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SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

October 1991

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Editorial

Later in this issue is information that VG and a few other official perfins have been forged or faked.

As collectors have been willing to pay substantial premiums for some official perfins over the value of the unperfinned stamps it has become worthwhile for at least one crook to forge/fake some perfins. This will certainly have some influence on what and how we collect.

What can be done to reduce the production of these nefarious forgeries and fakes ? A number of things come to mind.

- 1) In the long term eliminate the incentive to produce them i.e. lower prices. This probably means a maximum price at or only a small amount above the retail value of the unperfinned stamp. It seems likely that prices for the type of material being forged will drop if collectors give up collecting in this area or become more wary.
- 2) Reporting and investigating the forgeries/fakes and where appropriate use sanctions/legal action to prevent such material entering the market.
- 3) Indelibly marking forgeries/fakes so identified.
- 4) Consider the provenance of expensive items before purchase e.g. did the items come from an old collection or an accumulation ? Should the item in question exist ?

In general there are two types of perfin collections:

- a) Type collection -collection of different perfins patterns usually of primarily private perfins.
- b) Issue Collections -collection of one or several perfin patterns on as many issues as those patterns are found on. Most often such collections are of official types.

The type collector does not usually mind if the perfin is on a cheap or expensive stamp and probably will opt for the cheaper stamp as it will cost less. In addition most scarce perfins are only found on letter rate issues. The rarity of the perfin will be the main determinant of the maximum price. It is worth bearing in mind that if a company has gone to the expense of purchasing a perforator or getting stamps perforated then the volume of stamps processed is likely to be significant. It is reasonable to expect that a number of copies of even rare perfins have survived even though they have not surfaced yet.

The type collector is fairly safe from forgeries etc. as it is not worthwhile to produce them as large quantities cannot be sold without reducing the scarcity of that pattern, and fairly low prices are paid for even fairly rare private perfins found on letter rate stamps.

The issue collector on the other hand will need to collect a number of issues with those patterns that they collect on both expensive stamps and stamps on which those patterns are scarce. In general the perfin pattern is very common, though there are a few exceptions. Issue collectors most often concentrate on official patterns. This has been the case with Canadian OH/MS issues, British Crown/B.T. issues and South African States CS/AR issues and in these cases the prices rose and forgeries appeared. Naturally the prices fell and the demand for such issues decreased for a few years.

While the appearance of forgeries/fakes is a serious problem it will most directly affect the official perfin collectors, which involves only a small number of generally common patterns. In the long term greater attention will probably be paid to private perfins. It will be interesting to monitor the official perfin market over the next few years to see how much effect the forgeries/fakes have.

David Andersen

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The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia four times a year.

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PERFIN COLLECTORS BEWARE

Over the past few weeks, a large number of fake perfins have been discovered. Most of these have been VG's, but others have also been found including W/A, OS/NSW and OS.

There are various ways in which the fake V.G.'s can be identified, but at the moment it is thought advisable not to disclose the errors the faker has made, as this would enable him to improve his work and make identification more difficult.

As a result of this, the new edition of the V.G. booklet has been delayed. It may be that when published the booklet will contain a listing of all fake V.G.'s so far discovered. Many of the fakes are of stamps unlisted in the current V.G. booklet. If any collector is offered any V.G. perfins rated as rare or unlisted, I suggest that they have them checked before parting with their money. A committee of three Queensland collectors and myself has been set up to investigate any stamps thought to be fakes. I shall be pleased to check stamps for collectors or to pass them on to one of the Queensland panel for further opinions.

Bryan Toop
2 Baxter St.
Timboon, Vic 3268.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not already paid your 1991/92 subscriptions please send your payment to Peter Wood as quickly as possible. If we do not receive your payment no further bulletins will be sent to you. Those that have not paid should find a reminder with this bulletin.

Have we paid ✓

Subscriptions are A\$10-00 which covers airmail postage to New Zealand and surface mail postage elsewhere. Airmail postage to non NZ & Aust. addresses is extra - add A\$2-00 for US/Canada or A\$3-00 for Europe.

If paying by cheque in other than Australian dollars please include an amount to cover the rather hefty bank charges.

Please send payments to Capt Peter Wood
11 Inglis St.
Mornington, Vic 3931 Australia

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NORPEX 1991 Meeting

This brief report is based on the minutes of the meeting.

