#### SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

April 1992



#### Editorial

Now that 'Commercial Perfins of Australia' has been published we can expect interest in Australian perfins to grow and many hitherto unsighted items to surface. There are still large amounts of perfins in collections and accumulations to be 'discovered' and much further research to be done. Further patterns and user identities will be found. However only if collectors report their finds will we all get an accurate idea of what else exists. In the long run this information will be of benefit to the contributors of this information particularly if the scarcity of the newly reported items can be gauged. Even if you only have one new pattern or identity to report please do so as it is possible that your find is the only copy so far found. John Grant and John Mathews will be glad to receive any additional reports or information.

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

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#### BACKISSUES

Backissues of the bulletin are available from the Secretary at A\$3-00 per issue postpaid within Australia or A\$3-50 per issue postpaid overseas airmail outside of Australia

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the 1992/1993 financial year are due on 1st July 1992. Please send your payment to Peter Wood by this date.

The annual subscription remains unchanged at A\$10-00. However due to increases in postage costs the additional charge for airmail postage of the bulletin to non NZ/Australian addresses has had to be increased to A\$5-00. The amounts therefore payable are:

Members in Australia and New Zealand A\$10-00
Members in Europe/North America A\$15-00 including airmail postage of bulletin

Non Australian members may find it easier and cheaper to send Australian banknotes as no bank charges are payable on receipt.

Cheques/Moneyorders/Bank drafts should be made out to the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia and should be in Australian dollars (Foreign currency payments attract a commission from the receiving bank of at least \$4-00 so if paying in a foreign currency please add sufficient to cover this charge)

Please send all payments to Capt P Wood
11 Inglis St.
Mornington, Vic 3931
AUSTRALIA

Receipts for payments will be sent out with the bulletin to save postage.

BRISBANE STAMP SHOW

John Mathews is planning to attend the Brisbane Stamp Show, 4th to 8th June 1992 and would be interested to hear if any members would like to have an informal get-together. If so a local volunteer to to tee up a venue would be a help. Please contact John if you would be interested in such a meeting (John Mathews 21 McConnel Cres Kambah, ACT 2902)

7th NATIONAL PHILATELIC CONVENTION-AWARDS

Philatelic Literature Section-State level

-SILVER for the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin

-GOLD for "Commercial Perfins of Australia" by John Grant and John Mathews

This book also won the ACT Philatelic Council prize for the best entry in all classes at State Level, and "The stamp Collector" prize for the best Philatelic Literature entry.

## Social Philately-National level

-VERMEIL for Jill & John Grant's display of Commercial Perfins of Australia

7th Nat Phil Convention cont.

As can been seen perfin exhibits can and do win awards.

Members Bob Turner and Ken Moore were awarded Bronze and Silver respectively for non-perfin displays in the Traditional Philately-State Level.

Congratulations to all of the exhibitors.

TATTERSALS SECURITY UNDERPRINTS

Colin Salt provided a copy of an interesting article in the WestEnd Philatelist July/August 1956, "Additional notes on the Pictorial Issues of Tasmania and the Perforations A,OS and T" by Dr K Pennucuick.

This article reproduces a letter from Geo Adams addressed to Mr L C Viney of Launceston dated 15th November 1950 as follows:

15 November, 1950 Hobart

Mr L C Viney, Launceston,

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of the 8th inst., we have to state that, prior to approximately 1918, stamps used in this office were perforated with the letter "A" for security reasons, and for some time after on the back of the stamps the word "Tattersall" was printed, and this procedure has now been discontinued.

Yours faithfully Tattersall,

GEO. ADAMS

(This information is at odds with usage reported from the middle 1950s. Does anybody have copies of these Tattersalls underprints from the 50s or later? See the article in SPPB April 91 for a summary of reported information-Ed)

A Query

Jac M.V.d. Hoorn from the Netherlands seeks information about the perfin on the right. He asks " Is this perfin from a machine which mechanically perfinned one definitive postage stamp at a time, separated it from the roll, moistened and finally affixed it to the postal item?

