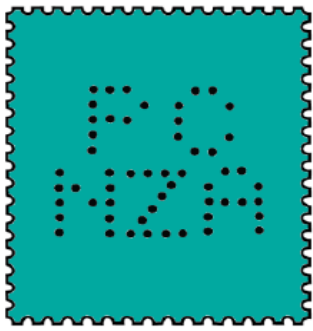




SOUTH **P**ACIFIC **P**ERFIN **B**ULLETIN



THE BULLETIN OF THE PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND
AND AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED – A42434
ESTABLISHED 1986

No.140 JANUARY 2023



FEATURE ARTICLES

- New Report BPIC on Customs Duty
- The TB Perforator examined.
- AACO – Alliance Assurance
- Temporary Perforators used by a single user.

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 #140 and welcome to a New Year and I wish you all a great 2023.

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, Michael Kino, Harold Waite, John Tudor and in particular Bill Hewson, who again sent an envelope of mint Australia from his collection, which he is downsizing.

A special thanks to Ian Spencer and his wife Elaine from the UK, who were travelling around Australia in the later parts of 2022, and I know dropped into visit many PCNZA Members. While visiting me Ian donated some New Zealand, Australia, and Australian International postage that he had brought over to mail home parcels.

Special thanks also to John Mullavey who regularly sends an envelope with nice new issues, which is a treat for Members as most of the stamps used on the Bulletin mail outs are older. Thanks again John.

Collectively they supplied a good proportion of the stamps needed to top up our "bank" for the Domestic distribution of this Issue.

On an administrative note, Les Vincent reports that we currently have 147 Members as follows: Australia 103, New Zealand 20, United Kingdom 6, Europe 5, United States 7 and Canada 6.

Front Cover

By David Coath, Malcolm Brown, Dave Elsmore and Greg Howard



This Bulletin cover is something very special, it is a new report of a US perfin on an Australian Customs Duty stamp and this makes it a new Australian Private Perfin.

It was found by WA Member Malcolm Brown and to get the full story on this find you can turn to Page 6 and 7 to read the article on the "Business Publishers International Corporation".

To learn more about these Perfin patterns on Australian Customs Duty Stamps see The Private Revenue Perfins of the Commonwealth of Australia here:

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

The patterns for these are also listed in "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins" HAPP but note that they are not in the Alphabetic listing but rather they are listed after the Symbols following the end of the Y section.

Club Auction – 2022 and 2023

By David Coath

The 2023 Club Auction will be included with the April Bulletin and as before it will be issued as a series of scans, so that Members can see most of the Perfins on offer.

So now is the last reminder to get your Lots ready.

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.

Financial Report to December 2022

By Les Vincent

This is my latest Financial Report on our recent Auction and Bank accounts etc: –
Bank and PayPal Balances 31/12/22

Bendigo Bank	\$ 2,001.58
PayPal balance	\$ 0.00
Term Deposit maturing 31/1/22	<u>\$ 27,544.84</u>
Total	\$ 29,546.42
Less Member's Credit holdings	<u>(-) \$1,691.40</u>
Total available funds	\$27,855.02

Special Membership status

By David Coath on Behalf of the Committee

We do not ordinarily make Financial Reports to Members on a 6 monthly basis, but when Les made this report to Committee (above) early in the New Year, it was clear that as a Club, we had turned the corner and we were now tracking well financially.

Now this is not the result of any single action but rather a result of a series of actions and events. Over the past 3 – 5 years we have managed to recover the Club's financial position by a mix of cost reductions but more significantly an increase in revenue generation.

In terms of cost control Les and Richard have tightened all expenditure and this has been aided by Members who have donated postage to help reduce costs as well as other Members donating perfins for sale in the Circuits and Auction.

On the revenue side, all arms of the Club have been doing well including the Circuit, Forgery Unit, Auction and Membership subscriptions. Sales in the Circuit are up, and the Auction has handled the sale of large the collections from Members including Colin Clark Hutchison, Bob Szymanski and Arthur Taylor. More importantly because these sales are within the Club it is the actions of Members participating in these sales activities that drives revenue.

Accordingly, and consistent with our obligations as a Not-for-Profit Organisation we looked at some ways that we could hand back part of our current surplus to Members.

A Motion was put to and passed by Committee to recognise the following Special Membership categories and that Members in these categories would not be required to pay future subscriptions, but they would still receive all the normal rights of Membership.

Life Membership – Founding/Early and Long-Term Member

This group includes all founding Members or Members who joined in the first 3 years and more significantly have remained Members of the PCNZA to now.

These Members are as follows: Enid Honiss, Brian Jefferies, Harold Waite, David Warren, Lindsay Armstrong, Barry McKay, David Andersen, John Amiet, Tom Weir, Dingle Smith, John Mathews, Jon Johnson, Brian Fuller, Peter Simpfendorfer and Peter Haynes.

We congratulate these Members for their long commitment to our hobby.

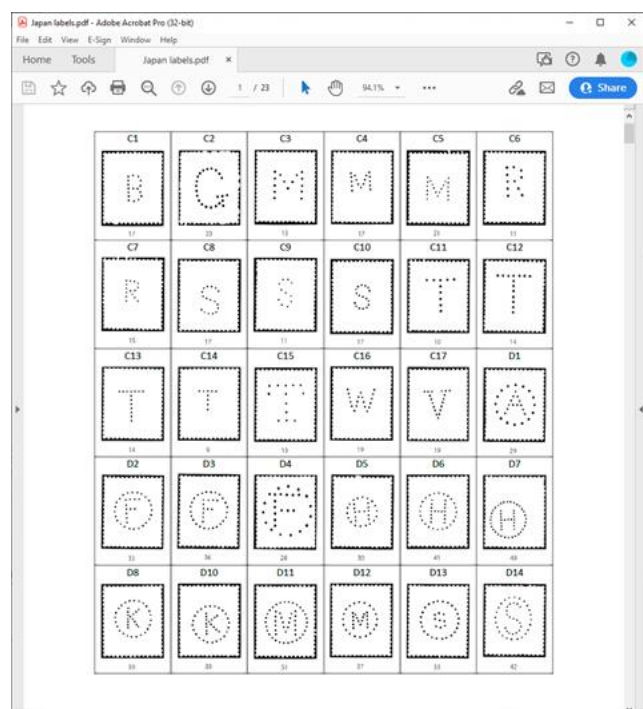
Life Membership – Life Member for Outstanding service to the PCNZA

This has been awarded to Dave Elsmore for his many years of effort in building and maintaining the Clubs website at perfins.com.au.

We thank these Members for their support and sustained commitment to the PCNZA and our hobby.

Collecting Japanese Perfins

By Michael Behm and David Coath



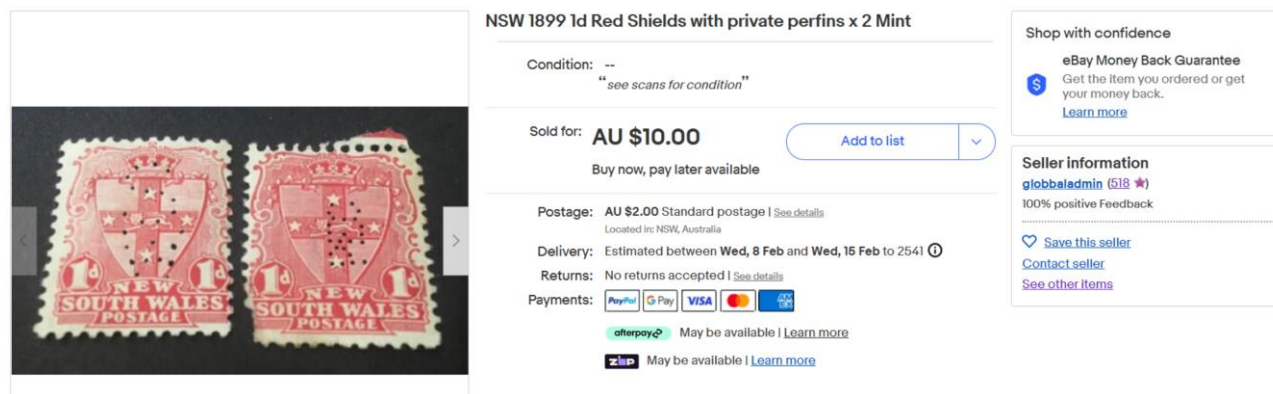
Canadian Member Michael Behm, who collects world perfins, has reported that he has created a Pdf of Japanese perfin patterns that are suitable to be cut up for use in a stock book or on hangar pages.

