 to acquire the business of Hermann Dürre carried on at 452 Bourke Street, Melbourne, with a capital of £1,000 in £1 shares. Max Loui Lober was born in Melbourne in 1877 and so he was 22 years younger than Hermann Dürre. As early as 1899, he is shown as an “engraver” on the Victoria Electoral Roll for the Federal Referendum in 1899, at which time he was only 22 years old. In Electoral Rolls from 1903 to 1937, his profession is stated to have been “engraver”, but his entries in Sands & McDougall Melbourne directories prior to 1923 only show his residential address. Max L. Lober was first shown with a business address in the 1923 Melbourne Directory as an engraver at 110 Flinders Lane. In 1924, he moved to 256 Elizabeth Street, and in 1932 to 294 Little Collins Street. The 1935 directory does not show an entry for Hermann Dürre at his previous business address, but the entry for Max L. Lober reads:

“LOBER, Max L.

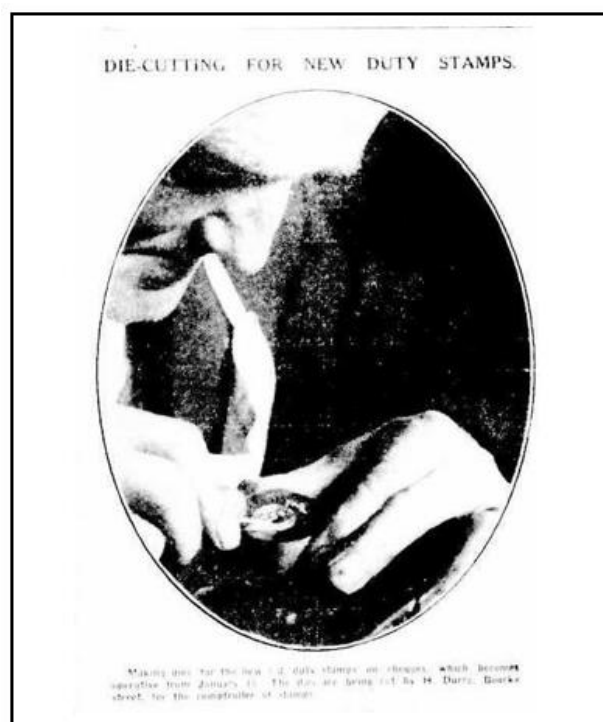
Successor to Hermann Dürre.

General engraver, manufacturer of brass and rubber stamps, die sinker, tool maker, etc. 452 Bourke Street, Melbourne”

Could it be that Max was apprenticed to Hermann in the 1890s, and later worked for him, perhaps until 1923 when he branched out on his own, and then acquired Hermann’s business when Hermann retired?

The picture at right, while not being directly related to the production of perfins, shows the craft of the die sinker. The heading is “Die Cutting for New Duty Stamps”. The caption under the picture reads:

“Making dies for the new 1d duty stamps on cheques, which becomes operative from January 15 [1930]. The dies are being cut by H. Dürre, Bourke Street, for the comptroller of stamps.”



PCNZA Accounts for the 2021 /22 Financial Year

By Les Vincent

It is with much pleasure that I once again submit my PCNZA Balance Sheet for the period 1/7/21 to 30/6/22 (subject to audit):-

1/7/2021 - 30/6/2022		<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
Subscriptions	\$2,037.00		Printing \$1,136.30
PayPal Fee shortfall	- 8.39	\$2,028.61	Postage* 514.45
			*Includes \$355 received from auction sales
Auction Receipts	6,829.97		Auction Payments 7,003.64
(to Australian Bank A/c & P/Pal)			
Less Transfer to M/Credit	(-) 6,440.85		Payment to Circuit Book Mgr from M/Credit 24.00
		389.12	
Donations	276.57		
Postage (Publications purchased)	70.00	346.57	
Contribution PCNZA New Zealand		1,000.00	<u>Total</u> \$8,678.39
Forgery Unit	395.69		
Circuit Book Sales Commission	665.01		
		1060.70	
Sale of Publication			
Australian Official Perfins' (\$25x4)		100.00	
Other		10.00	
Advertising		35.00	
<u>Sub Total</u>		\$4970.00	
Less transfers from Members Credit	(-) 800.14		
<u>Total</u>		\$11,916.50	\$11,916.50
.....			
Balance at Bank 30 June, 2021		\$ 2,867.35	
Total Income to 30 June, 2022		11,916.50	
" Expenditure " "	(-) 8,678.39		
Less tfr to Interest Bearing Deposit	(-) 00.00		
Balance at Bank 30 June, 2022		\$6,105.46	
			