The meeting was quite successful and was attended by 13 members, including one NZ member and members from a number of Australian States and Territories.

Election of Office Bearers : The following officers were nominated and elected in the absence of further nominations.

President : John Grant Treasurer : Peter Wood Secretary : John Mathews

Presidents Report : the Club has about 100 members
: Geoff Wise resigned as Secretary/Treasurer due to poor health. His support and efforts in these positions were greatly appreciated.

: subscriptions need not rise if substantial production and postage costs do not occur.

: some NZ members are working towards collating information for a new NZ catalogue.

Reciprocal Journal Exchange Arrangements with other Perfin Societies: arrangements will be sought and abstracts of articles from their bulletins could appear in our Bulletin.

Subsidy of the Bulletin : the Australian Philatelic Federation will be approached for a subsidy towards producing the bulletin. To obtain this assistance the Bulletin would need to be exhibited in literature classes at philatelic exhibitions on a regular basis. The Bulletin will be entered at the Canberra Philatelic Exhibition in March 1992.

Constitution : clauses 8,9,24,35,48 and 49 were amended to accord with the revised wording as circulated to members.

New Zealand Circuit Managers Report : 6 circuit books have sold \$1,587-50 with profit of \$158.70 a very good result.

Norpex 1991 cont.

Purchase of a Club Perforator : The Secretary was authorised to acquire a perforator with the initials PC/NZA, subject to approval being obtained from Australia Post and subject to a cost limit of \$600-00. It was agreed that stamps punctured with the Club perforator be available to office bearers for official use and to Club members, provided that the perforator be used to puncture current Australian and New Zealand letter rate stamps only. The Club would charge a commission of 1 stamp in every 10, or part thereof submitted by members for perforation.

Proposal to Pay Out Debts from Postal Auction no.3 : it was agreed to approach members owed money etc. in connection with this auction, offering to make good the full amount if those members so desire.

The meeting was told of the progress towards publication of a book on Australian commercial perfins being compiled by John Grant and John Mathews. A draft was displayed. The book of some 300 pages is due to be released in March 1992. The meeting agreed to convey to the APF its strong support for an application for assistance to publish this book.

Arthur Taylor displayed the 6 head DJ/LTD perforator borrowed from the David Jones archives.

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Perfin Exhibits at Norpex '91

Norpex '91 was the first exhibition to have included a separate exhibition class for perfins and it was pleasing to see some very good displays. All five perfin exhibits covered different subjects and it was interesting to note the very different subject treatments.

Peter Giffen, WA Perfins of British Malaya -awarded a Large Vermeil

A collection showing perfins used by various firms in the Straits Settlement and Malay States with proving covers to various world-wide destinations. the exhibit included 31 covers for 23 users to 21 different countries. Example included :-AG/&Co./Ltd on cover (only 2 known) , a perfin reading CANCELLED on cover used by the Peninsular & oriental Banking Corporation , 1918 cover to the US with two 1c stamps showing the perfin PS/&Co of Patterson, Simons & Co underpaying postage by 8c.

Judith Sidaway, NZ Perfins of Great Britain -awarded Silver

This exhibit illustrated the history of perfin in the UK and provided a cross section of perfins, including high values, to demonstrate the different types and styles of perfins. Starting with OUS (Oxford Union Society) overprints and underprints, early Sloper dies were followed by perfins showing changing styles, full name perfins and modern perfins. Different user categories included in the exhibit were banking, local government, insurance companies and officials.

Ivor Stokwell, WA Punctures and Perfins of Western Australia up 1913

- awarded a Large Silver

All WA punctures and perfins up to 1913 were included in this

Perfin Exhibits at Norpex cont.

exhibit. Starting with an impressive display of 1860's Imperial punctures and official WA,OS and PWD patterns including many high values the exhibit finished with examples of the private perfins used in Western Australia to 1913.

Jill & John grant,ACT Commercial Perfins of New South-Wales
-awarded a Vermeil

This exhibit showed a representative sample of perfins used by NSW firms categorised by the occupations of the user companies. About 50 proving covers were shown, along with revenues on a variety of documents. Interesting items included W.C. (Winchcomb Carson Ltd) perfins on cattle duty stamps and examples of pre-stamped envelopes punctured with H/JD and HC/&Co perfins.