(See left)

If you wish to get a set, then just contact Michael at behmmj@gmail.com and he will send them to you.

Fake Private Perfins on eBay

By David Andersen and David Coath



David Andersen reports these forgeries of Private Perfins that were listed on eBay recently. These are S/W and PEC and they are similar in style to others that we have shown in the Bulletin before that were offered by a seller naming themselves "G-Stephensstamps" or similar who is also the person behind "globaladmin".

As we have stated in the past, the study of Australia Private Perfins is reasonably mature and we would not expect two previously unreported patterns to surface in the same eBay lot. In this instance the stamps are mint and mint private perfins are rare. These are fakes.

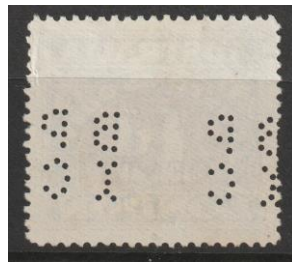
It is recommended that you avoid these sellers and their listings. Members are advised to exercise caution when seeing this sort of unlisted material. Purchasing it does not take it out of the "system", rather it encourages the forgers to make more.

If you find something then share it with your fellow Members, our best defence against this sort of rubbish is our collective and shared knowledge.

Feel free to alert Committee Members or report on the Facebook page.

New Report on Australian Customs Duty Stamp

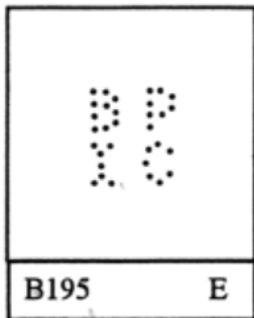
By Malcom Brown, Bob Szymanski, Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath



This amazing new report of an Australian Private Perfin was found by Western Australian PCNZA Member Malcolm Brown.

Malcolm is in the habit of turning up amazing new reports of Security Overprints and perfins but this time he has outdone himself.

The pattern is BP/IC and its use on an



Australian Customs Duty with overprinted values in Cents confirms it to be a United States perfin.

It is the US pattern B 195 BP/IC of the "Business Publishers International Corporation" as shown in the extract from the US "Catalog of United States Perfins". (See below)

Greg Howard found some great background on the company, and this was used in the Company History on Page 7.

Trying to get a firm address for the User we contacted Bob Szymanski (PCNZA Member from Massachusetts) and he secured an image from the US Perfins Club, see below, which shows the company at 330 West 42nd Street in New York, New York. (note image reduced)

B195

BP/IC

2H
4½;

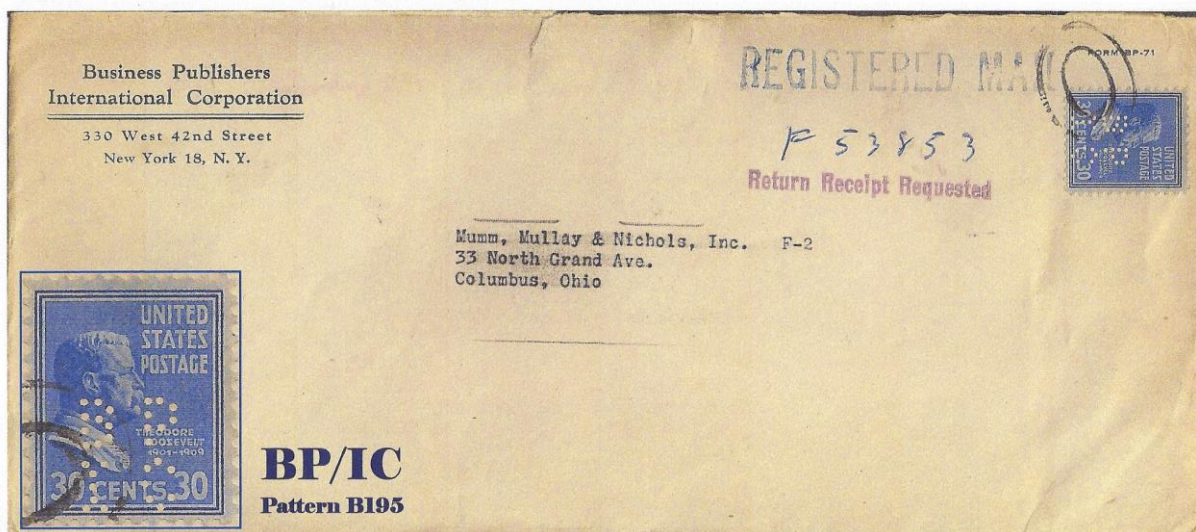
10-8/7-7

1917-38

PC

*

Business Publishers International Corp.
New York, NY



Business Publishers International Corporation, New York, NY

For more information on these interesting Customs Duty stamps see Dave Elsmore's website here:

<https://www.ozrevenues.com/Revenue-Railway-Local-Perfin-Catalogue/commonwealth-revenue-catalogue.htm>

Pattern details were taken from the "Catalog of United States Perfins" published by the Perfins Club in 1998 and Edited by John M Randall. The current US Catalogue Chairman is Steve Endicott and there are many more up to date references that can be found on their website here: <https://www.perfins.org/>

Details of this pattern and other patterns found on the Australian Customs Duty stamps can be found at the Private Revenue Perfins of the Commonwealth of Australia here:

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

History of "Business Publishers International Corporation"



The address on the cover supplied by Bob Szymanski and the US Perfin Club, is the best introduction to the "Business Publishers International Corporation", as 330 West 42nd Street in New York is both a distinctive and famous building (see at left).

It was the Headquarters of the world renown book publishers McGraw Hill Pty Ltd, and it had been built in 1930/31.

It is clear from a link Greg Howard found from the "Landmarks Preservation Commission" of September 1979, (see link at bottom of article), that the "Business Publishers International Corporation" were a division of McGraw Hill and they had previously been located in the "Hill Building" at 469 – 473 10th Avenue, New York.

James Herbert McGraw (1860–1948) and John Alexander Hill (1858–1916) were pioneers in the publication of specialized journals for the electrical and engineering fields.

Hill had worked as a Railroad Engineer before moving to New York in 1888 to work at the "American Machinist Publishing Company". He was soon promoted to Editor of "Locomotive Engineer", and he acquired the publication in 1891, later forming the

"Hill Publishing Company" in 1901.

"Hill Publishing" was responsible for five major engineering journals as follows, "American Machinist", "Power", "Engineering News", "Engineering and Mining Journal", and "Coal Age".

In 1914 Hill built the 12 story "Hill Building" at 469 – 473, Tenth Avenue, New York.

McGraw, from Panama, New York, worked as a printer and later as a school teacher before coming to New York City in 1885 to join the "American Railway Publishing Company". He later took over the "Street Railway Journal" and built up "McGraw Publishing Company", which by 1917 it was responsible for six major electrical and engineering journals, as follows, "Electrical World", "Electric Railway Journal", "Electrical Merchandising", "Engineering Record", "Metallurgical and Chemical Engineering", and "The Contractor". McGraw's company was located at 239 West, 39th Street, from about 1910.

McGraw and Hill first joined forces in 1909. Each had branched out into the publication of engineering books, and in that year, they merged their side-line operations into the "McGraw-Hill Book Company". Sometimes referred to as simply "The Book Company". It is said that a "flip of a coin" determined that Hill would be its president and that McGraw's name would be first in the Company name.

Following Hill's death in 1916, the Companies, which had been rivals, merged to form the "McGraw-Hill Publishing Company" in 1917, with James McGraw as president.

McGraw-Hill expanded over the next twelve years. The new company moved into the Hill Building at Tenth Avenue. In 1926 McGraw-Hill formed a "Catalog and Directory Company, Inc.", and this was linked to the "Business Publishers International Corporation". By 1929 McGraw-Hill was publishing over thirty journals, and its branches were spread all over New York City. It was at this point that they decided to build a large and dedicated building at 330 West 42nd Street in New York. The building was completed by 1931.

The company continued to expand and today they are one of the 3 main Publishing Houses in the World.

