



NEW MEMBERS

- 121 B Giddins, Locksley Park, Old North Road, Lochinvar NSW 2321 AUST.
- 122 J Wibier, PO Box 3287, 4700 GG Roosendaal NETHERLANDS
- 123 D Ditterich, RMB7715 Main Creek Rd., Main Ridge VIC 3928 AUST.
- 124 D Cowan, 80 Fortsecue Ave, Seaford VIC 3198 AUST.
- 125 V Keehane, 34 Waverly Ave, Glenfield Auckland 10 NEW ZEALAND

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INFORMAL MEETING AT NORPEX (NZ)

Barry Clarke has organised a venue for an informal meeting at Norpex (Alexander Park Raceway Auckland NZ) on Sunday August 30th from 12-30 to 1-30pm. Members and other interested collectors are invited to meet each other and take the opportunity to discuss perfin related matters.

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THE PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS AT 30th June 1992

Bank balance 30.6.91	\$1394.99	Preparation and dispatch of 4 Bulletins	\$819.10
Subscriptions (incl \$370 paid in advance)	\$1283.76	Bank charges & tax	\$5.46
Bank Interest	\$46.71	Entry fees for Bulletin in two Philatelic Exhibitions	\$40.00
Gifts & Donations	\$16.00	Bank Balance 30.6.92	\$1672.64
	<u>\$2763.96</u>		<u>\$2763.96</u>

Peter Wood  
Treasurer

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A NEW USER IDENTITY TIES TOGETHER TWO LOOSE ENDS      John Mathews

Frustratingly, when "Commercial Perfins of Australia" went to the printers, there were many identities of users which had not been established. Such identification is particularly difficult when there is no information as to the date and place of use of the perfin. On the other hand, following searches through Archives holdings of Post Office Correspondence Registers there were applications to perforate stamps for which no corresponding perfin was known.

So it was particularly pleasing recently to be able to connect a perfin, about which little had been known, to one such application and consequently infer the identity of the user. The missing link was provided by one of our overseas members !

Amongst a page of date and usage location information, Mr Jon Johnson of Canada indicated that PRT.1 was known on a Victorian Stamp Duty issue (ASC68) with a fiscal cancellation which included the date 24/7/1888. The combination of "Victoria" and "1888" rang bells about one of the applications to perforate stamps for which no user firm had been identified. From the Archive records in Victoria, on 5th March 1888 a Mr W.H. Roberts had made "application for permission to perforate with the initials of his firm, all stamps purchased by them." The Sands' Victoria Directory for 1888/89 had been consulted and two gentlemen of that name had been listed- one a tradesman, the other a Member of the Legislative Council of Victoria. Initially, neither had been deemed able to be associated with a firm, but with hindsight the inclusion of "Mr" in the Archives entry was significant (other individuals were usually referred to be initial and surname only).

Now with the coincidence of dates I wondered whether "Roberts" was the "R" of "PRT", and so I looked at Directories either side of 1888/89. In the 1884/85 Directory, there is an entry "Pentland and Roberts(Wm.H), solicitors, 90 Little Collins St West, Melbourne" -not much doubt as to which of the two W.H. Roberts was the solicitor. In the 1891/92 Directory the firm is shown as "Pentland, Roberts & Thompson,Solicitors &c." at 467 Little Collins Street.

All of the additional information sent to us is greatly appreciated, and this example shows just how much can be learnt from seemly straightforward usage details.

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PS Since the above article was submitted to the Editor, I have received a photocopy of the stamp with the PRT.1 perfin. The initials in the pen cancel are clearly "WHR"!



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NEW ZEALAND PERFINs PART 7 R Samuel

WmCA Unidentified User, Auckland (1888)



One stamp, a 2d Second Sidefave, is known with this perfin. It is postmarked AUCKLAND ?????88. The user of this perfin is unknown.

W&T/LD Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd, Wellington (1902-1906)



This perfin was authorised for use at Wellington Christchurch and Dunedin, this authority being contained in the Post Office"Official Circular" dated 1 July 1902. However, it appears to have only been used at Wellington; the Christchurch Office perforating its stamps with the letters "WT" (see below) and no perfins being known used at the Dunedin Office.

The W&T/LD perfin is known used from about 1902 until circa 1906 (1d Royle plate 1d Universal). The Wellington Office was destroyed by fire in October 1906 and the punch was certainly lost at this time. The perfin is found on the 1/2d Mt Cook, 1d Universal and higher values of the first pictorial issue. I also have a copy on the 8d Second Sideface with this perfin.