Balance of statement 30 June, 2022		\$6,105.46	
PayPal - \$A		00.00	
Paypal - USD		00.00	
Balance		\$6,105.46	
Less Members Credits	(-) 520.40		
Available funds		\$5,585.06	
Interest Bearing Deposit (matures 30/7/2022)		\$22,017.54	
Total available funds as at 30/6/22		<u>\$27,602.60</u>	

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

This year our assets have increased by \$3475 to \$27,602 (from \$24,127).

Our Interest Bearing Deposit (IBD) is now \$22,017.54 earning only 0.25%pa (previously \$21,941) maturing on 31st July 2022, but this will rise in the next financial year.

Richard Smolnicki our New Zealand Treasurer has sent over \$1,000 this year and has NZ\$248 in the Bank as at 30th June. Thank you, Richard.

Twelve members have a credit balance as at 30/6/22 of \$520 in our books. The sum of \$7,746 has been added mainly from our auction sales and \$7,907 paid out which includes \$3,590 paid to an overseas member.

We now have 147 members of which 92 of them (63%) are financial for this coming F/Y compared with 85 (68%) at this time last year.

Our membership is made up of Australia 103, New Zealand 20, United Kingdom 6, Europe 5, United States 6 and Canada 7.

At this date our total subs income for next F/Y should be approximately \$1,990 (excluding NZ members).

Our PayPal Account was utilised 29 times this year (previous 36) the total balance \$2,116 was transferred to our cheque account during the F/Y.

These books have been forwarded to our auditor who generously gives his time without charge, a copy of his report will be published in our Bulletin when available.

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

Les Vincent,
Treasurer – PCNZA

PCNZA allows SWIFT Payments

By Les Vincent

Following a request from an Overseas Member, the PCNZA has established a SWIFT account linked to our Club Accounts with the Bendigo Bank.

The details are SWIFT: BENDAU3B BSB: 633000 Account No. 151735909

These details are now included in the Committee Page on Page 2 for future reference.

Local Members should note that the existing Club bank details have not changed and that this SWIFT account only relates to some Overseas payments.

PCNZA Subscription for the 2022/23 Financial Year

By Les Vincent

You would have all received a Personalised Subscription Notice with your April Bulletin and it would have detailed any credits and the amount due for the 2022/23 Financial year. Payment methods were detailed on that form.

Thanks to the Members who have paid their Subscriptions promptly.

If you have not paid your Subscription yet, please do so as soon as possible, as it is now passed due.

For any queries about Subscriptions, credit balances or changes to Membership type, personal or mailing details, please contact me via Email: lesliejvincent@yahoo.com.au or by telephone on 0431 871 594.

Payment details for Bank, cheque and Paypal are all on Page 2 under Treasurer.

PCNZA Accounts for the 2021 / 22 Financial Year

By Les Vincent and John Van de Camp

The Financial Accounts of the PCNZA have been collected from the various trading arms of the Club, including the Forgery Detection, Australian Circuit, and the New Zealand Accounts and these have been combined with the main account and submitted to the Committee and Members (see above Pages 20 – 21). The Accounts have now been sent to Audit and the results of that Audit are below.

If any Member has any questions arising from these Accounts and/or the Audit, then please contact me, on Email Les Vincent lesliejvincent@yahoo.com.au or by Telephone, which is 0431 871 594, or feel free to contact any other Member of Committee, (see Page 2 for contact details).