Reference: <http://s-media.nyc.gov/agencies/lpc/lp/1050.pdf>

Auction Watch and New Reports

By John Amiet, Jamie Davidson and David Coath

1833 U	Perfin "MGM" on 1d, 4d, 8d, 2/- GV, all with 1920s-30s parcel pmks. Used to mail film canisters. Scarce.	\$100
1834 U	Perfins: R.G./W on 4d Taupo block of 4 on piece, Wellington 18 AP 05 cds. GU.	\$25

John Amiet reports sales from Mowbray (NZ) Auction of 8 November 2022 that listed these perfin items.



Jamie Davidson noted these nice 5/- Kangaroos (3rd watermark) at the Phoenix Auction #95 of October 2022.

They are VOCO.12 and VOCO.6 (Melbourne type) and they sold together with a 4d Kangaroo perfin for \$105.

The Vacuum Oil perfins are an interesting group that require more study. I did a study of them some 10 years ago and it is located on the Research Tab at perfins.com.au here:

<https://www.perfins.com.au/articles/voco.html>

There was also an article on these VOCO.6 types in SPPB #116 Pages 6 – 9 which can be found here: <https://www.perfins.com.au/PCNZA-Journals/116.pdf>

I have recently sorted a large quantity of VOCO's and will publish an updated study of the pattern group in a future Bulletin.

Join the PCNZA Circuit

By John Lee

If you want to get access to great Perfin bargains, then you need to join the PCNZA Circuit.

Due to previous Book losses, we insist on you only forwarding them on using Australia Post Express Post – Pre-Paid envelopes. These can be relatively expensive, but it is worth that expense to get regular access to Circuit Boks full of Australian and other Perfins.

Interested? Contact me at John_Perfin_Books@hotmail.com

Interesting Document Cancellor on WA

By Ian Culshaw, Dave Elsmore, Greg Howard and David Coath

Ian Culshaw is a Revenue collector from WA who reported this amazing perfin strike.

It would seem that the perfin was applied to a document and has only incidentally made contact with the Revenue stamps. But we know from other indirect strikes such as Kodak Numerals and various formats of PAID or Cancelled found on cheques and other instruments, that the cancelling operators sometimes cannot resist striking stamps.



This has been added to the "Other" Page in the Private Revenue Perfins of Western Australia which can be found here:

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

Suspect OSNSW Type A patterns at Status Auctions

By Tom Weir, John Graham and David Coath

These OSNSW Type A patterns were listed at the Status International Public Auction 377 of 8 December 2022.

Note in the descriptions that the items are all 1st Watermark Mint Lightly Hinged. These would be very rare perfins indeed, if genuine. However, the pin locations in the patterns are not consistent with any of the 12 dies that have been reported in the Research into these done by the PCNZA's Tom Weir.

It is also interesting that the stamps were all offered "as is" and without a Certificate "as no Certificate can be obtained". This is not Status's normal practice when listing Official Perfins and could cause a thoughtful reader to wonder why the statement was included this time.

We contacted the Auction House to express our opinion regarding these, but they declined to discuss the matter.



741 5/- Grey & chrome, perf 'OS NSW'. VF fresh MLH, exp Alme Brun. Normal SG 13 cat £450, while SG O12/O27 would cat £1700 as large perf OS & unpriced as perf small OS. Normal ACSC 42 cat \$900, while ACSC 42ba would cat \$3250 as perf large OS. Extremely rare but sold 'as is' as no certificate can be obtained. (P) \$500 - \$1000

Sold for \$900 + Commission



746 10/- Grey & pink, perf 'OS NSW', variety 'short Spencers Gulf'. VF fresh MLH, nice original gum, exp Alme Brun. Normal SG 14 cat £950, while SG O14/O28 would cat £6,000/£12,000 as perf large/small OS. Normal ACSC 47(D)e cat \$2750, while ACSC 47b/47ba would cat \$10,000/\$15,000 as perf large/small OS. Extremely rare but sold 'as is' as no certificate can be obtained. (P) \$1500 - \$2500

Sold for \$1500 + Commission



749 £1 Red-brown & blue, perf 'OS NSW'. VF fresh MLH, nice original gum, exp Alme Brun. Normal SG 15 cat £3000, while SG O15/O29 would cat £11,000/£17,000 as perf large/small OS. Normal ACSC 51 cat \$4500, while ACSC 51b/51ba would cat \$15,000/\$20,000 as perf large/small OS. Extremely rare but sold 'as is' as no certificate can be obtained. (P) \$3000 - \$5000

Sold for \$3600 + Commission

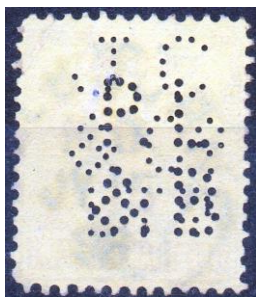
We are reminded of the words of the scientist Carl Sagan "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." To adapt these words to our hobby, "extraordinarily rare stamps and perfins require Certification".

The PCNZA issues Certificates for Australian Official Perfins, a fact known to all Australian Auction Houses. In this instance, Status did not request a Certificate for any of these punctures.

If you have any Australian Official Perfins that you require a Certificate for, then contact John Graham, his details are on Page 2 of this Bulletin. Discount rates apply to PCNZA Members.

Double Strike on Victorian 2 1/2d

By Richard Smolnicki and David Coath



Richard found this gem at the WPS 100 Stamp Exhibition at Wellington (NZ) in November 2022.

It is a very rare double strike that shows 2 different patterns and indeed 2 different users.

Now these have been reported before, but they are generally a mix of a Temporary patterns with another Temporary pattern, or a Temporary pattern applied with a Customised pattern. (See the H&N.1 and AWF.1 below at left)



This is the first example that has been reported here that contains 2 strikes, both from Customised devices. In this case the patterns are JC&COLTD.1 and PL&B.11.

It would be nearly impossible to determine which pattern was applied first, but in either case the circumstances would be similar as both devices were in service for extended periods as follows:

JC&COLTD.1 is found used consistently over the period 1895 until at least 1940.

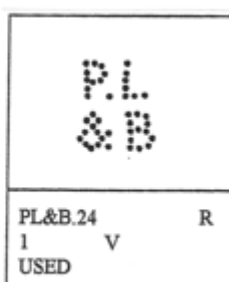
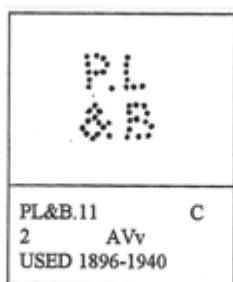
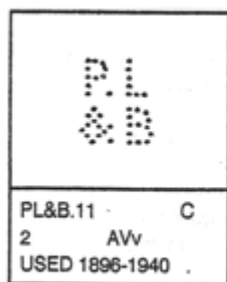
PL&B.11 is found used over the period 1895 until 1934, but oddly and despite its Common rating, the pattern is actually hard to find.

One possible explanation is that the perforated stamp, with either a JC&COLTD.1 or a P&B.11 punctured into it, found its way into the other companies stamp holdings and was then over struck so that it was usable by the receiving company. The stamp is postmarked from 1898 and at this time postage stamps were more accepted as a payment option, so security was a key issue, but we will never know.

All we can say is that such examples of double perfin strikes with differing patterns is extremely rare.

If anyone has another example, then please share it.

Clarification regarding PL&B.11 – David Coath



PL&B.11 was listed in CPA with the image shown at left below. This was altered in HAPP as follows:

CPA image.11

HAPP image.11

HAPP image.24

Subsequently these were corrected in Updates to HAPP

HAPP Update #1 October 2005 – PL&B.24 usage stated to be 1896 – 1903.

HAPP Update #2 February 2012 – PL&B.11 Usage restated as 1896 – 1913 with added statement “Image is incorrect – should be as “Commercial Perfins of Australia” (more regular in appearance)”

– PL&B.24 usage altered to “1905 – 1915” with the addition of “A” usage to denote Commonwealth use.

Correction to usage dates

PL&B.11 is actually found used between 1895 and 1934. Rated C, but it is most common in the period 1895 – 99. Later usage to 1934 is actually rare.

PL&B.24 is found used between 1896 and 1915. Rated C

The PL&B Group are a confusing one and I did an article on them in SPPB #113 of April 2016. Which is now on the PCNZA Tab at [perfins.com.au](https://www.perfins.com.au), or here: <https://www.perfins.com.au/PCNZA-Journals/113.pdf>

For Members who do not have access to a copy of “Commercial Perfins of Australia” I have included a 1:1 scale image of the true pattern for PL&B.11 based on the CPA listing on the enclosed Reference Page. A note for those using the image direct from CPA, it is very slightly off in terms of the separation between the P and L and the & and B.