Jill & John Grant,ACT Commercial Perfins of Victoria -awarded Silver

This exhibit showed a representative sample of perfins used by Victorian firms. The exhibit was presented on the basis of Melbourne's street layout. About 30 proving covers were included, many of which showed attractive advertising.

All of these exhibitors deserve congratulations on their exhibits. It is noticeable that higher awards a within the perfin collectors reach certainly at State Level.

John Fordam exhibited a non-competitive exhibit in the judges section that also included perfins. Of particular note was the interesting array of covers and a 5/- Harbour Bridge with the Farmers F pattern.

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ROMANIAN CATALOGUE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER

Barry Clarke (24 Spedding Rd, Whangarei NZ) has been given a copy of Laszlo Eros Catalog of Romanian Perfins published by the Perfins Club in 1989 to be auctioned for Club funds. The catalog is looseleaf A4 size and list 723 patterns and all known users. Please send your bids to Barry by the end of the year.

1/10-
done
Catalogue rec'd
12/1/92

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FOR SALE

Matching blocks, used, of the 1934 re-engraved Seahorses of GB-the 5/- and 10/- values (SG 451 and 452) with B.W. perfin. (One block is illustrated)

Postal bids are invited and will close 6 weeks after this bulletin is mailed i.e. 4/1/92. Due to the high catalogue value of the stamps (and also what they cost me!) I will have to put a reserve on them.

John Mathews
21 McConnel Cres
Kambah, ACT 2902 Australia



The Bank of New Zealand Perfin on G.B. Stamps Barry Pawson

The Bank of New Zealand used perfinned stamps from the early 1890's to about 1940. Three dies are known:-

- Die I BNZ -large letters,no stops
- Die II B.N.Z. -smaller letters,with stops
- Die III B.N.S. -raised stops,reversed Z

Die I is known on

- 1881 1d lilac 1883 2/6,5/-,10/-
- 1887 Jubilee 2d,4 1/2d,5d,10d,1/-

Die II is known on

- 1881 1d lilac
- 1883 2/6,5/-,10/-
- 1887 Jubilee 1/2d green,1/2d orange,1 1/2d,2d,2 1/2d,3d, 4d, 4 1/2d,5d,10d
- 1902 Ed VII 1/2d yellow green,1d,1 1/2d,2d,2 1/2d,3d, 4d green/brown,5d,6d,9d,10d,1/-,2/6,5/-,10/-
- 1912 McKennals 1/2d(SG339),1/2d(SG344),1d(SG345)
- 1912-22 Script Wmk 1/2d,1d,1 1/2d,2d,2 1/2d,3d,4d,5d,6d,7d, 9d,10d,1/-
- 1913-18 Seahorse 2/6
- 1924-26 Block Wmk 1/2d,1d,1 1/2d,2d,2 1/2d,3d,4d,6d
- 1935 Silver Jubilee 1 1/2d,2 1/2d
- 1934 Photogravure 1/2d,2 1/2d
- 1937 KGVI 1/2d,1d,1 1/2d,2d

Die III is known only on the 1883 10/-

The items underlined I have not seen but they have been reported elsewhere, in the G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin and in correspondence with other members.

If anyone can add to this list I should be grateful for any information.

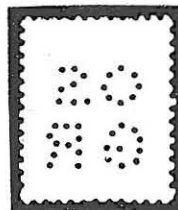
One interesting item in my collection is a 1 1/2d 1935 Jubilee on piece postmarked in Bradford,Yorkshire, some 200 miles north of London !

(Barry's address is 34 Maire St.,Inglewood, NZ)

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MYSTERY OFFICIAL

Derek Pocock reports an unusual perfin combination, illustrated on the right. This OS/GR perfin appears to be the OS used by Commonwealth Depts in NSW and the GR from the State Government Railways. It is found on a 1/2d QV green,Wmk Crown/A,p.12x12 ,dieII. Has anyone seen other copies of this pattern,an explanation or seen other values as such?