John van de Camp
76 Donovans Road
Warrnambool 3380
3rd August 2022

AUDITORS REPORT TO THE PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

To Committee Members,

I have audited the record keeping and financial statements for 2021/2022 of the above Club and report my findings below.

My responsibility is to report my findings from conducting the procedures agreed and conducted in accordance with required auditing standards.

The audit was performed solely to assist the committee in assessing the accuracy of the accounts record keeping.

The procedures and the findings obtained are as follows:

Accounts Record Keeping Function

1. I obtained and checked the addition of the income and expenses summary as prepared by the treasurer, Les Vincent, of the PCNZA and compared these with the general ledger.
 - I found the amounts to agree.
 - No errors were identified.
2. I compared invoices and receipts provided by the PCNZA to the amounts summarised for each of the relevant items.
 - I found the amounts to agree.
 - No errors were identified.
3. I compared such financial Statements to the amounts referred to procedure 2 above.
 - I found the amounts to agree.
 - No errors were identified.

I, Johannes (John) van de Camp, have audited the books of the PCNZA for the financial year 2021/2022. I have these show a full and true disclosure of all income and expenditure of the PCNZA. The books are of an extremely high standard, a credit to Les Vincent and a pleasure to audit.

Yours sincerely

J E van de Camp Auditor 3rd August 2022 M.N.I.A.



Meet and Member – Rod Sell

By Rod Sell

My parents lived in the Shanghai International Settlement, which was a 22 sq km part of Shanghai – China, with a population of about 1.2 million in the 1930's. It had been established by the British and the US as a trading base in the 1800's, but later housed many mercantile foreigners from Europe and South America. My father had been placed in Shanghai with the British Army, but he later joined the Shanghai Police Force.

In December 1941 Shanghai and the International Settlement was invaded by the Japanese. I was born in November 1943 whilst my parents were interned in a Japanese POW Camp in Shanghai. I spent the next 2 years as a POW.

I cannot remember any of it. My family told me my dad gave up smoking, as he traded all the cigarettes in the Red Cross parcels for milk for me.

During the War the Shanghai International Settlement was given back to China. So, at the end of the War dad did not have a job to go back to.

In 1946 we moved to Hong Kong (HK) where dad worked for the HK Police. In 1948 he joined the Hong Kong Tramway company on expat terms.

I have vague memories of HK in those early years, before the 1949 influx of people when the Communists took over southern China. There was still a lot of war damage in the city. There were still a lot of Pill Box defences and caves all around the island.

We lived in Quarry Bay, on the Island near Taikoo docks. It was a great life and us kids had a fun time climbing all over the hills.



My first stamps were in 1949, as I can still vividly remember the 1949 set of 4 UPU stamps, and the 1948 Royal Wedding set of 2 with the high value \$10 stamp. We were robbed and my stamps were thrown all over the floor, including those stamps mentioned above, which is why I remember them. I had a lot of spares, not the \$10. My sister used to help me stick the stamps in my album. For Birthday and Christmas, I used to get a Stanley Gibbons Catalogue.

In 1952 and again in 1956, dad got home leave of 8 months, including a return trip to the UK for the family. Each time we took a freighter to Rotterdam, Holland and then the overnight ferry to the UK. My parents had a lot of friends from their Shanghai days, and from HK in the UK and we visited them. My coin collecting started on these trips, as I had all the change from every country we stopped at.

I finished Primary and High School in HK, and joined the HK Volunteers, similar to the Civilian Military Force (CMF) in Australia. We spent the weekends and 2 weeks a year training at being soldiers. In HK we also trained with the Police for anti-riot drills. We were called out in Easter 1966, when there were riots in Kowloon over a rise in the Star Ferry charges. It was nothing much, compared to the disturbances later in 1967 when the Cultural Revolution was happening in China.

In 1964 I met my future wife, Heather. They were from Canberra. Her father had a 3-year posting to HK. He was the Australian Immigration Officer.