SA used in Northern Territory

By David Hopper, Jerry Weirich, Jerry Austen and David Coath



In the last Bulletin we answered a question raised by US affiliate Jerry Weirich, who had asked about SA and OS usage on South Australian stamps within the Northern Territory. Jerry was aware of SA usage and shared this SA used at Arltunga (see at left), but the question remained about OS usage.

The answer given to Jerry's question was that OS would have been used in Northern Territory (NT) because NT was administered by South Australia (SA) until it was taken over by the Commonwealth in 1911. This would make it the responsibility of the South Australian Government to provide OS stamps for the use of Commonwealth Departments in the Northern Territory, at least until 1911 and then very likely until the introduction of Commonwealth issues. We suggested that such OS usage would be rare and asked Members if they had any examples.



David Hopper (Canada) shared a number of scans of SA and OS and was able to confirm that the SA perfin is much more common than the OS.

He had SA with usage from Arltunga, Port Darwin, Alice Springs and even the tiny, Pine Creek.

David also shared a very nice OS with a Port Darwin cancel that appears to date from 1907. (See at left)



Jerry Austen then added some more examples of Port Darwin and indeed Darwin cancellations on South Australian stamps bearing the OS.

Jerry Austen's examples are interesting as they include the Squared Circle postmark styles that were shown by Jerry Weirich and David Hopper, but they also show later postmark styles on the 4d (bottom right) which has a date of 1912 and in addition has a round postmark with the word “Australia” in lieu of the “SA” on the other postmarks. This is consistent with the timing of the takeover of the Northern Territory but the Commonwealth in 1911.

Note also the 9d (top right) that shows usage in 1914 which would be late given the introduction of the Kangaroo issues with Large OS Type G that would have been available from early 1913.

Thanks to Jerry Weirich, David Hopper and Jerry Austen for adding to this study.

The TB Perforator – Update

By Brian Fuller and David Coath



In SPPB #119 of October 2017 we featured an article on Brian Fuller's perforators, the GAS.4 and more importantly the TB.2 device.

The article (See pages 11 –19) can be seen here:

<https://www.perfins.com.au/PCNZA-Journals/119.pdf>

This is Brian, smiling as usual, from the 2017 article with the TB.2 perforator, on its wooden base, and in exactly the condition it was in when he obtained it. All the way down to the dymo labelled asset number just next to Brian's left hand.

With his right-hand Brian is just about to pull the arm forward, which is interesting as most perforators that have been found to date, depress the punch head by pushing the arm back.

TB.2 the Perforator

The important thing about TB.2 is that it is a perforator of the type that produced the Victorian Service Punctures – VSP's (See Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) Chapter 8 pages 27–39). The VSP's are a major part of the

study and collecting of Australian Private Perfins as they are responsible for about 80% of all patterns by number of Catalogue listings.

CPA explains this well and it is worth reviewing what it says in some detail before moving on.

CPA Page 27 Paragraph 1

There is a group of perfins whose characteristics suggest that they were struck from dies of a very temporary nature, rather than from conventional fixed-die perforators. With only one exception (JW&S.1), these perfins were used by Melbourne companies in the period from the early 1890's to the mid 1930's.

This is a great description, and the key element is “dies of a very temporary nature” and for that reason I call them “Temporary perfins/patterns” as opposed to what CPA describes as “conventional fixed die perforators” which are sometimes called Customised devices/perfins, because they are produced by a device that is custom made to make a given pattern.

A note of correction, JW&S.1 is only found (very rarely) on Tasmanian issues, but it is most likely that the patterns were struck in Melbourne and sent to Tasmania as there is no sustained use of JW&S.1 or other company use that would support a Stamp Vendor with a Temporary device being located in Tasmania. There is however sustained use of Temporary patterns in Sydney with over 20 examples of JH and JHC used in the mid to late 1910's now proved to James Hardie & Company (See SPPB #131 Pages 13 –16) and the 20 ++ K patterns that are in the style of K.6, .7 and 9 – 18 and others not listed, that are found used in Sydney in the 1920's. There are most likely others.

CPA Page 27 Paragraph 3

It is our view that these perfins, which we have termed *Victorian Service Punctures*, were in fact punctured-to-order in small job lots. We suggest that such a service was available to Melbourne businesses as an alternative to their acquisition of conventional, fixed-die perforators.

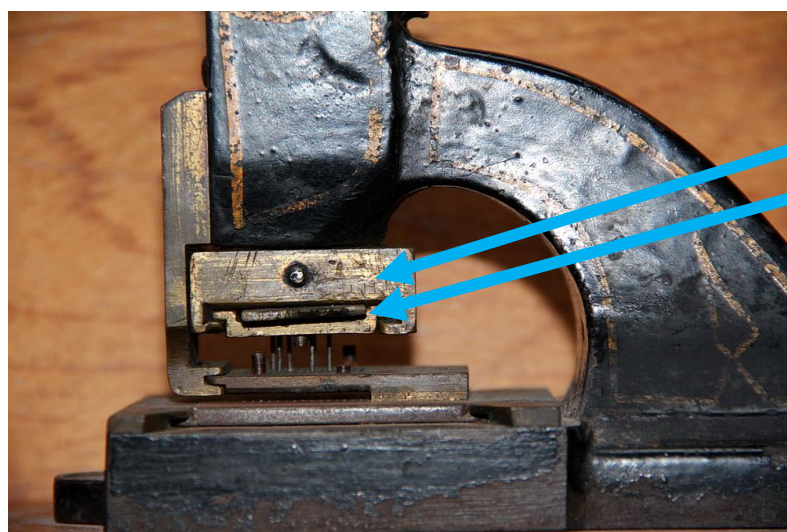
This makes sense as we know that Customised (fixed die) perforators were expensive and tended to be limited to larger Companies. Furthermore at the time of the introduction of these Temporary patterns (Circa 1895) Victoria was in difficult economic times and stamps were easily exchangeable for cash.

CPA 27 Paragraph 4

If this view is correct, companies wishing to have stamps perforated would place an order for a quantity of stamps to be punctured with a given letter combination. On receipt of the order, the supplier would assemble a die of the required letter pattern, placing pins into a block containing a grid of holes. This die would be used to puncture the job lot and the pins would then be removed in preparation for the next order.

John Grant and John Mathews are to be commended for developing this theory, as they had not seen a perforator such as Brian's TB device and they were deducing this from observation of patterns.

Inside the TB Perforator



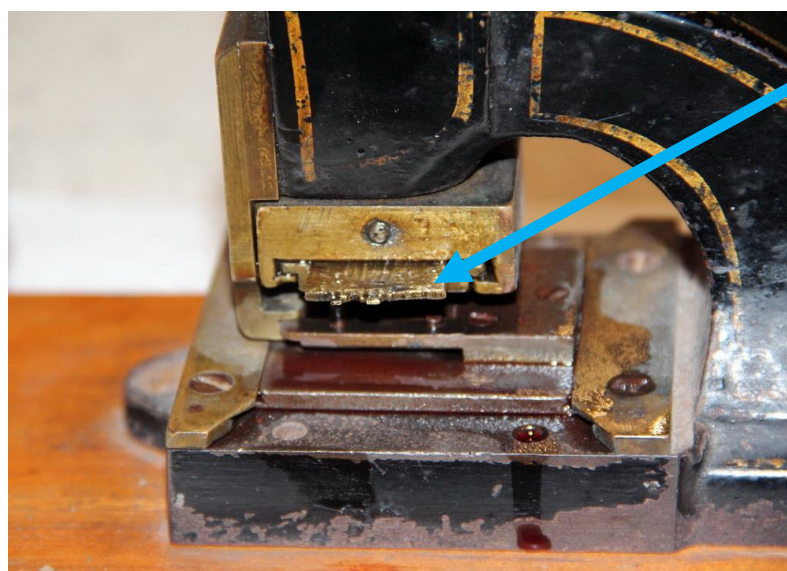
This is the side view of the TB device that was featured in the earlier article.

Punch head.

One of the important features that makes this device special is this cradle.

It slides into the punch head and carries a grid of pin holes, in this case 15 x 12, that are matched by the centre and base grids.

This cradle carries the pins that make up the perfin pattern and we will call it the pin cradle.