W&T/W      Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd, Wellington (1907-1935)



This pattern was first used by the Wellington Office as a replacement for the W&T/LD perfin. It is known used from 1907 until 1935 and ranks as one of New Zealand's commonest perfins. It is found on the 1/2d Mt Cook and 1d Universal, various values of the First Pictorial issue, the King Edward VII and King George V stamps, the 1920 Victory stamps, and on various values of the 1935 Pictorial issues.

My collection contains a plain window envelope, franked with a 1/2d 1935 Pictorial and postmarked 1 May 1935 - the first day of issue of this stamp. Whitcombe & Tombs must have obtained sheets of this stamp on 1 May 1935, perforated them, and used them on a mailout, all on the same day.

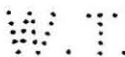
W.T      Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd, Christchurch (1890-1916)



Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd, Christchurch, used two different "WT" punches. The first of these had the letters 7mm in height and had no stop after the letter "T". This perfin appears to have been used on three separate occasions:

- (a) July 1890 until April 1894
- (b) December 1901
- (c) December 1908 until circa 1911

The perfin is found on various values of the Second Sideface issue and on certain Queen Victoria high values ( I have seen the 2/6 and 3/- "Long Type" Queen Victoria stamps with this perfin) from the first period of use. The 1901 usage of the perfin appears to have been fairly short-lived. I have a fiscally used 3d First Pictorial (unwatermarked paper, perf 11) which could have been used about this time. Dr John Martin, of Christchurch, has shown me a cut-out from a 1d postcard, postmarked 18DE01. To date these are the only two examples of this perfin recorded from this second period of use. The third period of use is represented by the 1/2d Mt Cook, 1d Universal, the 1d Dominion, and 1/2d King Edward VII.



The second "WT" perfin appears to have been a double punch. The letters were 5mm in height and in its earliest state there were full stops after both letters. Progressive damage occurred to the lower die. The stop after the letter "W" disappeared fairly early in its life; later several holes disappeared from the "W".



This perfin too appears to have been usee on more than one occasion:

- (a) 1895 until 12 August 1907
- (b) October 1912 until circa 1916

Some attempt seems to have been made to repair the damage to this perfin prior to its reintroduction in 1912. Copies from the second period of use may show a very weak stop after the letter "W", and, while the upper left hole in this perfin is still missing, the other damage has been repaired.

The "WT" perfin is of interest in that it is the only perfin known to have been used in New Zealand for the perforation of items of postal stationery. The 1d red brown Queen Victoria postcard is known perforated with the first "WT" perfin, and I have already mentioned a cut-out of a 1d brown postcard with this perfin used in 1901. My collection contains a 1d blue Queen Victoria postcard perforated with the second "WT" perfin (used in May 1899) and I have an unconfirmed report of a 1d green Queen Victoria postcard (first issued in 1900) perforated, probably, with the same perfin.

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Auction Watch

New Zealand Stamp Auctions (Auckland City Stamps) Postal Bid Sale no.127 20th July 1992

Lot no. 515 Queensland 1906 Postcard to NZ with 1d orange perfin "TCB&Co" (illegal on private mail!) Brisbane cancel (1) est NZ\$30

Rodney A Perry Public Stamp Auction 7th July 1992

Lot no.192 Australia-Kangaroo 1915-28 Third Watermark 10/- grey and pink perf OS/NSW MUH est A\$800/1000

Lot no.208 Australia-KGV issues 1914-24 Single watermark 1d red die II perf OS/NSW MUH est A\$250/300

Lot no.280 1931-36 KGV CofA Watermark 3d blue perf OS/NSW block of four (centered right) without 'NSW' est A4200/250

Elcee Stamps Postal Bid Sale no.8 28th February 1992

(This postal bid sale of mainly Australian Roos & KGV issues contained numerous official perfins including many KGV issues with inverted watermarks and varieties. A few lots only are listed)

Lot no.103 Kangaroos-Small Multiple wmk. 2/- maroon perf W/A G/C Scarce used est \$80

Lot no.123 King George V-Single watermark 1/2d orange perf OS puncture inverted V/Rare Mint est\$120

Lot no.241 King George V- 5d chestnut SL perf OS (11 holes in S Type 3.1) over NSW -Very rare (w/var IL13 TRC) used est \$220

Lot no.366 6d Large Kooka perf OS (12 holes in S) Rare Mint est\$65

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

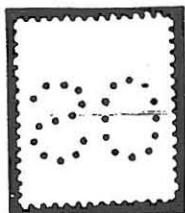
Subscriptions for the 1992/1993 financial year were due on 1st July 1992. If you have not paid please send your payment to Peter Wood soon. A\$10-00 for Australian/NZ members and A\$15-00 for members elsewhere.