We met at a party thrown for the family. I was one of the boys invited to partner one of the 3 daughters. We started going out and after 3 years, after which they returned to Canberra. I decide I would immigrate to Australia. Luckily, I knew the Immigration office in charge, and qualified for a Government assisted passage. Not quite as good as the 10 pounds from the UK, but better than nothing.

I came to Australia by ship and arrived in Sydney in January 1967. I stayed with Heather's uncle for a couple of months, until I got settled. He lived in Sydney's Northern Beaches, where I have lived ever since. In May 1967 I joined Qantas as a reservation clerk. I knew nothing about the airline industry, but soon learned what a complex industry it really is. Not just travel, but communications, financial, freight and a lot of other things. We went on to computer reservations in 1970.

I can remember in the early 1970s just about every Qantas station overseas was linked to the reservations system. So, we could communicate directly with everyone linked to the system. Each booking was known as a PNR (Passenger Name Record). It was like today's email; you could forward it on to anyone linked on the system.

In 1969 I married Heather. By then I had a small unit in "Harbord", now known as "Freshwater", in the Northern Beaches. A year after we got married, we sold the unit and bought a house in "Allambie Heights" a few miles away.

In 1973 my daughter was born, and money was scarce. I decided to sell my stamp collection, or the bit that held any value anyway.

In 1975, when there was a bit of spare money, I got started in numismatics in a serious way.

I still had family in Hong Kong, so used to go back regularly. On one of the trips, I was shopping in a lane known as "Thieves Alley", where a chap had a bucket of HK 1 cent coins, they were similar in size to the penny. I spent the next few hours sorting them by date and buying the best of each year from 1863. It was the start of my British East Asia collection. Over the next 35 years I built up a wonderful high-quality set of the coins of HK, Straits Settlements, Sarawak, British North Borneo and many other countries. I sold my HK set at a Noble Numismatics Auction in 2008 for A\$125,000. I decided that after I had not added to it in over a year, that it was time to move on to another collection.

It is interesting selling a collection. In a way, it is the reverse of how we collect them. The first step is putting them in an auction, where the high value scarce items get sold at a good price. The rest of the items are a lot more difficult to dispose of.

In 1991 I took the golden handshake Qantas was offering. I had a job to go to, but it did not work out as expected. So, I left after a couple of months.

I was then unemployed for the first time in my life. My friend Mark Freehill used to run monthly collectible fairs at the Menzies Hotel. So, I joined him running the fairs. At the first fair, I met John and Tracy Pearson of "Pittwater Philatelic", who told me about the local stamp clubs, which I promptly joined.

I then decided to collect Hong Kong stamps, which I had never seriously collected before. I soon discovered that HK stamps were in a hot period, they were all highly priced. So, I bought a few perfin stamps which did not cost as much. I then tried to find others with different initials, and to understand why the initials had been punched. This soon led me to collecting other HK stamps with company markings and initials.

By then I had my home PC and in 1996 I was linked to the internet and soon discovered eBay. Whilst bidding for HK stamps, I noticed one of the other bidders was an "F Drake". I had gone to school in HK with Frank Drake, so I contacted him. In those days your email address was available on eBay.

Frank and I had similar interest in HK stamps. He was an active member of the HK Philatelic Society. We soon established that there were a few other people collecting similar items to ourselves. I contacted them, to see if they were interested in exchanging and swapping stamps. The HK Security Markings and Perfins Study Group had been established. I started the website at <http://rodsell.com/hksmsic/hksmsic.html>.

Very few exchanges took place. However, we made the website to list the different markings we knew about. This soon developed into different sections,

1 Company Name listing

2 Company Initial listings

3 Perfin Listings

4 Miscellaneous Listings

5 Forwarding Agents

Philippe Orsetti in the USA keeps an excel database of all the listings for the HK Study Circle.

Over the years the list has grown, including all the information we can find on each Company.

I also collected perfin stamps for the Straits Settlements, and later for Australia as well as New Zealand.



About a decade ago I was informed about the PCNZA and promptly joined.

Initially I just collected private perfins on the State issues, then on the Kangaroos, and now on everything.

Several years ago, I obtained my first proving private perfin cover. This is now my priority challenge.