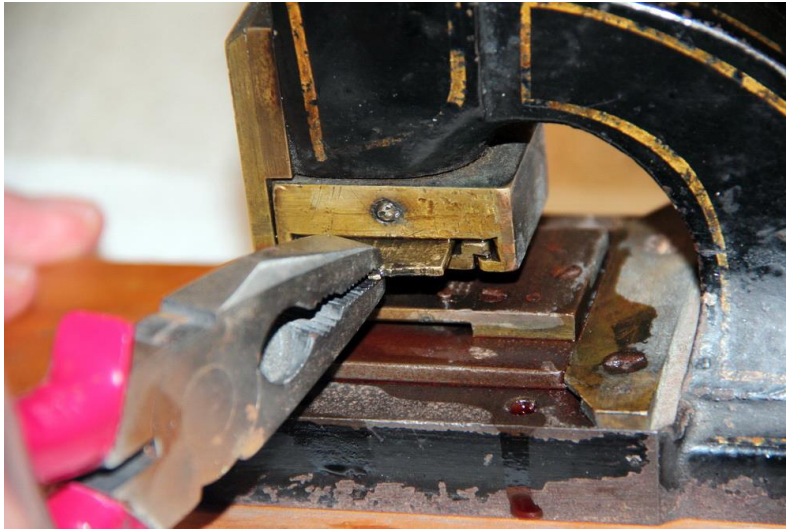
The pins in the pin cradle are held in place by this nonferrous plate, that is hard to see in profile, but is clearer as we pan the camera view upwards.

Note that it protrudes out from the side of the cradle and the rest of the punch head, as if it is meant to be taken in and out.

When Brian first showed me this machine, I could not help but fiddle with this plate hoping to dislodge it. I failed.



A closer look at this plate shows that it is heavily pitted and what is more there is a consistent separation of the pitting, suggesting that this plate has had considerable use and possibly with many pin locations.

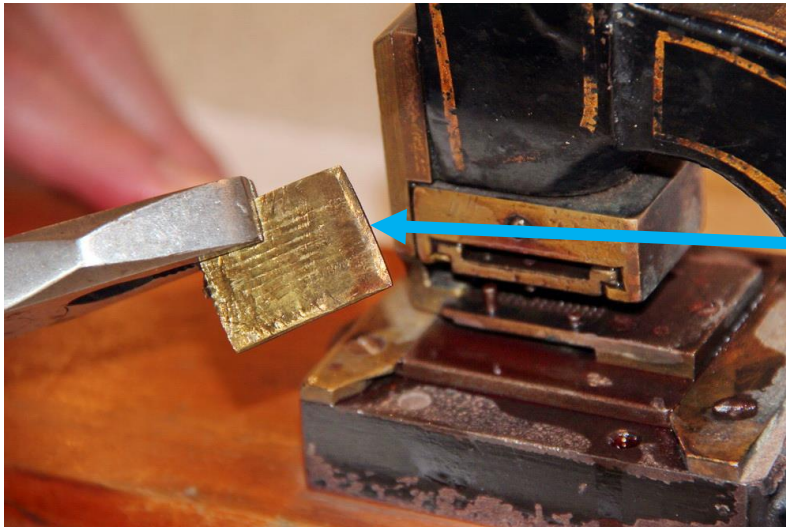


Now the fluid with the red colour in this photo is “Penetrene”, it is a lubricant, but it can also loosen rusted parts and it has a red colour but dries clear.



The bottle I had had come from my father and was 50 years old, but it worked a treat, and the nozzle allows you squeeze it into small spaces.

That and a little pull with a set of pliers and the plate came free.



Now we get a better look at the plate which is likely brass, and the pitting is in lines suggesting that it was inserted into the head at different depths, but with a consistent grid of pins to cover.

It is tapered at one end and that suggests that it is pushed into place after the pin cradle has had the pins assembled into it.

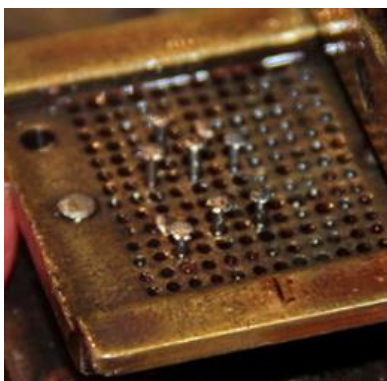
The rest of the head did not move when the plate was removed. There was a small, thin steel sheet sitting directly over the pins.



A little more “Penetrene” and a bit of time and the entire base of the head slides out to expose the top plate of the grid with the pins in place in the pin cradle.

A piece of important advice at this point. Do not get any of the “Penetrene” onto your wife’s Caesarstone kitchen bench top, even if you say it does not stain.

Note the grid of pin locations that would allow multiple pins to be fitted.

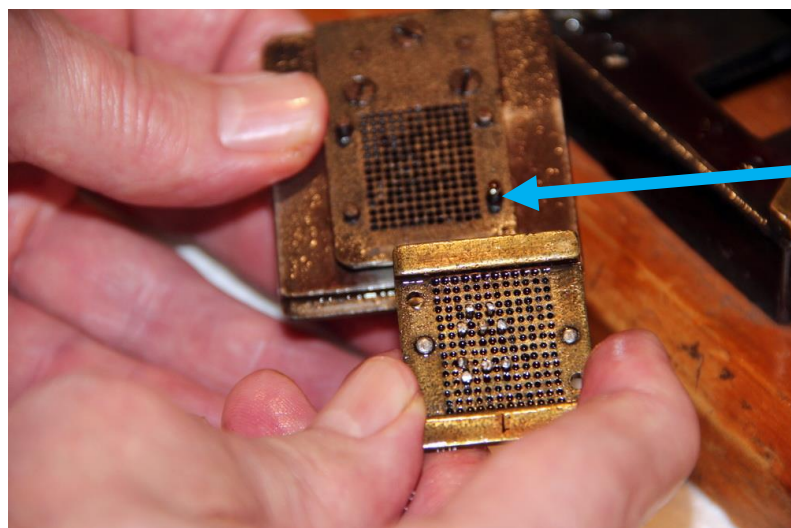


Not all the pin heads are raised but you can see the pattern that would be formed would be a TB/TD.

Like this



Note the pin heads are flat so they can be held in place by the plate.



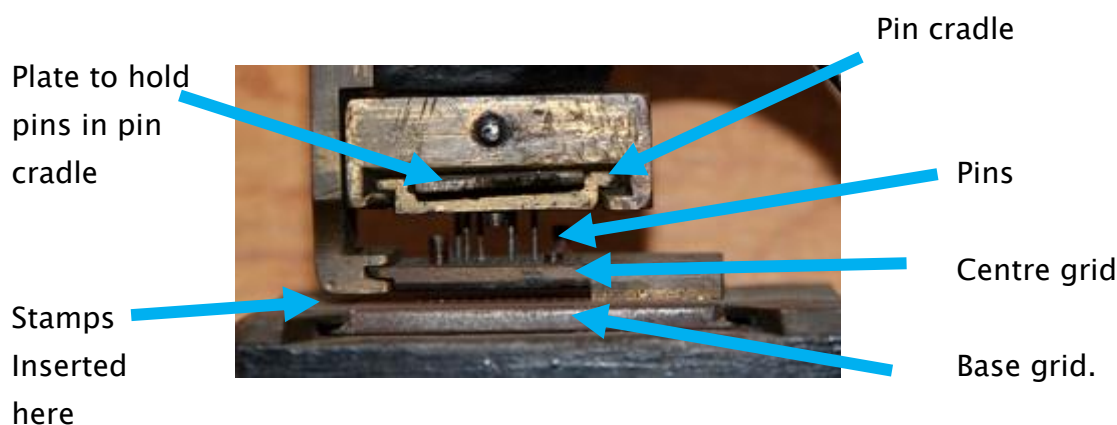
Now gently I can take the top and centre parts of the punch head apart. In my righthand I have the top pin cradle.

There are a series of locating lugs that ensure that the top and centre parts of the punch head fit together in a consistent way.

This ensures that the pin locations in the pin cradle are matched precisely into the grid in the centre piece and then into the grid in the base plate.

If this was not the case, then the pins would break. The centre

grid gives a second and supporting location for the pins which are rather thin. It holds them at rest, just above the area that the stamps would be inserted into.