THE LARGE QUEENSLAND "OS"

David Andersen

Quite a number of the Australian States Officials are quite scarce. Over the next few issues of the Bulletin some of these patterns will be discussed. The first pattern to be considered is the large Queensland "OS".



The larger Queensland "OS" (illustrated above) has 12 holes in the "O" and 13 in the "S" and the letters are much wider than those found on the smaller "OS" most often found on Queensland stamps.

This pattern was introduced in August 1905 according to Norm Sheppard (Australasian Informer May 1966 p.51). However apart from the assumption that this pattern was only in use for a few months as it was replaced by the smaller "OS" in October 1905, little is known about this pattern.

In the Australian Philatelist (October 1907 p.17) in an article entitled Australian Punctured Officials by N Horwood the following note appears:

"Mr Horwood has the 9d with both types of Queensland (large and small) on V over Crown paper".

Does this note refer to the larger Queensland OS perfin ?

The first positive mention that I can find is in a followup article in the Australian Philatelist January 1908 p.65. Additional items are listed:

	Queensland
Large OS	1d,2d,3d,4d and 6d
" "	with S reversed 2d.

Mention of the larger Queensland "OS" is made by Robson Lowe in his Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps. v.4 The Empire in Australasia 1962 p.118 when discussing the Queensland 1897-1907 issues (SG231-254). The following note appears:

"Official Stamps: All values with "OS" perforated initials in two sizes, the earlier (and comparatively scarcer) with letters 11x8mm and the later with letters 10x6mm." The implication of this note is that all of the issues SG231-254 are found with the large Queensland "OS". This however does appear unlikely as some of these stamps were issued in 1906,1907 and 1908.

This pattern would appear to be quite scarce considering that Greg Laidler, H Teunis and Ken Moore in their article "Official Punctures of the Early Commonwealth Period on Postage Stamps" ACCNSW Bulletin April 1985 p.47 indicate that they had not seen a copy.

Unfortunately none of the references found provide enough detail to assign SG numbers to the issues reported.

I have seen only one copy of the 1d (SG232) and of the 2d(SG234) issues and have been advised by a competent authority of the existence of the 3d and 6d values. Thus so far I can confirm the following:

Queensland

- SG 232 1d orange
- SG 234 2d blue
- SG 240/241 3d brown
- SG 249/250 6d green

In addition the following reports are probably likely to exist:

- SG 244/245 4d yellow
- SG 234/235 2d blue "OS" inverted

The items listed are the same as those recorded in 1908!

As to scarcity I have not seen copies of the large Queensland "OS" available for sale with the exception of the single copies of the 1d and 2d values mentioned above. The vendor stated that at least 150,000 to 200,000 Queensland stamps had been checked for postmarks and that only 3-4 of the 1d and 2d issues were found and none of the other values.

Does anyone have other issues with this perfin ? Do any copies have dated postmarks ? Are there any other references to this material ? Please contact the editor with any additional information you have.

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"A.G. 1831"

John Mathews

While Dr D. Pocock's recent article (SPPB January 92 ,page 5) was still fresh in my mind, I recently acquired another example of the perfin "A.G./1831". This one, however, is different to that shown by Dr Pocock, being smaller in size and without the serifs on the letters, but with a similar style of numerals. This example is on an Austrian stamp SG252, the 15 Heller red value of the 1916 set. So it would seem that this firm or organisation existed at least during the period 1886 to 1916 and, if the date 1831 refers to its beginning, for a very long period indeed. Perhaps a reader with Austro-Hungarian connections may be able to help provide an identity for it.



(According to Austria Perfins compiled by John Nussbickel 1991, the A.G./1831 patterns were used by Assicurazioni Generale AG at Wien and Prag , an insurance company -Editor)

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PUBLICITY

Perfins and the PCNZA recently received a mention in the Beginners Start Here column of Stamp News July 1992. A more substantial article "Australian Commercial Perfins: an Introduction " by John Grant also appeared in The Stamp Collector June 1992 p.38-39. With such publicity collectors attitudes to perfins may alter.