Like everything I have collected. I like the challenge and am prepared to be patient, knowing I will never ever complete it.

Rod giving a talk about Coins at his local club

PCNZA Facebook Page

By Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

The PCNZA Facebook page is entitled the “Australian Perfin Group” and it continues to grow and now has more than 290 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.

You will find our Facebook page here:

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

New Zealand Reports

By Michael Behm and David Coath



Michael Behm saw this pattern of S/Co/Ltd which was recently listed on TradeMe, it is Pf.31 and rated D. The Auckland cancel is consistent with the user being "Sharland & Co Ltd - Auckland" as stated on Page 37 of "New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Initials" by R D Samuel (Edition 2 of 2010).

Good buying at just \$20.

Auction Watch and New Reports

By David Coath, Greg Howard, Jerry Austen, Ian Spencer and Dave Elsmore

Western Australia 1913 2d Yellow Swan - Perfin HW & Co - VFU [See original listing](#)



Condition: --

"Fine used."

Ended: 17 May, 2022 18:29:17 AEST

Winning bid: **AU \$237.50** [13 bids]

Postage: **AU \$1.50** Standard Postage

Located in: Albany, WA, Australia

Seller: [sag_wagon](#) (13459 ★) | [Seller's other items](#)

The item above was a matter of considerable discussion on the "Australian Perfin Group" Facebook page, with input from Jerry Austen, Greg Howard, Dave Elsmore, John Pearson, and others. The main topic of discussion was of course, the price, which was astronomical for an "Uncommon" rated pattern.

The story is not completely clear but looking at my examples (image reduced at left) I can see that the use on Western Australian issues is rare, and I have noted an example that I saw on ebay in a listing by Ross Ewington in 2010.

It is an uncommon pattern and users in WA tended to have lower mail volumes, so this makes them less likely to turn up.

All the WA examples I have seen are 1913 and are on this Two Pence Yellow value. The seller has since listed another one and the price has come down, (it sold for \$53) but this suggests a strong interest in WA Private Perfins.

Look out for an article by WA Member, Malcolm Brown on this pattern and a possible user in the next Bulletin.



AUSTRALIA - Kangaroos - First Watermark



Ex Lot 2071

2071 * A-/A+ 1/2d to £2 complete punctured 'OS/NSW' plus a second 3d with the *Watermark Inverted*, variable centring and the odd short perf, the 2 1/2d has no gum, the 5/- has slightly aged gum but is unmounted, the 10/- is lightly mounted, the £1 is **superb** unmounted & the £2 is lightly mounted. An unusually fine set of these rare official stamps. Separate *Chris Ceremuga Certificates* (2014) for the 5/- to £2. [Until now, the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* has not listed or priced State Government Officials. We hope that will be addressed in future editions] (16)

\$10,000

We featured this marvellous group in the April Bulletin, and it was sold in the Abacus Public Auction 247 in late April 2022. I hammer price was \$20,000. This is an amazing result for these rare examples.

By way of correction, I had stated that these were the same group that had been offered in the Stuart Hardy Collection by Phoenix Auctions in 2013. Tom Weir corrected me and showed that the dies were different.



Jerry Austen noted this very odd printing error with an SA Perforation.

The item was listed on eBay for \$1329.99

This is consistent with the Government policy of using the poorest examples of printed stamps for Government applications.

The item failed to find a bidder.



UK Member Ian Spencer, found this rare and interesting item at a Local Stamp Fair.

This is the first report of an NASC pattern on a Western Australian revenue and it is now listed on the N Page of the Revenue Perfins of Western Australia, here:

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

The user company was "Nestlé Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company", later to be simply known as "Nestlé".

Nestlé were very infrequent users of perfins on revenue stamps and the only other revenue use is in Victoria. See the N Page of the Revenue Perfins of Victoria here:

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

Revenue usage for Nestlé was noted in the Handbook of Australian Private Perfins (HAPP) Update Number 2 of February 2012. Oddly this Update added "n" usage to NSCA.2 which would denote use of that pattern on the Revenue stamps of NSW. Yet HAPP rightly notes on pages N - 1 and in the Notes on page N - 5, that NSCA.2 with NASC.3 was a Melbourne based 2 die perforator as opposed to the device listed as NASC.4 and NASC.5, which was correctly stated to be a similar device located in Sydney.