Are there in Australia more of this type of

Are there in Australia more of this type of perfin ? What is the name of this machine ?"



(J.M. v.d. Hoorn Roerstraat 69 boven, 1972 VL Ijmuiden, Netherlands

#### MEETINGS REPORTS

Report on Meeting of the PCNZA held on 27th October 1991 at Shorex, Glenfield, North Shore, Auckland NZ from Enid Honiss

The following members and interested persons attended:
Bruce Alexandre, Robert Samuel, Bryan Ogier, Barry Clarke,
Jeanne Deverall, Enid Honiss, John Lane, Una McKewan, Neal Hart
J Wurr, Harold Waite, Dando Francis, Vivienne Keohane, Dick
Armstrong, Gordon Passau, Lindsay Armstrong, Hank Smits and Alby
Rich, all from New Zealand.

Barry Clarke chaired the meeting. Harold Waite reported on his visit to Norpex and gave members a resume of the PCNZA meeting held there.

Brief discussion took place on the desirability of the new Stirlings catalogue which has NZ perfins listed and the possibility of whether the NZ group wanted to see a catalogue of NZ perfins, and if so, who would write it, who would pay for it and who would be responsible for the input. It was suggested that NZ Post Trust may be able to provide some financial assistance, but discussion ended with no decision being made.

Enid Honiss had volunteered to prepare a survey form for NZ perfins to be sent to all members via the bulletin and also to be distributed to local stamp clubs.

Barry Clarke, the circuit convenor, reported that 8 circuits had been successfully completed making a profit of \$250.

Enid Honiss reminded members that she was still willing to remit membership fees to the treasurer in bulk at NZ\$15-00 a head for those who paid before the due date, but only 4 members had availed themselves of the opportunity.

The meeting ended with a thankyou to Barry Clarke for organising the meeting and to the Zeapex Trust for donating the \$60-00 for the hire of the room. Members then settled back to hear what most of them had really come for --- a talk by Robert Samuel on the Vacuum Oil Company perfins of New Zealand. This was a truly wonderful talk with endless unique examples of the fascinating perfins. Much of Roberts material had never been shown before. We were indeed priviledged to have a preview and the opportunity to listen to this perfin expert.

## Report of Members of the PCNZA at Canberra, 14th March 1992

from John Mathews

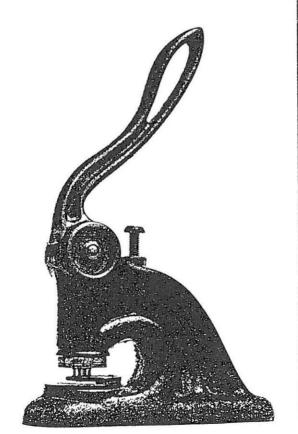
A meeting of members of the PCNZA was held at 11-30am Saturday 14th March 1992 at the 7th National Philatelic Convention. Although representatives of 4 States-NSW, Vic, WA & ACT - were present, the total number of financial members present fell short of a quorum as defined in the Clubs Constitution, so the meeting became an "informal" one. Nevertheless, discussions were of interest and relevant points are reported here for other members. a) Reciprocal arrangements with the GB and USA perfin Societies have now been put in place, and Bulletins/Journals will be exchanged

b) Our Bulletin was entered in the Canberra Convention (Philatelic

NPC Report cont.