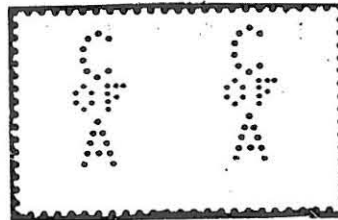
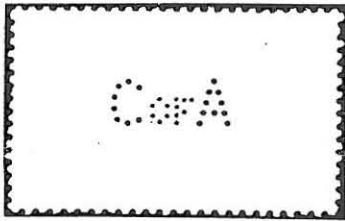
kept
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GO

COFA and C/OF/A PERFINS

British stamps with the COFA and C/OF/A perfins were used by Australian Government officials at Australia House and by other Australian Government representatives stationed in Britain from 1911 to the 1970's. While opinions as to the 'official status' of these perfins differ their study falls within the realm of the military postal historian, the perfin collector of British and Australian perfins and the collector of officials. In consequence while as a perfin these patterns are not all that scarce a premium is often paid for issues, many collectors wishing to obtain more than a single copy of each type.

In general the higher face value stamps are most frequently encountered, but some of the lower face value stamps, commemoratives and more recent issues with these perfins are quite scarce. Copies on EdVIII stamps are reputed to be rare.

Quite a deal of literature has been generated about these perfins, however the story is still far from complete. As many of these items were destined for Australia it is likely that many finds are still to be made in this country. In particular, information about usage, which will come mainly from covers will add to the story.



COFA Pattern

The COFA pattern is first reported used 10th Feb 1911 from Australia House, London (Houston(1966)). It was from a hand operated machine with a single die. It is also reported used by the Agent General for South Australia in 1925 (Page(1952)).

When Australian Naval vessels have been docked in Britain, stamps with this perfin were issued to ships companies. Such use has been reported from HMAS Stuart in 1922 and again in 1933 (Wallace (1947)) and from HMAS Australia in 1935 (Hawke(1947)). An interesting history is known of some of the stamps issued to crew of HMAS Stuart in 1922. The crew were issued with the COFA perfins when the ship visited Britain and the unused remainder were returned to Australia House. It has been suggested that these stamps were the source of an envelope of mint COFA perfins found in 1953 in the lining of a draw at the Navy Office, London. The following KGV values were found

35	x	1/2d
19	x	2d
6	x	3d
1	x	6d

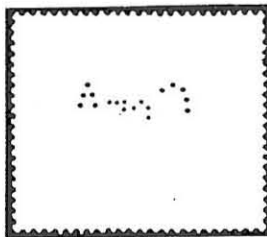
The blocks were later broken up into blocks of 4, pairs and singles, some of which were auctioned. A single copy of the 1/2d value fetched 8/- at the time (Swanston(1990) & Thornton(196?)).

S/L G.T. Muir provided an interesting account relating to the use of these perfins by the 1937 Coronation contingent to England. While it appears likely that the following account relates to the COFA pattern rather than the C/OF/A pattern it is not possible to be absolutely certain as the literature does not always distinguish between the two patterns. However all later writers have assumed this to be related to the COFA type.

Due to the high volume of invitations and replies needed the clerical staff were unable to reply in time so that all members of the contingent had to assist by doing time in the orderly room. As the loss of stamps was so alarming the second in charge, Major Pryor arranged for Australia House to supply a puncturing die. The contingent received the machine after they had moved from London to Pirbright, near Aldershot and as supplies of stamps were purchased they were promptly punctured. On the departure of the Army Section of the contingent there was no need for an orderly room and correspondence Section so that the remaining stamps were offered to the Troops. The remainders were bought by S/L Muir and a Naval Petty Officer (Anon (1947a)).

Regardless of what this incident says about the honesty and popularity of the Army contingent, this incident and the material found at the Navy Office illustrate how mint perfins get into circulation and that their existence does not always indicate theft.

At some time during 1937 the puncturing head was damaged and the base of the machine badly cracked. (One wonders if the Coronation Contingent or transport to and from the same were related to this damage) The machine was replaced by the C/OF/A machine which had been in storage since WW1. However on at least one occasion thereafter it was used with the damage evident. A copy of the 5/- KGVI stamp of 1939 with half the puncture missing has been found.



C/OF/A Pattern

The C/OF/A machine originated about 1916 and was first used by the Australian Military in WWI. Use by Australian Naval personnel (Houston (1966)) and by Australian servicemen in British hospitals is recorded. The servicemen in hospitals were allowed 6 x 1d stamps per week free of charge. Letters were passed to the hospital post office and the stamps affixed by the staff (Anon (1916b)). F.H. Feibes (1947) reported that he had a letter with samples of these perfins attached from the Australian Military Office, 130 Horseferry Rd Westminster, London dated July 10th 1916 reading:

"General Sellheim, C.B. Commandant

Herewith please find specimens of the special stamp issued to AIF Hospitals for use by soldier inmates

C.S. Cunningham

Capt. DAPS A.I.F."