As the handle of the device is depressed (by pulling it forward) the punch head (See image at left) with the pin cradle, plate and pins descends, pushing the pins through the centre grid and into the base grid.

This action perforates the stamp that would be located between the Centre and Base grids. The pins themselves are solid and do not cut through the stamp leaving a clear hole, but rather displace the paper making a generally smaller hole than a customised perforator.

The Holy “Holey” Grail

Yes, without exaggeration, this is the “Holy Grail” of Australian Private Perfins, and Brian Fuller is to be commended for having the foresight in acquiring it when it became available and the generosity to share knowledge about it. It is the manner of device that John Grant and John Mathews had theorised existed in Commercial Perfins of Australia, and it works in the manner that they had suggested. (See page 13 of this article)

Now this TB device is not responsible for all the Victorian Service Punctures (Temporary) patterns in CPA and HAPP. We know that these were made in a variety of grid sizes and styles, and these grid variations are described in Chapter 8 of CPA. This variation suggests that there were multiple devices and the added fact that Temporary patterns are also found in Sydney supports the theory of multiple devices.

What seals the case for multiple devices is that we know that other similar devices made the transition from Temporary to Semi Permanent devices, in much the same way as the TB device did. This will be discussed later in this article.

Editor’s Note

If any Member wants to read more about the “Victorian Service Punctures” the PCNZA library has a copy of CPA and I can send you Chapter 8 or indeed the first 50 pages which are a superb introduction to Australian Private Perfins.

What the TB Perforator tells us

At the start of this article, we talked about the different kinds of Perforating devices. There are two main types as follows:

Customised devices or as described in CPA “conventional fixed die perforators”. These devices are manufactured with a fixed punch head that can only produce the pattern that they are made for. Sometimes they will have multiple dies in the punch head. They are used by a single company. These are most of your common patterns, DJLTD.1 and .2 etc, etc.

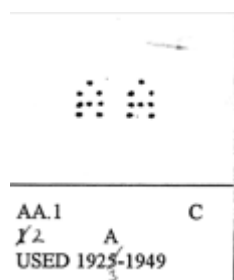
Temporary devices or again as described in CPA “Victorian Service Punctures”. These devices have movable pins within the punch head and the pins can be reset to make up a range of letter combinations. These almost always have a single die in the punch head. They are used by Stamp Vendors to create perfin patterns for many companies. These patterns represent about 80% of Australian Private Perfins by catalogue listing and tend to be scarce or rare and their usage extends from the early 1890’s until the mid 1930’s.

Now the special thing about the TB device is that it is a Temporary device that performed as a Customised device, because the Stamp Vendor, who made the early TB patterns, and possibly many others, sold it to the Tramways Board, who only needed it to make one pattern, that is TB. Like a Customised device does.

The case could easily be made that TB.2 (1932 – 1984) is just a missing pin variation of TB.1 (1923 – 1931). So, the device was essentially a Customised device from around 1923 until 1984.

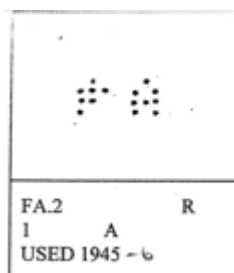
This means that we have a third category of Perforating device, which is **Temporary devices used as a Customised device**.

Now TB.2 is certainly one of these, but there are other examples to find. I am indebted to Greg Howard for his research on these. As it happens there are at least 6 that we have found, and they are listed below.



AA.1 This is proved to Alliance Assurance and that is an important part of the evidence for this being produced on a Temporary device but used as a Customised device.

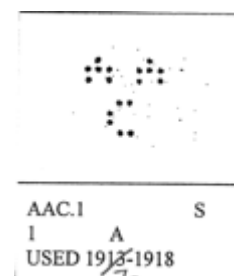
If this was a setting in a Temporary device then it would not be consistent with the same separation between the A’s, for the extended period 1923 – 1948. In addition, AA.1 is listed as being a Victorian Service Puncture, VSP, (Temporary pattern) in CPA in the listing of VSP’s on pages 272 – 276.



True Temporary patterns made frequently over an extended period will differ due to variations in settings, even in a simple pattern such as AA.1.

In addition, AA.1 has usage well outside the known usage period of VSP’s.

The only variation in AA.1 that is found is a repair/pin change that throws up the FA.2 pattern in the short period between 1945 – 46 and then the device is reset and returns to making AA.1 in a consistent manner. FA.2 is not a true pattern and is just a type of AA.1. This is noted in Update to HAPP #1 of October 2005.



AAC.1 Provisionally assigned to Atlas Assurance in both CPA and HAPP, there is good reason for attributing this pattern to Alliance Assurance because of the contiguous date range usage of other patterns either proved or suspected to be Alliance.

In CPA the usage was stated to be “– 1917” but this was extended in HAPP to be 1913 – 1918. The start date of 1913 is a common feature in HAPP usage reports. It is likely a simplification of possible start dates based on the pattern being found on the Kangaroo issue, which started at this time.

More accurately and based on postmark evidence AAC.1 is found in the period 1917 – 1918. AAC.1 is listed as being a Victorian Service Puncture, VSP, (Temporary pattern) in CPA in the listing of VSP’s on pages 272 – 276. As with AA.1 there is no variation in the

setting of the pattern over time which supports the case that it was produced on a Temporary device, but with a consistent setting as if it was a Customised device.

Furthermore, the grid for both AA.1 and AAC.1 are the same which supports the case that they were produced on the same Temporary device.



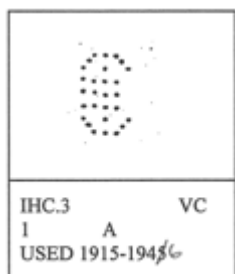
AAC.2 R
1 A
USED 1919-1924

AAC.2 was not listed in CPA and therefore it was not included in the VSP list, but it is again produced on the same grid as AA.1 and AAC.1.

The user was confirmed as Alliance Assurance in HAPP Update #1 of October 2005.

The chronology fits for AAC.2 to be the same user as AA.1 and AAC.1. More importantly the pattern is consistent for the entire period of its use. This is not likely with a true Temporary device.

The relationship in terms of the grid and its similarities to AA.1 and AAC.1 and the way that it fits into the chronology of these patterns supports it being a single Temporary device used as a customised device from 1917 as AAC.1, then AAC.2 from 1919 and later AA.1 from 1923. If you also consider the True Temporary patterns AACO.1, .2, .4, .5 .6 and .7 as a group, it is clear that they are from a single user, initially created as Temporary patterns and then by a Temporary device used as a customised device. This is discussed in another article by Greg Howard in this Bulletin. (See page 19)



IHC.3 VC
1 A
USED 1915-1945

This is IHC.3 and it was the subject of an article in the SPPB #95 of October 2011 entitled "When is a Service Puncture not a Service Puncture - IHC.3" It can be seen here on pages 6 - 9: <https://www.perfins.com.au/PCNZA-Journals/95.pdf>

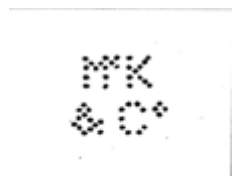
IHC.3 is a Melbourne device and there was a huge number of IHC (logo) patterns similar to IHC.3, found used in Melbourne in the period 1912 - 1915. CPA listed 6 and HAPP listed 19, but there are actually more than 40. This is what you would expect when the stamp vendor is trying to set up a logo pattern like the IHC on a grid with each

different stamp purchase. This is what makes the IHC.3 so unusual. It was a consistent pattern for the period from 1915 until 1945 although there was some variation and missing pins late in its use in the 1940's. In addition, IHC.3 has usage well outside the known usage period of VSP's.

Again IHC.3 was listed as a VSP in the list of these in CPA. The Authors rightly saw the grid based style and called it for what it was, a VSP Temporary device. But they failed to notice the huge variation in patterns between the use of a true Temporary device from 1912 - 15 and the later 1915 - 1945 IHC.3. But to be fair they would not have been looking for this peculiar usage at that time.

A final point about IHC.3 that was made in the October 2011 article is that the image in HAPP for IHC.3 is too thin, and the CPA image is much better. In fact the image supplied as a correction in the October 2011 article was out of scale and it required a correction as well. This corrected image for IHC.3 appeared on page 11 of SPPB #97 of April 2012, which can be seen here: <https://www.perfins.com.au/PCNZA-Journals/97.pdf> and it is much better. Also note that with all these IHC Logo images that they can be back to front as we are never truly certain whether they have been punched from the front or the back. If it does not match a reference image, then turn it over and try it again.

