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SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

no.23 April 1993

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Editorial

It's very much a 'race' in Sydney as to who gets some of the better perfins that part-time dealers at stamp fairs find in collections. Recently I was very pleased to find a Leeward Islands MC/A perfin in such a collection at the local Springwood stamp fair. The collection had been priced up only the previous weekend and had not been taken to any other fairs previously. This time I had first bite at the cherry. I very much doubt that it would have been there the next time, the collection having done the rounds at fairs elsewhere in Sydney, considering the number of other perfin collectors in Sydney and the price (10c).

The point of this story is that I have found part-time dealers, both those attending stamp fairs and those dealing by mail, as a very good source of perfins in the long term. While they do not always have a large number of items at a time quite unusual items do surface with some regularity. Many 'larger' dealers either can't be bothered sorting out such material as it does not repay their efforts or pass all they find onto a collector by prior arrangement. When I have attended fairs and exhibitions with mainly the 'larger' dealers usually the only perfins that they have are either the scarcer and higher priced OS/NSW, OS, VG type officials or overpriced cheap common items. However at the small local stamp fairs I would usually find something of interest.

This is the last bulletin for the Clubs financial year so it would seem appropriate to remind members to pay their 1993/94 subscriptions. The appropriate rates are listed below. New Zealand members can pay their subscription to Barry Clarke who will in due course forward the amount to the Treasurer. The equivalent amount in NZ\$ to A\$10-00 is NZ\$13-00. Members outside of Australia paying the Treasurer direct may find it easier to send Australian bank notes.

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. Club subscriptions (including the bulletin) are A\$10-00p.a. for New Zealand and Australian residents and A\$15-00 p.a. elsewhere (includes airmail postage of the bulletin).

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for the 1993/94 financial year are due on 1st July 1993. Please make your payment by this date.

Members in Australia and New Zealand	A\$10-00 (NZ\$13-00)
Members in Europe/North America	A\$15-00 (includes airmail postage of bulletin)

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 A\$4-00 so if paying in a foreign currency please add sufficient to cover this charge).

New Zealand members may send their subscription to Barry Clarke the New Zealand Circuit Manager (address on the previous page).

Other non Australian members may find it easier and cheaper to purchase Australian bank notes and send these as no bank charges are payable on receipt.

Please send payments (except NZ members as above) to the
Treasurer : Capt. Peter Wood
9 Roslyn St.
Mt Martha, VIC 3934
AUSTRALIA

Receipts are usually sent out with the next bulletin to save postage.

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AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL CLUB MEMBERS FROM THE SECRETARY

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that I have been contacted by Pastor David Dell, the founder of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia.

He has sent to me early Club records, together with all the lots and records from the Auction number 3 in 1987/88 which had not been finalised. Also included were more lots which had been submitted for a subsequent auction (which never took place) and again this material is complete.

Vendor's and buyer's accounts have been reconciled and arrangements are in hand to close them off. Unsold material has been added to the auction for which the catalogue is included with this bulletin.

Pastor Dell has, at my request, closed off the Club bank account which he supervised and sent to me a bank cheque for the balance- this has been forwarded to the Treasurer.

Following this message is the open letter to Club members written by Pastor Dell, and sent through me to the Editor of the Club bulletin.

John Mathews
Secretary, PCNZA

From: David Dell
PO Box 40-510
Upper Hutt
NEW ZEALAND (Phone 04 - 526-8634)

To: The Bulletin Editor
Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia
AUSTRALIA

25th February 1993

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apologise to the members of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia for the way I failed to live up to the responsibility I undertook when I formed the Club back in 1987.

I apologise for the fact that, towards the end of my time with the Club, I failed to keep the members informed of what was happening. I realise now too, that when I was struggling to find time to do the Bulletins etc, I should have handed over responsibility to someone else. Instead, I just did nothing.

I apologise to each one of you - I know that the problems were all of my own making and that I should have been humble enough to admit that at the time.

I ask that you would forgive me for what I have failed to do.

I hope your Perfin Club will continue to function well in the future.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Dell". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'D' and a long horizontal line underneath the name.

(David Dell)

PS: I am in the process of selling my entire Perfin Collection (over 3000 New Zealand perfins, over 20,000 British perfins, thousands of Australian perfins, and many more thousands from around the world). If anyone is interested in receiving information about this collection, please write to me at the following address:

Pastor David Dell, PO Box 40-510, Upper Hutt, New Zealand.

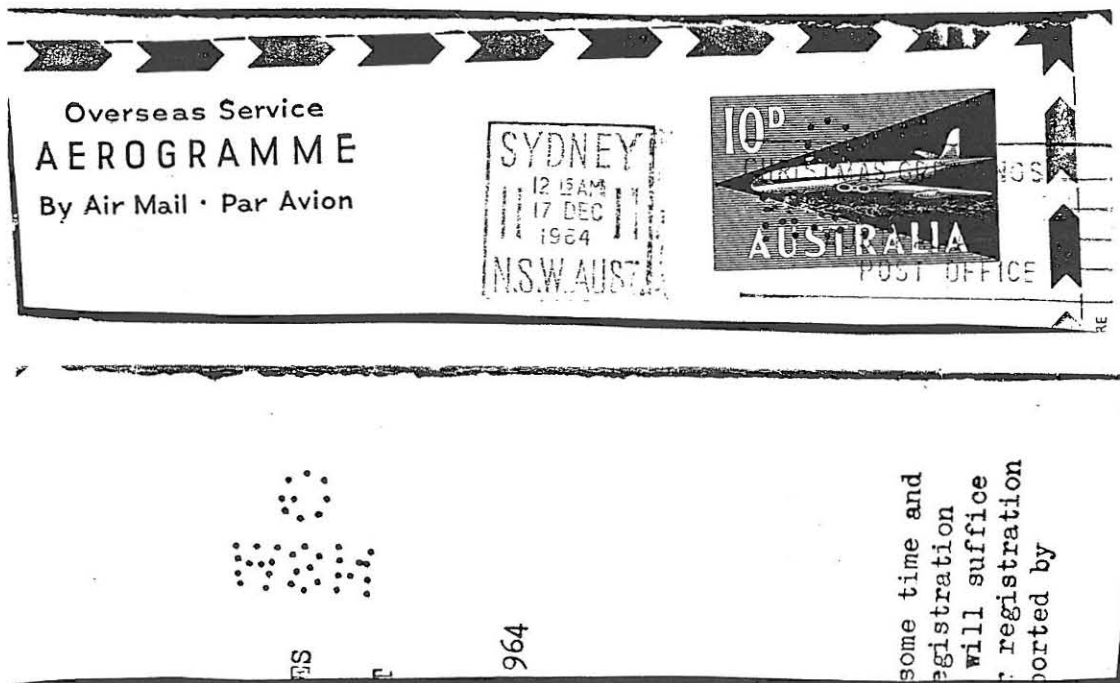
Thank you.