Either the Update intended to mean "v" usage for NSCA.2, which is something that we have seen, or meant that the "n" usage be applied to either NASC.4 or .5, which we have not seen. However, given the very rare nature of Nestlé patterns on revenue stamps it is possible that such usage exists, but like Ian's amazing Western Australian example, it is yet to be found.

D.5 Proving Cover, or perhaps not

By Greg Howard, John Amiet and David Coath

Introduction

Greg Howard found the following interesting proving cover on eBay and was the successful bidder. See bottom of page.

It is a D.5 which is listed in the Handbook of Australian Private Perfins (HAPP) by John Mathews, as being reported used on Australian postage stamps in 1948 and with no known user. It had not been listed in the earlier, Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) by John Grant and John Mathews, and it was not listed in any of the 6 Updates to CPA, that came out between 1992 and 1996. No additional details for D.5 were added in either of the two Updates to HAPP (2005 and 2012) and furthermore in the section in HAPP entitled: Appendix 1 Possible Users (See pages 13 – 27) there is no mention of any possible user.

Adding all that up, makes D.5 a rather rare “beast” indeed and certainly not the sort of thing that you would expect to see on a proving cover, and yet here it is.

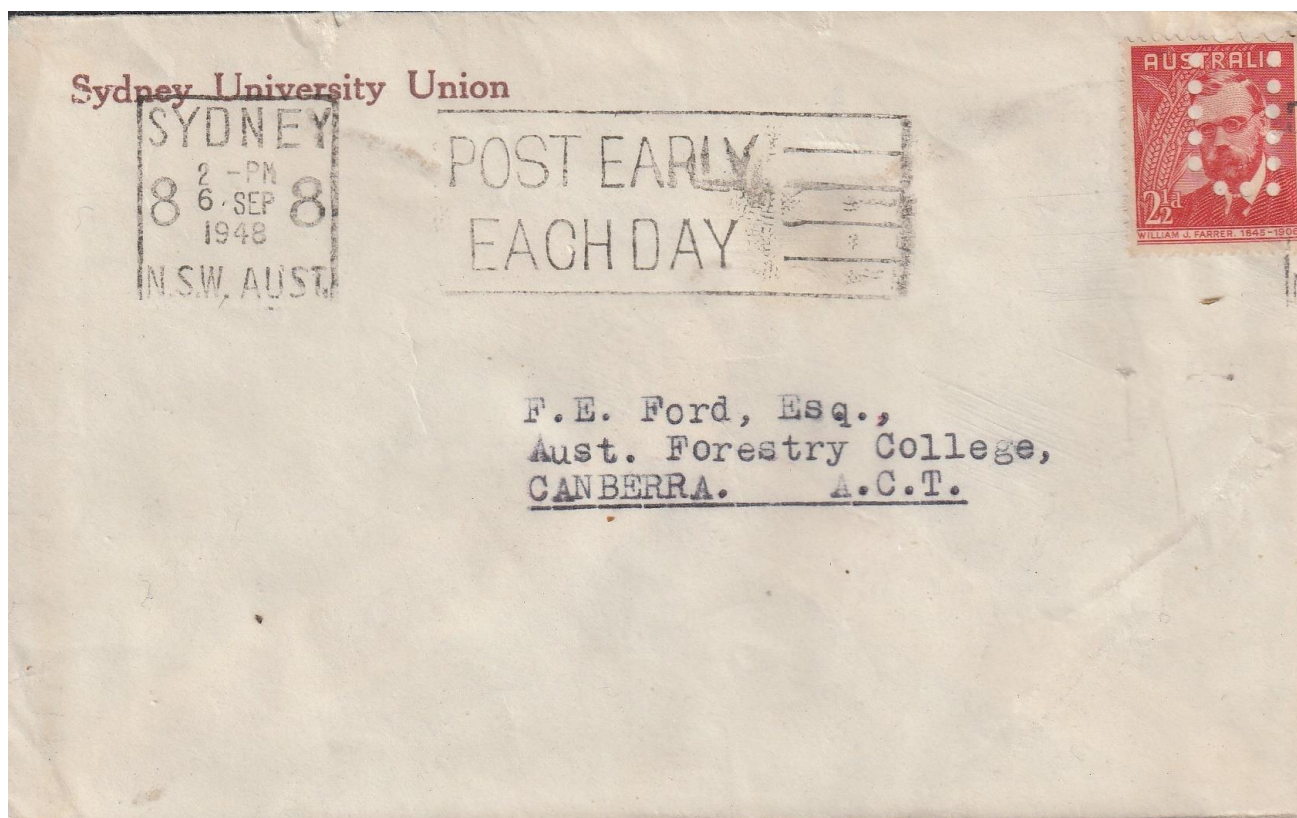
The user is the “Sydney University Union”, or is it?