A corrected image of IHC.3 is included on the reference page that comes with this issue.



MCK&CO.1 VC
1 AV
USED 1895-1945

This is different to the other Temporary devices used as a customised device in that it starts its usage in the early stages of the usage of these temporary devices Circa 1894, while the others are generally used as temporary devices and then end up being used as customised devices.

MCK&CO.1 was recognised as a VSP (Temporary pattern) in CPA (pages 272 - 276). With good reason because the pattern is clearly set up on a grid like a true VSP. Note the lack of curves in the pattern.

But this pattern is very common and is seen on issues of Victoria and Australia from 1894 until 1946 and yet each example has the same setting. This would be impossible if all the usage was as a true Temporary device. In addition, the patterns usage is well outside the known usage period of VSP's.

Conclusion

A small number of Victorian Service Puncture (VSP) or Temporary devices, that were capable of making up many different perfin patterns in a grid, in the same manner as the TB.2 device, were sold onto a single user who then kept the setting in the punch head consistent so that the device operated in the manner of a Customised perforator.

If any Member can identify other patterns that were produced by a VSP (Temporary) device that then became a Customised device, then we would be keen to hear about them and share them with Members in a future Bulletin.

Dalton Brothers – Update

By Peter Simpfendorfer and David Coath



Peter Simpfendorfer contacted me following up on the article on Dalton Brothers in the last Bulletin.

Peter alerted me to something that I had not mentioned in the History of Dalton Brothers users of DBS.1. (See pages 23 – 24 of SPPB # 139)

I had not mentioned that James Dalton had been made a Papal Knight by Pope Pius IX in 1877, which is both a great and rare honour.

Peter also reported that it was around this time, in 1876, that James had purchased the huge estate in Orange, where he was to build his Family home named “Duntryleague”, in honour of his hometown in Ireland. (See above)

Peter reports that today that “Duntryleague” is a Golf Course, and you can see it here: <https://www.facebook.com/duntryleagueorange/>

PCNZA Catalogue – Update

By Peter Simpfendorfer and David Coath

Peter Simpfendorfer has reported that he is close to producing an update for the PCNZA Perfin Catalogue and that when he has completed it he will arrange with Dave Elsmore to have it uploaded to Perfins.com.au

Peter reports that he has now accumulated over 2300 stamps perforated with the Club’s PCNZA pattern. This is an amazing achievement.

In the next Bulletin there will be the Auction and this will include some lots of PCNZA perfins that Peter has assembled from his spares. These will be offered with the funds from the sale all going to the Club.

If you want any stamps perforated with the Club’s pattern then just send them to: David Coath at 4 Fleming Crt, Research, Vic, 3095. Australia and Territories, United Kingdom, and New Zealand issues from 1998 are all ok for perforation.

The True user of AACO

By Greg Howard, Dave Elsmore and David Coath

There has been some inconsistency and errors in the reporting of the users of certain AA, AAC and AACO patterns found in Melbourne in the period 1911 – 1949 and these are corrected below. We have followed the format used in CPA and HAPP of identifying Provisional (possible) users in *italics* and confirmed ones in block text.

All of these AA, AAC and AACo patterns have been created on the same grid, which suggests a common Temporary device and the ones above the dotted line are clearly true Victorian Service Punctures (Temporary) patterns due to the number of types. Note that below the line there is only one type, indicating that the device had been set for a single pattern.

*Numbers indicate the supporting evidence for the correction.

Pattern	Usage dates	# of types	Reported User	Actual User
AACO.1	1911 – 15	20+	Atlas Assurance	Alliance Assurance *1
AACO.4	1913	1	Unknown	<i>Alliance Assurance</i>
AACO.5	1913 – 14	2	Unknown	Alliance Assurance *2
AACO.6	1915	1	Unknown	<i>Alliance Assurance</i>
AACO.2	1915 – 16	4	<i>Atlas Assurance</i>	Alliance Assurance *3
AACO.7	1916	3	Unknown	<i>Alliance Assurance</i>
AAC.1	1917 – 18	1	<i>Atlas Assurance</i>	<i>Alliance Assurance</i>
AAC.2	1919 – 25	1	Unknown	Alliance Assurance *4
AA.1	1924 – 49	1	Alliance Assurance	Alliance Assurance

*1 Phoenix Auction #40 of September 2015 Lot 1319 (Note cover image reduced)

Perfin Covers all addressed to Clyde (Vic) comprising [1] 1890s *Australian Widows' Fund* advertising cover franked with ½d rose punctured 'AWF'; [2] 1910 *Australian Mutual Provident Society* long cover with 2d punctured 'AM/PS'; [3] 1913 *Imperial Insurance Co* cover with 1d Roo punctured with 'AA/Co' (type AACO.1) perfin, all-over advertising on reverse states 'United with Alliance Assurance Company' although Mathews attributes this pattern to *Atlas Assurance Co.* (3)



David Wood at Phoenix had correctly identified the pattern as being AACO.1 which is no small feat as the pattern was far from clear. See the image at left with the pin locations shown in black.

The other key pieces of information are the reverse of the envelope which links "The Imperial Insurance Co" to "Alliance Assurance Co Ltd" and the distinctive red letterhead of "Imperial Insurance Co" as this is important in supporting another confirmed user.

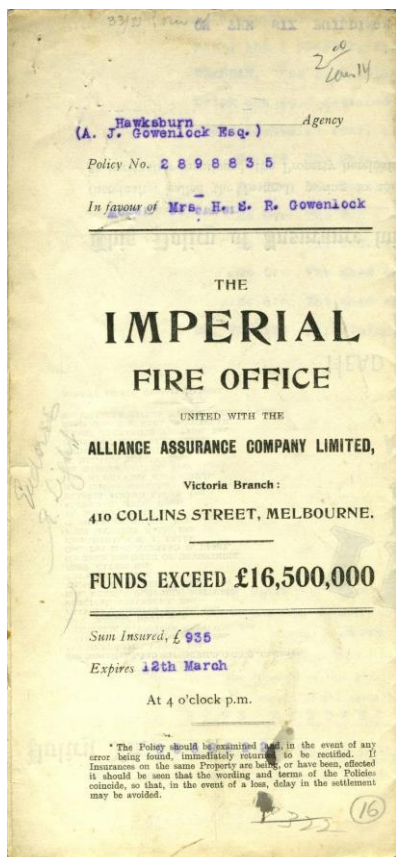
*2 A Proving Cover for Alliance Assurance was sold in the PCNZA Auction 2/2010

*3 The scans at left below are a Type of AACO.2. The right hand scan has had the pin locations marked in black because they were indistinct. Note the part of the Red Banner from the logo of "The Imperial Insurance Co Ltd" which we know is a division of "Alliance Assurance". This is not a true proving piece but it is a reasonable indication that AACO is more likely to be Alliance than the provisional user in Atlas.



*4 This was confirmed to "Alliance Assurance" in HAPP Update #2 of February 2012. The address given was 410 Collins St, Melbourne.

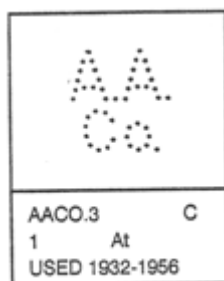
This address is confirmed by the document at left below that can be found here: <https://www.antipodean.com/pages/books/20519/victoria-insurance/the-imperial-fire-office-united-with-the-alliance-assurance-company-ltd-victoria-branch> Stated to be from 1910.



Conclusion

All of the patterns listed on Page 19, AA.1, AAC.1, .2 and AACO.1, .2, .4 - .7, can now be confirmed or at least provisionally assigned to Alliance Assurance at 410 Collins St, Melbourne VIC.

While we are talking about Alliance Assurance



Alliance Assurance
Co Ltd
20 Grenfell St
Adelaide SA
Life assurance

AACO.3 was not covered in this discussion as it is a more modern pattern, and it is actually created by 3 separate devices located in Brisbane, Adelaide and Hobart.

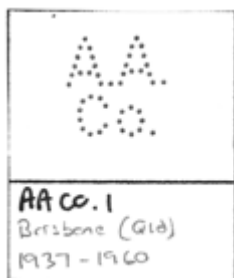
The pattern was first listed in CPA as an Adelaide one, (see at left) but the image is closest to the Hobart device which explains the "t" in the listing suggesting that they had sighted use on a Tasmanian revenue.