Literature Section) and we will now seek an APF grant for its publication costs. See also the report on Convention Awards c) With the sale of Slopers, other quotes for a Club perforator have been sought. For the pattern voted by the Club meeting at Norpex 91, these quotes have been approx \$2,000 from each of the two suppliers. The council of the PCNZA will pursue other quotes. d) All accounts from the 1987 Postal Auction no.3 have now been settled to the satisfaction of all vendors and purchasers. e) The Treasurer reported that the Club financial position was very healthy, with a balance in the bank of approximately \$1600. Council members had conferred and agreed that subscriptions should therefore remain at their present level for the 1992/3 year. We currently have 98 financial members, there being 6 new members in the last 6 months and 7 subscriptions not renewed. f) We were fortunate to have on display the perforator used by Burns, Philp and Co. Ltd in their Brisbane Office. It was loaned by the Archives of Business and Labour at the Australian National University in Canberra, where it was deposited by the company in October 1991 among a large quantity of company records. (see illustration below)

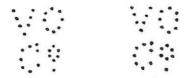
Profile view of the Burns Philp and Co. Ltd. perforator (BP.3) used in the Brisbane office. (An undated label on it read "sent down from the Brisbane office.")



(photo by Bob Cooper, ANU Photo Services)

#### VO/Co

Two punches having the letters VO/Co in two lines were supplied, one to the Dundedin office and the other, probably, to the Auckland Office. The letter "o" in "Co" is small and there is a full-stop below this letter. The letter "c" has an upper serif.



It is possible to distinguish between the two perfins. In the Dunedin punch (left hand illustration) the "o" of "Co" is more or less oval; in the Auckland punch (right hand illustration) the letter is circular.

#### The Dunedin Punch



A punch with the letters in two lines was supplied to the Dunedin Office, probably about 1913. The earliest date I have recorded for this perfin is 24AP15 but it is found on the 1/2d King Edward VII (which was superceded by the 1/2d King George V in 1913), hence my suggestion of the earlier date of introduction.

From the time of its first introduction the upper hole in the left leg of the "V" was faulty. Early examples may show a faint indentation or even a weakly punched hole. I have other stamps, though, which show the hole perfectly perforated, including a pair of the 1 1/2d Victory with one stamp having the first hole in the "V" completely missing, and the other stamp with the letter perfectly perforated. It was possibly the result of a shortened or broken pin or, possibly, developed as a result of the pin being gradually pushed up into its socket.



Some copies of this perfin can be found with either the lower left hole of the large "O" missing, or with the first hole of the "C"(i.e. the hole just below the serif) missing. Occasionally these two missing holes are found on the one stamp. These variations were not constant and are probably the result of the pins which perforated these holes being fractionally shorter than surrounding pins and failing to perforate when two many stamps were perforated at the one time.

Examples of the Dunedin VO/Co perfin are quite common, particularly in the period up until about 1928. There is a period after this date when the perfin becomes scarce, then it becomes reasonably common again. I have only three examples of this perfin on stamps of the 1935 Pictorial issue and one on a 1d 1940 Centennial, but a good number of copies on the 1d King George VI and 1d 1946 Peace. It is probable that perforated stamps were used at first only at Dunedin. Later when branches were opened in other Otago and

The Dunedin Punch cont.

Southland towns and cities, stamps would have been supplied to these offices. It was the practice also of the company to supply its branch offices with envelopes, already stamped. I have a window envelope bearing the uncancelled 1d Peace stamp perforated with the Dunedin VO/Co perfin.

I have recorded the Dunedin VO/Co perfin used from Dunedin between 1915 (but probably earlier) and 1928. I have later stamps postmarked Invercargill(circa 1941 and later), Gore (22AP47 - the latest recorded date of use), and .....RU (probably Oamaru, circa 1946).

The Dunedin perfin is found mainly on low value stamps. The only stamp higher than a 2d denomination in my collection is an example of the 6d 1935 Pictorial.

## The Auckland Punch

Although I refer to this as the Auckland punch, there is no guarantee that it was held at Auckland. However, most stamps bearing this perfin are found with postmarks of towns and cities in the upper half of the North Island and it is probably fair to conclude that this punch was held at Auckland and that, like the Dunedin office, it supplied stamps or stamped envelopes to neighbouring branch offices.

In the case of the Auckland punch the letter "V" is always complete. As mentioned above the "o" of "Co" is circular.