This show was held in the John Reid Pavilion in the Exhibition Grounds from 4th to 8th June 1992. There were 45 trading stalls (dealers, Australia Post and other Postal Administrations) and approximately 900 frames of displayed material, and it took almost all of the 5 days of the exhibition to do justice to all of it.

In the middle of the show (in both time and location), members of the PCNZA gathered for a meeting which was a relaxed informal one owing to the fact that there was not a quorum of financial members. Four Queensland members and members from NZ, NSW and ACT were able to meet each other, some for the first time. Various aspects of perfin collecting were discussed and some members had brought parts of their collections for viewing. Some results of a detailed study of the VG punctures were shown.

The Secretary had also had a fruitful "circumnavigation" (on foot) of the city visiting surviving companies which were known perfin users. This resulted in him being able to show to the meeting two "seal presses" which were used to impress company seals into official documents. One of these devices had obviously come out of the same mould as the Burns, Philp & Co. Ltd perforator (used in their Brisbane office) which was described in the April 1992 issue of the Bulletin !

On business matters, the Secretary told those present that about 10 new members had joined since the beginning of 1992 including some from overseas. The Secretary had also received a quote for the manufacture of a perforator from C.G. Roeszler & Son of Melbourne. Unfortunately, the price of about \$1500 was well above the limit imposed by the Club meeting at Norpex '91.

Awards gained by perfin-related exhibits were as follows:

- a) Judith Sidaway, "Australian Official Perfins" - SILVER
- b) Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia "South Pacific Perfin Bulletin" - SILVER-BRONZE
- c) John Grant and John Mathews, "Commercial Perfins of Australia" - VERMEIL with FELICITATIONS

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PERFINS NIGHT at NOBLE PARK STAMP CLUB

Alan Bennett

We held a "Perfins Night" at Noble Park Stamp Club on 27th April 1992.

We had 32 interested collectors and 4 juniors turn up to what was a very interesting night, even though the weather was against us. It was wet windy and cold but those who did attend had a good night.

We thank John Grant and John Mathews for coming down and putting on an excellent showing of how to display a perfin collection.

The two Johns also spoke about their book and how it was put together including the work that others had done in the research etc.. They also answered questions asked of them by all.

Those who were unable to attend missed meeting two people who really enjoy what they do and are great ambassadors for the PCNZA.



MULTIPLE-DIE PERFORATORS

by J Mathews

(All reference numbers used in this article are taken from "Commercial Perfins of Australia" by J. Grant and J. Mathews)

Introduction

The process of perforating stamps must have been a slow one, with only a few thicknesses of stamps being able to be placed under the slender pins. It is therefore understandable that companies with relatively large usage of stamps would look to multiple-die perforators to speed up this process, although none quite to the extent of the "VG" and NSW State Government perforators. This article looks at those commercial perforators known, or suspected, to have been multiple-die devices.

Existing perforators

Two surviving perforators are multiple-die devices. The David Jones Ltd (DJLTD.1) perforator has two rows of three dies in each row. The row offset is 24.0 mm and the horizontal offset of the dies is 20.5 mm, and these correspond to the dimensions of the KGV1 definitives and Zoological series in use in 1949 when this perforator was first used. Without the use of elaborate equipment for making comparisons, these six dies appear indistinguishable from each other. This device was manufactured by J. Sloper & Co Ltd.

The D. & J. Fowler perforator (DJF.1) used in West Australia has two rows of two dies each. The vertical and horizontal offsets are 22.0 mm and 25.0 mm respectively, corresponding to the dimensions of the WA State stamps in use in 1911 when this perforator was first used. All four dies of this device are relatively easy to distinguish with the naked eye, noting differing shapes of the "D" and some variation of the top cross-bar of the "F". The tail of the "J" of the lower left die is uniquely straight (see illustrations at end of article).

Manufacturers' records

Fortunately for those who collect and study perfins, Slopers' records were kept intact over a long period, even surviving the blitz of London, and quick thinking by members of the GB Perfin Society resulted in them acquiring much of these records before the recent sale of that company. It will take many people a lot of time to go through all the surviving ledgers which extend back to the reign of Queen Victoria. However, already there has been one "find" in this search relating to an Australian perfin.