The listing was largely unchanged in HAPP but the image altered and it was now closest to the Adelaide device.

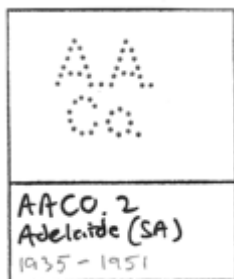
The HAPP Update #1 of 2005 deleted the "t" but created AACO.8 which I suspect was shared in a SPPB, but I cannot find it. It would have been to cover the Tasmanian usage.

The HAPP Update #2 of 2012 added "q" to the AACO.3 listing suggesting it had been sighted on a Queensland revenue. It also added the address of the Hobart office.

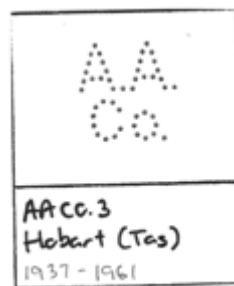
The actual correct usage and images are detailed below, and the patterns have been included on the reference sheet with this Bulletin. Ignore the numbers they are part of my own numbering system.



70-72 Eagle St,
Brisbane, Qld



Universal Buildings
20 Glenfell St,
Adelaide, SA



131 Macquarie St,
Hobart, TAS

The introduction and usage dates are based on postmark, issue and revenue data but could be improved. Most likely the introduction dates are all C1935.

Sort yours out using the reference sheet and let me know what you find and see if you can improve the information that we have about these patterns.

The Official Perfins of South Australia 1903 – 1912 – The Large OS Type E

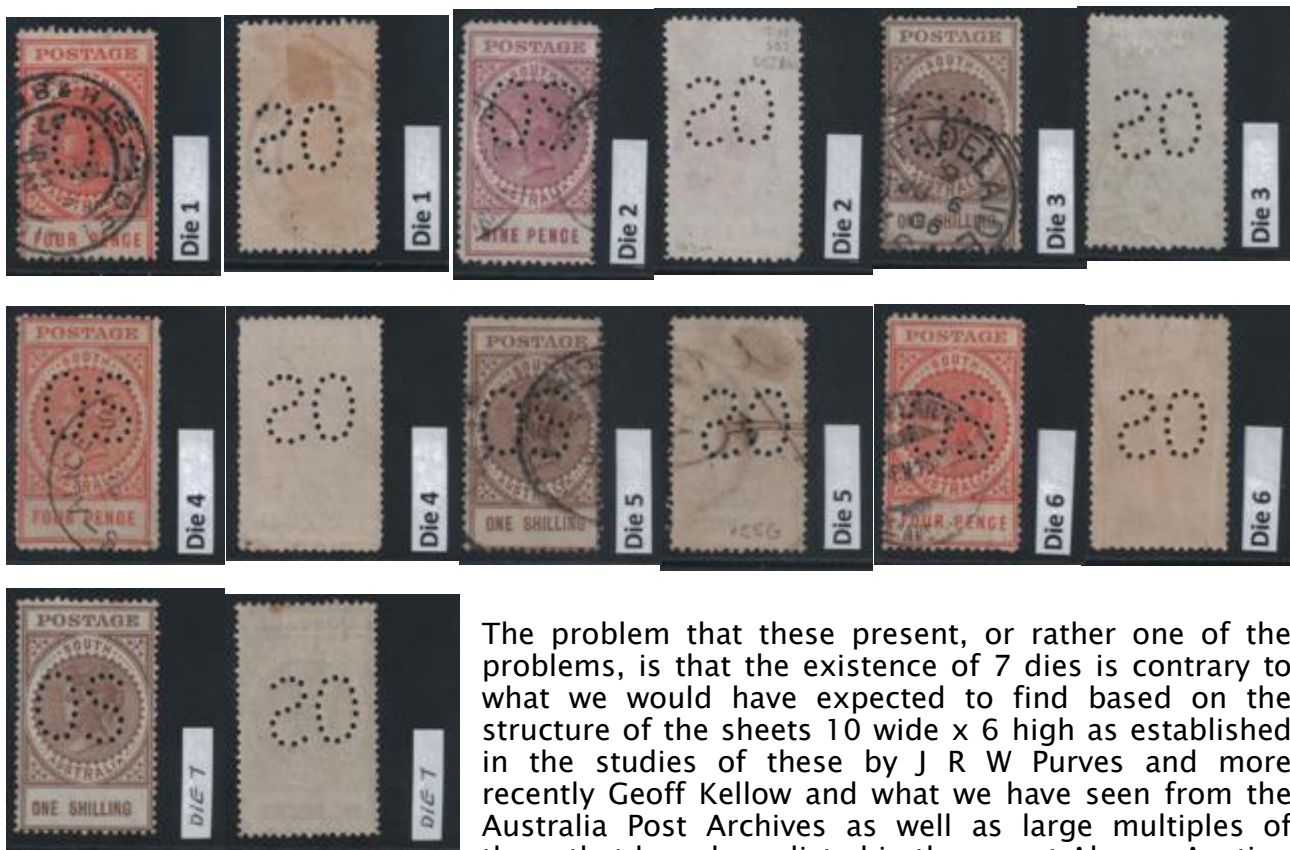
By David Coath, Jerry Austen, Ken Scudder, Reuben Breninger, Richard Venus and Tom Weir

This OS Type E pattern has proved to be a real conundrum and we have been beset by a series of setbacks, corrections, and unexplainable die variation.

Firstly, we welcome three new Members of our study with Ken Scudder, Richard Venus and Reuben Breninger making important contributions, even if these in some instances make us take backward steps.

Ken has had discussions with Richard Venus (Author of “The Kangaroo and the King”) which has helped us to understand that it was not the C1890 Nash/Cooke perforating device that produced the various SA and OS patterns, but rather the 1903 Perforation device also built by Nash, as seen by Leslie Hausburg in his 1903 visit to Australia, that was the basis of his 1905 article in “The Australian Philatelist” (see article in SPPB #138 of July 2022). More details on that in the next Update.

As stated in the last update on this issue in SPPB #139 Reuben Breninger has provided us with some amazing multiples via the Perfin Facebook group (See page 22) that we are yet to fully understand. When considering these multiples with the excellent ones that were provided by Richard Breckon from the Australia Post Archives that have been included in previous Bulletins, and the large bank of single strikes, Tom Weir and Jerry Austen have managed to establish the existence of 7 dies as follows:



The problem that these present, or rather one of the problems, is that the existence of 7 dies is contrary to what we would have expected to find based on the structure of the sheets 10 wide x 6 high as established in the studies of these by J R W Purves and more recently Geoff Kellow and what we have seen from the Australia Post Archives as well as large multiples of these that have been listed in the recent Abacus Auction

that had formed part of the collection of Dr Don Pearce.

In addition forgeries have been detected and these, by their relative rarity and inconsistencies are excluded at this stage as they only further cloud the issue of the structure of this OS Type E device.

In addition Jerry Austen has been working with South Australian expert Harold Lower in an effort to plate various dies.

A clear answer to the structure of this device is not forthcoming at this stage but one aspect of the working hypothesis is that it might be that the insertion of the OS dies into the vertical punch head could have been as a block of 3 dies or indeed as individual dies.

This would mean that the individual dies would present in multiples in an inconsistent manner. Furthermore the presence of a 7th die could be the result of a repair to a die.

More research is needed.



A selection of the multiples that we have been able to assemble, mainly with the assistance of Rueben Breninger and Harold Lower. These need to be considered in conjunction with the ones provided by Richard Breckon in previous Bulletins.



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First Watermark 2½d Small 'OS': Est \$6500; Sold \$7785



Fascinating array from an old-time hoard: Est \$500; Sold \$1075



Third Watermark 2/- brown: Est \$30,000; Sold \$47,920

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The following PCNZA Members have regular eBay listings, including many Perfin items:

<https://www.ebay.com.au/usr/8479smacma> Andrew Ballis (Ormond – VIC)

<https://www.ebay.com.au/usr/moose280353> Donald Adams (Gold Coast – QLD)

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

<https://www.ebay.com.au/usr/kenfmoore> Ken Moore (Port Macquarie – NSW)

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

<https://www.ebay.com.au/str/artsoldier> Peter J Smith (South Cafield – VIC)

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