Sydney University Union

Doing an internet search today will not get you a clear link to the “Sydney University Union” as you will be directed to the “University of Sydney Union”, but reading through the Wiki page, it becomes apparent that they are one and the same.

The Wiki page is here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Sydney_Union and it explains that the “Sydney University Union” was established in 1874 just 24 years after the establishment of the “University of Sydney” or as it is colloquially known “Sydney Uni”.

Today, the “Sydney University Union” is known as the “University of Sydney Union”, but I have been unable to find out when the name changed. But, it does not matter, as we know who they are. The problem we have is, are they the user of the perfin D.5?



D.5 Usage



As stated in the introduction, D.5 is a rare pattern, but what do we know about it?

From the few examples we have, it would seem to have been used in Sydney. The postmarks are generally

unhelpful but the one on the 1/- Lyrebird looks like the "Chief Parcel Office - Sydney" and that is supported by the cover.

The other patterns in the D Group, D.1 - D.8 are unlikely to be related to D.5 as follows:



D.1 1920-21 D.2 C1901 D.3 1920 D.7 Melbourne 1918

D.1, D.2, D.3 and D.7 are all Melbourne devices and have usage separation of 25 - 40 years.

D.4, which is listed in both CPA and HAPP with no image, but a proven user, was confirmed as D.6 in SPPB #119 via a proving cover. Located in Sydney with usage 1922 - 24.

D.8 is in the scale of D.1 and D.3 so is most likely a Melbourne pattern.