While I have found the Dunedin perfins extremely common, I have only about 20 examples of the Auckland perfin. I thought I had more, but close examination of my earlier examples revealed that these were in fact from the Dunedin punch, with the oval "o" of "Co".

It is possible that before being sent to Auckland the punch was held, for a short time, at the Wellington Office. The earliest examples which I have are postmarked Gisborne in 1923, the earliest of these being postmarked ?JA23. Gisborne appears to have received its stamp supplies from Wellington and the usage of this perfin at Gisborne would suggest that the punch may have been held at Wellington at this time.

I also have copies of this perfin used from Auckland (3SP35), Rotorua (----36), Whangarei (circa 1946), and Frankton Junction Railway (7MR46). This last item is the latest usage I have recorded for this perfin. I have other examples on the 1d Dominion(mint) and on stamps of the King George V, 1935 Pictorial, 1940 Centennial and King George VI issues but these do no show the place of use. This perfin is also known on the 1d+1d Health stamp of 1929.

A possible reason for the scarcity of this perfin is that the Auckland office, like the Wellington Office, introduced a franking machine (numbered AUCKLAND 94) sometime prior to about 1920. So the Auckland punch would have been mainly used to perforate stamps for the smaller branch offices, not for the Auckland Office itself.

#### VOCo

The final pattern used by the Vacuum Oil Company again had the letters in one line, but the "o" of "Co" comprised only four holes and there was no stop below this letter.



Two similar punches were introduced, one at Wellington, the other at Christchurch. There are minor differences between these two punches. In the Wellington perfin (illustrated at the left) the right hand side of the large "O" is disinctly flattened, this feature no being evident on the Christchurch perfin (illustrated on the right). Again we find an interesting series of sub-types.

#### The Wellington punch

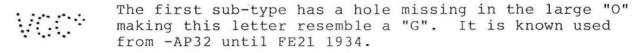
The chronology of this punch would appear to be:

Normal perfin	1923-1932
With hole missing in O (VGCo)	1932-1934
Normal perfin (repair)	1934-1936
With first hole missing in V	1938-1939
	1940-1942 Not used
With first hole missing in V	1943-1947

In my 1968 book I record an example of the Wellington perfin used at Gisborne in april 1923. his stamp is not in my collection. The earliest example that I have is a 1/2d King George V on Jones paper. This would have been used circa 1925. The perfin, without any missing holes was used until about 1932, the sub-type with a holes missing in the "O" occurring during 1932-1934.

The second period of use of the normal punch is represented in my collection by stamps used from SP6 1934 until circa 1936(1/2d commerce) Stamps from the Wellington punch(with unbroken letters) are known used at: Wellington, Taihape, Gisborne, Port Ahuriri and Westport.

#### The Wellington sub-types



I have an interesting series of covers sent from the Taihape office during the years 1931-1936. A cover dated FE21 1934 bears a stamp with the "VGCo" perfin. The next cover in the series bears a normal unperforated stamp, postmarked MR16 1934. It is suggested that the Wellington punch was withdrawn from use about this time and sent away for repairs, normal stamps being used while these repairs were being carried out. The punch was brought back into use during 1934, a cover in my collection dated SP6 1934 showing the normal perfin (with complete letters) in use once again.

I have recorded this sub-type used at Wellington, Gisborne and Taihape.



The second sub-type of the Wellington punch has the first hole in the letter "V" omitted. This sub-type appears to have been first used during 1938-1939, examples used from 22DE38 until 21/3/39(fiscal usage) being held in my collection.

The Wellington punch does not appear to have been used again until about 1943. Its second period of use is illustrated in my collection by stamps used from circa 1943 (1943 Health stamps) until 20FE47.

I have recorded copies of this sub-type used at Wellington, Masterton, Nelson, Levin, Woodville, Taihape, Port Ahuriri, Waipukurau, Napier, Petone and Dannevirke.

This sub-type is quite common, at least from its second period of use. One unusual item in my collection is a used block of six of the 3d Peace stamp of 1946, one stamp showing the "tailplane" retouch.