Slopers' serial 65913 gives detail of an order dated 12 March 1935 for "one postage stamp initialling m/c to perforate two stamps four thick for Australian stamps" (their underlining). The entry includes technical details of the manufacture of the device, including "Small & Co casting. Horizontal lever used". The customer was Burroughs, Wellcome & Co, 40 Snow Hill, EC1 (London), and a photocopy of the sample of the perforation (BW&CO.2) as shown in the ledger is reproduced among this article's illustrations. Discernible differences between the

two dies are evident on the top of the "B", the top of the left leg of the "W", and the top left part of the "C".

The delivery note number 44 of 8 April 1935 apparently mentions "2 off", judging from annotations made by GB Perfin Society members. This is not surprising since this same perforation is also known on GB stamps. The horizontal offset of the dies is 23.5 mm which corresponds to the width of the KGV heads (the current Australian definitives) and to the height of the GB KGV definitives. (One would therefore anticipate that this perfin should appear sideways on the GB definitives).

Hopefully, more references will be found to Australian perfins as this search continues.

#### "Plating the Perforators"

Other evidence of multiple-die perforators comes from samples of the perfins themselves. Obviously, it is convenient to find blocks of perfined stamps, but even individual stamps with partial multiple strikes can yield information regarding whether a perfin is part of a multiple-die perforator or not.

Recently, in Sydney, the author was fortunate to view, and to obtain a photocopy of, a block of 15 stamps (4 x 4 with one corner stamp missing) perfined with IH.18. In one direction, there were three distinct dies all aligned and with a constant offset, then a fourth die with different spacing and not aligned with the other three. This fourth die was identical in characteristics to the first of the other three, thus showing that there were only three dies in a vertical arrangement (relative to the perfin orientation). In addition, the sheet had been folded so that there were two different sets of mirror images, indicating only one die in each "row". I was told that this block had been earmarked for a regular customer - hopefully, one of our readers!

The case of IH.18 is an example of how a block told exactly how many dies were in the perforator. If enough multiple strikes (either on single stamps or blocks of two or more) can be collected for a given perfin and the dies are each distinguishable from each other, then the complete pattern may be able to be determined, including when the next independent strike starts on each side. The author has so far been able to do this for DJLTD.2, which turns out to have two rows of four dies per row, and also for AH&S.1 (two arrangements - 2 x 3 and 3 x 2, to cover two different size definitives), DJLTD.3 - DJLTD.6, and F.1/F.2.

Other multiple-die perforators have been identified but with the number of rows and/or number of dies per row yet to be determined. For example, in the case of SB.5, two subsets of the pattern have been identified. These are all summarized in the table which follows.

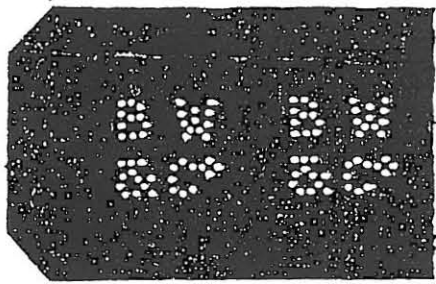
Ultimately, this sort of study may well be able to help identify the manufacturer of various devices by association of similar styles of multiple-die perforators.