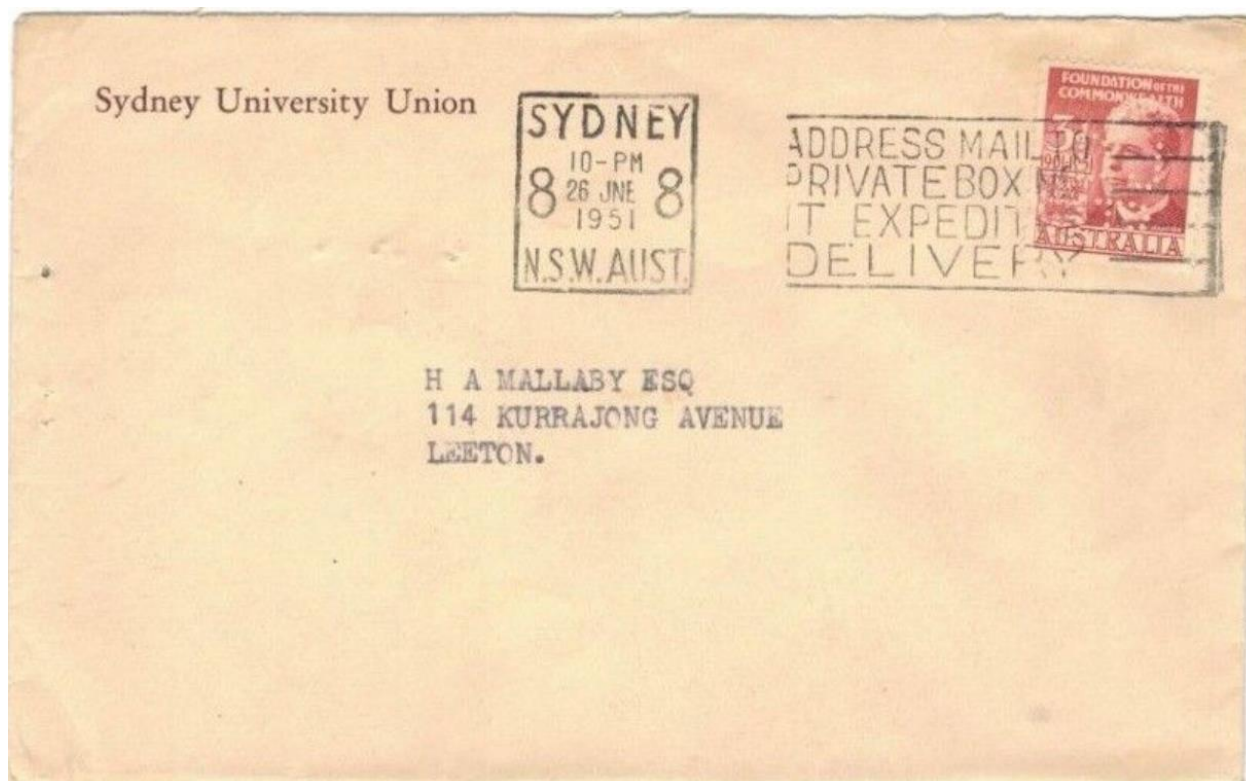
So D.5 is not part of the D Group and its use is isolated in time and in most cases, location.

What else do we know?:

D.5 is in a large format that seems ill suited to puncturing stamps in 1948.

The usage is for a short period of time.

Now that would have us at a dead end, but then some other covers came onto the market.



Sydney University Union Cover with DJLTD.1 on 1951 Federation issue used in 1951



Sydney University Union Cover with DJLTD.1 on 1951 KGVI issue used in 1953

These covers date from 1951 and 1953, which is around the same time as the D.5 Proving cover (?) but they both carry stamps with patterns of DJLTD.1.

On this evidence, we can Prove DJLTD.1 to Sydney University Union; but we know that is not the case, as we have many contrary examples confirming DJLTD.1 to David Jones Limited. So that creates some doubt that the first cover with D.5, is perhaps not a proving cover to the Sydney University Union either?

An alternate theory

We have 3 covers over a period of 6 years all used by the Sydney University Union. 2 of these covers have perfins proved to David Jones Limited and the other one is D.5.

Perhaps there is a philanthropic link between David Jones and the Sydney University Union. To be honest I have not been able to find it.

The Union was known to support the Cultural, Dramatic and Artist endeavours of the Students through Clubs and activities, perhaps David Jones were providing some Administrative support or donation. What better was than to provide postage stamps that were perfined with the company name. It is almost advertising.

That would explain the DJLTD.1 patterns, but what about D.5

The David Jones devcies in the 1930's and 1950's

David Jones were prolific Perfin users, and they often had more than one device in operation at a time, note some of these usage periods will differ from those in HAPP, as follows:

DJLTD.2 a 12-die device in a (6 wide x 2 high) format used 1908-1951.

DJLTD.3, .4, .5 and .6, a 4-die device in a 2x2 format used 1920-1938.

DAVIDJONESLD.1 a Cancelling device used on stamps Circa 1950 - 1957.

DJLTD.1 a 6 - die device (3 wide x 2 high) used 1949-1975.

The D.5 period of use is isolated to 1948, but that is an interesting period in the history of David Jones perforating devices. In 1948 the company only had the DJLTD.2 device in operation and it was aging and a new machine had been ordered from Slopers in the United Kingdom, that would not come into service until 1949.

Perhaps, and this is speculation, David Jones used the D.5 device for a short period in 1948 to address demand for perforated stamps. More on this in the next Bulletin.

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