Both the Wellington subtypes appear to have been of an accidental nature.

## The Christchurch punch

The chronology of this perfin would appear to be:

Normal perfin 1929-1940 Series of "missing hole" varieties 1940-1942 Normal perfin 1943-1947

It seems that, during the period 1940-1946 the Christchurch office took over the function of supplying stamps not only to branch offices in the more northern part of the South Island, but also to offices in the lower part of the North Island. This may have been occasioned by wartime staff shortages or may have been the result of diversifying some of the head office functions as a strategic measure during the period of the "Japanese scare". This would account for the apparent withdrawal of the Wellington punch during the period 1940-1942, and the North Island use of the Christchurch punch during that time. This, however, is still only a theory and it will be necessary to examine considerably more stamps showing both the name of the office and the date before any firm conclusions can be reached. Unfortunately, most stamps used during this period were cancelled with machine cancellations and dated copies, or even copies showing the name of the office are not common.

I have copies of the Christchurch perfin (with unbroken letters) used from 14SP29 until AP22 1940, and again from 1943 until 27/6/47 (fiscal use). This latter stamp incidentally is the latest usage I have for any VOCo perfin and as it appears on a 2d King George VI (issued 1947) it is clear that the perfin was still being used, at Christchurch at least, until mid-1947.

The Christchurch perfin is known used at: Christchurch, Timaru, Greymouth, New Plymouth, Masterton, Palmerston North, Ashburton and Lyttelton.

#### The Christchurch Subtypes

The sub-types of the Christchurch punch occur in a developing series:

Christchurch sub-types cont.



Final hole of the "C" missing. I have recorded this used from OC23 1940 until 13MR41, at Greymouth, Nelson Wanganui and Taihape.



As before, but also missing the lower hole of the "V". Known used from 27DE40 until -FE41 at Greymouth, Dunedin and Waipukurau.



As before, but also missing the lower right hole of the "O". I have seen this sub-type used circa 1941 (1d on 1/2d King George VI) but the town of use does not show.



As before, but also missing two holes in the "o" of "Co". I have recorded this sub-type used in ---42, and have seen copies postmarked Hastings and Gisborne.



As before, but also missing two upper left holes on the "V". My only copies of this perfin are on the 2d 1935 Pictorial (late printing) and neither the date nor the town of use are evident from the postmarks.

It is possible that the Christchurch sub-types were of a deliberate nature, perhaps a system similar to that which seems to have been used during 1907-1910 by which a pin or pins were removed from the perforating head to identify individual batches of stamps. Whether this was the case, or whether the varieties simply result from progressive damage to the punch, may never be known.

## AND A FOOTNOTE

It was while on a visit to Wellington many years ago that I was introduced to a stamp collector who, at one time, had worked in the mail room of the Vacuum Oil Company. He told me he had a box of stamps at home which contained "a few" VOCo perfins. He invited me around and showed me his box. It was a very big box and was filled with an array of stamps, all off paper and many of these being VOCo perfins used between about 1939 until 1947. These had come from mail sent to Head office by various branches, mostly from the lower part of the North Island and the upper part of the South Island. On reflection, though, I acquired few, if any, stamps from the period 1940-1942. Perhaps during this period Christchurch was acting as the Company's Head Office and most of the mail was being sent there. This is just a thought.

I managed to secure quite a few stamps, including examples of the 1943 and 1944 Health stamps, some lovely blocks and strips of the 1946 Peace stamps, and some blocks and strips of the 1935 Pictorial stamps-including two strips of the 3d value with one stamp in each strip having the perfin omitted. However, the gentleman, perhaps thinking that if I was so enthusiastic, his stamps must be worth a fortune, suddenly "grew cold" on the deal. I left with my treasues, but regretting that I could not have purchased more than I had. The stamps may still exist and, if they ever come onto the market, they will provide collectors with endless pleasure and, perhaps answer a few of our questions.

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