The puncturing head consisted of two dies side by side on a hand operated machine. Around 1918 the use of this machine was suspended and the machine put into storage at Australia House.

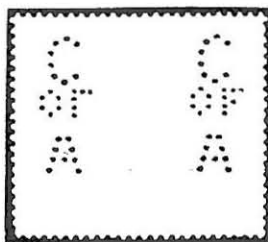
When in 1937 the COFA machine was damaged the C/OF/A machine was once more pressed into service. These perfins were used by the AIF in London during WWII (Houston(1966)), an example is recorded used on a letter posted from AIF HQ London and addressed to a POW at Stalag XXA(5), Germany (Anon(1947b)). Usage continued after the Second World War and they were reported used by the Commonwealth Bank (Anon(1947a)).

A.W. Swanston(1990) provides information about the pattern of usage in the mid 1950's. Normal inland mail posted from Australia House during working hours receives a purple franking stamp, the perfins being mainly used on overseas mail or when the franking machine was unavailable, such as after hours. As such mainly high face value stamps are found perforated, though he was supplied a complete set of the then current QEII definitives 1/2d to £1 plus the 46th Parliamentary Conference Stamp of 1957. No stocks of stamps so punctured were retained but stamps were punctured as needed. When larger amounts of stamps were required sheets of stamps were folded to enable a larger number of stamps to be done quickly. Due to the folding of sheets prior to puncturing all of the possible 8 positions of the puncture are known.

Two missing pin varieties have been reported:

- 1) Left hand die missing the top pin of the A and the crossbar of the F.
- 2) Right hand die missing the top pin of the A.

These varieties are only encountered on KGVII issues and the machine must have been later repaired as they do not occur on QEII issues.

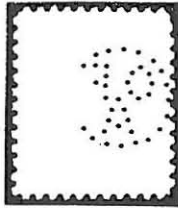


Usage has continued into the early 1970's. The most recent usage has been reported by Nelson(1990) on a cover postmarked Deal, Kent dated 17th July 1970. The envelope contained a letter from the Warden of the Cinque Ports based at Walmer Castle near Deal, one Sir Robert Menzies and bears a 5d Machin. It seems unlikely that this was the most recent usage of this perfin and this perfin on Machin issues is likely to be quite scarce.

Part 2 of this article consists of lists of the issues known with the C/OF/A and COFA perfins and will appear in a future bulletin.

Please send any additional information about usage particularly that obtained from covers or postmarks to the Editor so that the additional information can be published in the Bulletin.

For the record a COFA perfin is found on United States Stamps. However this perfin has no connection to Australia but was used by the City of Akron. This US perfin is illustrated below.



References relating to the COFA and C/OF/A Perfins

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- Andersen D.W. (1987) Australian Official Perfins Priv Pub p.12-15
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- Anon (1925b) Items of Interest Australian Stamp Journal v.15 no.9 Sept 12 1925 p.129
- Anon (1947a) English stamps punctured CofA Australian Stamp Monthly Feb 1947 p.81
- Anon (1947b) English stamps punctured CofA Australian Stamp Monthly May 1947 p.319
- Anon (1949) British stamps punctured CofA Australian Stamp Monthly Dec 1949 p.891
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NEW ZEALAND PERFINs PART 4

by Robert Samuel

S&S SMITH & SMITH LTD, DUNEDIN (1901-1908)



Copies in my collection have been used from -NO01 until circa 1908 (1d "Reserve plate" Universal). I have seen this perfin only on the 1/2d Mt Cook and 1d Universal.

The punch was still in existence until fairly recent times but its present whereabouts is not known. It was at one time in the possession of the Christchurch (NZ) Philatelic Society (Inc) and, for many years, was housed in my study. It was returned to Smith & Smith Ltd for the Company's centenary celebrations but, regretfully, was not returned to the society afterwards. Our "contact" with the Company, Mr J.H. Skinner, subsequently retired as a Director and has since died.

S&SW SMITH & SMITH LTD, WELLINGTON (1904-1909)

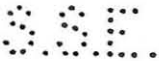


My collection contains examples of this perfin used between 9DE04 and 3LMR09. It is more usually found on the 1/2d Mt Cook and 1d Universal but I have also examples on the 3d First Pictorial, and the 6d and 1s reduced size pictorials.