MULTIPLE-DIE PERFORATORS

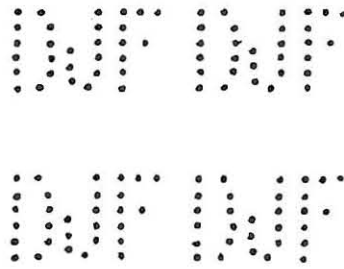
ID	ROWS	COLS	Row Ht (mm)	Col Wdth (mm)	Early use	Intended stamps
?A.3/.4					1899	Tas
AH&S.1	2	3	28.8	24.0	1934?	KGV heads
AH&S.1	3	2	24.0	20.5	NSW Mitch	NSW KGV I defins
A&R.1	1	3	-	24.0	1915	KGV heads
A&RLTD.1	1	3+	-	20.5	1910	NSW
BCL.1	?	2+	?	20.5	1914	NSW
BGEC.1	2+	2+	24.0	20.5	1914	NSW
BLTD.1	2+	?	24.0	?	1932	KGV heads S/W
BR&CO.2	?	2+	?	20.5	1895	Vic
*BW&CO.2	1	2	-	23.5	1935	GB defins S/W KGV heads
CICOLD.1	?	2+	?	20.5	1911	Vic
DC&CO.1	2+	2+	24.0	20.5	1901	NSW
*DJF.1	2	2	22.0	25.0	1911	WA
*D&JF.1	2+	1	24.0	-	1884	SA
DJLTD.1	2	3	24.0	20.5	1949	KGV I defins
*DJLTD.2	2	4	24.0	20.5	1906	NSW
*DJLTD.3-.6	2?	2?	24.0	?	1920	KGV S/W
*F.1, F.2	1	2	-	20.5	1927	?
FAN.1	-	2+	-	20.5	1909	NSW
FAN.1	-	2+	-	24.0	1909	NSW S/W
F&G.1	1?	2+?	-	20.5	1909	WA (>1906)
*FG&CO.1,.2	1	2	-	20.5	1900	?
FG&CO.3	1?	2+?	-	22.0	1997	WA S/W
HJD.1	?	2+	-	20.5	1893	NSW
HS.4	?	2	?	20.5	1908	SA
*IH.18	3	1	27.0	-	1950	GB '51 defins?
JD&CO.1	2+	2+	24.0	20.5	1926	KGV heads S/W
?NQICO.1	1?	2?	-	24.0	1900	NSW/Qld S/W
NRMA.1	?	2+	-	20.5	1955	NSW Duty Stamp
*SB.5	1	6+	-	21.0	1909	NSW
TBS.2	2+	2+	20.5	24.0	1908	Qld S/W
?VOCO.8	1?	2?	-	20.5	1956	E2R defins
?VOCO.10	1?	2?	-	20.5	<1913	SA
?VOCO.11	1?	2?	-	20.5	1931	?
WS&CO.1	1	4+	-	20.5	1908	WA

\* Discernible difference between dies.

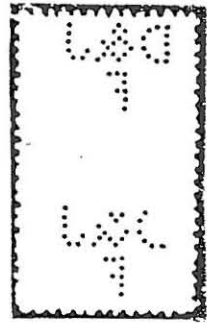
Multiple-die Perforators with Distinguishable Dies



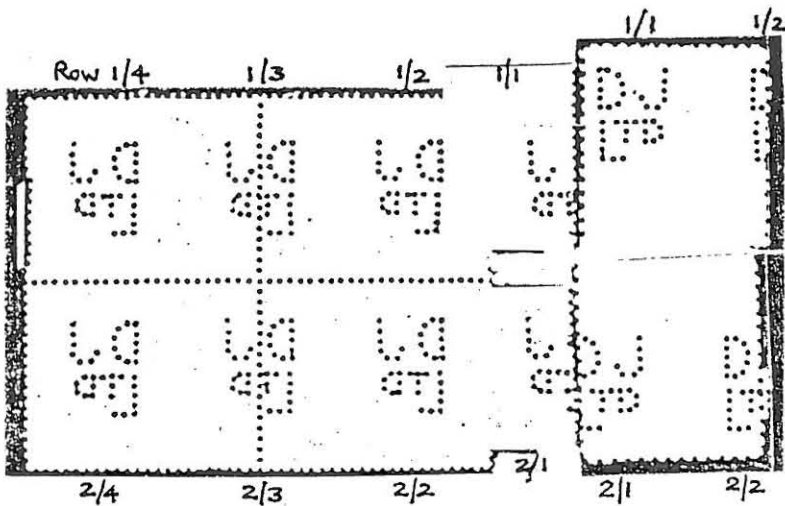
BW&CO.2



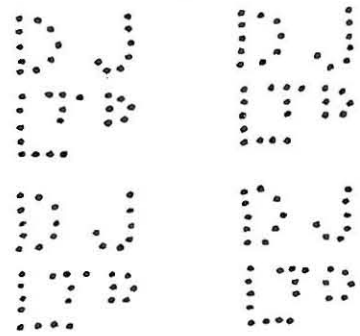
DJF.1



D&JF.1



DJLTD.2

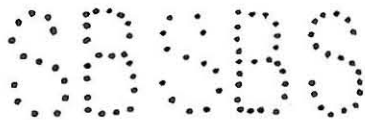


DJLTD.6 , DJLTD.3 /  
DJLTD.4 , DJLTD.5



F.1 , F.2

IH.18



SB.5