I have always found this perfin to be fairly scarce and my collection contains only 13 examples. I have, however, seen an envelope which contains about 100 copies of this perfin (I could have taken as many copies as I wanted, but took only one - a rather nice little double perfin). I prefer to rate it as:

Rarity rating: D

SSE SARGOOD SON & EWEN LTD, DUNEDIN (1882-1900)



This perfin appears to have been introduced about 1882. I have two copies on late printings of the 2d First Sideface) and another on the 2s First Sideface (postmarked ??FE8? - probably 1882). The perfin was used until about 1900 (latest date, 11JE00).

The SSE perfin is normally found on stamps of the Second Sideface issue (to 4d value) and the 2d Pembroke Peak of 1900. An interesting item which I have is a 4d Second Sideface with double perforations vertically - and with the variety, double perfin!

Rarity rating: C

UDCo UNIDENTIFIED USER (circa 1898)



I have only ever seen the one example of this perfin, a fiscally used copy of the 2s First Pictorial (London print). Attempts have been made to remove the pen cancellation so the actual date of use is not discernible. Neither the user nor the town of use is known.

Rarity rating: G

USSCo UNION STEAM SHIP COMPANY OF NEW ZEALAND LTD, DUNEDIN (1907-1918)



The earliest date of use in my collection is7 (i.e. 1907); the latest date of use, 24JA18. All these stamps are postmarked Dunedin or Port Chalmers.

As from 5 January 1922 the Head Office of the company was transferred to Wellington and the punch was probably sent from Dunedin to Wellington at this time. No examples of this perfin, used from Wellington, are known to me.

The punch is still in existence. It perforated eight stamps at once, in two rows of four. It was lent to the organisers of the Pan Pacific Philatelic Exhibition (PANPEX 77) in 1977 and, at an evening meeting where I spoke on the subject of New Zealand perfins, I perforated numerous 1c stamps USSCo, these being sold at 10c each for exhibition funds. Some of these stamps were later affixed to covers by collectors, and posted through the exhibition post office. But I was so busy I failed to obtain any for myself!

I have a "problem" USSCo perfin in my collection. This is a 1d Universal on Basted Mills paper, Perf 11x14. This particular printing was on issue about 1901-1902, much earlier than we would expect for a USSCo perfin. However, the machine postmark is of a type which was not introduced until 1905, and was in use until about 1907. The perfin shows a missing pin. Missing holes are associated with the early USSCo perfins; the punch still held by the Company shows no sign of damage to any of the letters. The item, then, is not a modern "per favour" item. I can only conclude that, when the punch was first obtained the Union Steam Ship Company perforated all the stamps it had on hand, and that these included the 1d on Basted Mills paper. Stamps from this early and obsolete printing may have been in the Company's possession (lost, perhaps, in the back of a stamp book, or drawer) since the time they were first issued.

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Club Financial statement as at 30/6/91 prepared by Peter Wood

Bank Credit 30/6/90	780.99	Bulletin Jul 90	147.00
Subscriptions	1106.92	Bulletin Oct 90	196.50
Circuit Book surplus NZ	20.00	Bulletin Jan 91	177.20
Backissues of Bulletin	110.00	Bulletin Apr 91	177.17
Interest	81.93	Bank Charges	6.98
		Bank Bal 30/6/91	1394.99
	<u>2099.84</u>		<u>2099.84</u>

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FAREWELL TO J.SLOPER & Co.LTD.

Robert Samuel

The names of Joseph Sloper and the company bearing his name, J. Sloper & Co. Ltd, are almost synonymous with British perfin Collecting. It was Sloper who first invented a punch capable of perforating stamps (or anything for that matter) with perforated words, numbers, or initials, and his business - which involved both the manufacture of punches (which I believe are called "validators") and the perforation of stamps on a commission basis - has survived until this year. It was with a sense of regret that I learned that J. sloper & Co. Ltd is no more. The business has been sold to a company called Checkpoint Security Services Ltd (6 Southview Park, Marsack Street, Caversham, Reading, UK RG4 0AF). A letter from that company states, "..... J. Sloper & Sons (sic) has unfortunately ceased to trade under that name. Since February this year the original office at Tower Works has been in the process of closing down. Checkpoint are now dealing with validators and stamps."