DESPATCH FROM CANADA

In response to the January 1993 bulletin articles Jon Johnson supplied the following information:

1) G/NSW Aerogramme

In the January 1993 bulletin it was noted that the New South Wales Government Printer had indicated that aerogrammes were perforated G/NSW for official use, but that no such copies had been reported by collectors. Jon sent photocopies of a cut corner from an aerogramme with G/NSW perfin. This item was used in 1964 and despite being a cut corner is a very nice item. Were any other aerogrammes so punctured ?



2) Subscription Information for the "Perforator"

The "Perforator", primarily with articles on Canadian perfins, is produced by the British North America Philatelic Society Canadian Perfin Study Group. Subscriptions are \$5-00 Cdn p.a. plus paid-up membership to BNAPS. One year trial membership is permitted prior to joining BNAPS. Secretary of the Study Group is - Mr. S.M. Koning, 29 Balsam Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M4E 3B5.

3) Details of Wrigleys handbook.

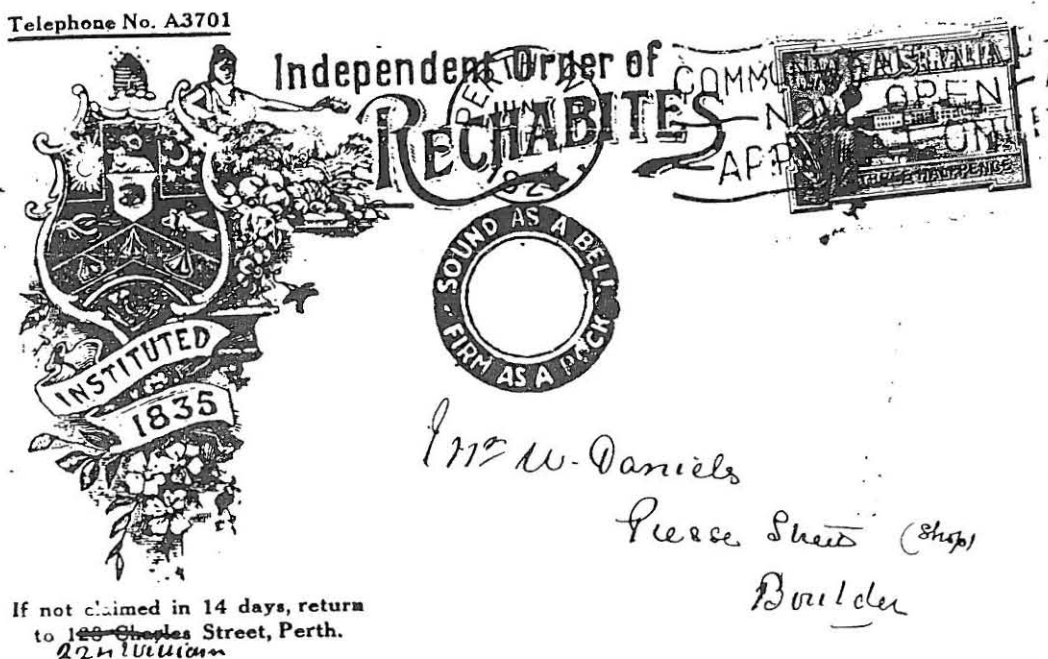
Wrigley's Textbook & Guide to the Canadian Official Stamps 1975 pp.72. The book provides a history of the Canadian OHMS perfins and G overprint, with a list of the stamps found with each. Also included is information on the "Blackout" WWII cancellations and slogan cancellations.

Despatch from Canada cont.

4) Details of Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials book.

Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials. 1985 pp.124 (Johnson/Tomasson)
 The handbook lists all Canadian perfins with the following information:
 Perfin number, rarity factor, contact print of perfin, company identification,
 perforator location, period of use of stamps, earliest and latest dated
 cancels, date of perfin approval, country where perfin used. In addition
 there is an addendum listing : Post Office approvals, Government Perfins
 checklist plus checklists of airmail, special delivery, registration,
 postage due and coil stamps with perfins.
 Available from: Mr. J.C. Johnson, 717 25th Avenue NW, Calgary, Alberta,
 Canada T2M 2B4. Airmail \$11-00 US, Surface \$9-50 US (autographed).

In addition he enclosed photocopies of a number of interesting
 Australian perfin covers, one of which is shown below.
 This particular cover bears perfin PWA.1 used by P W Armstrong,
 Perth.



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NEW ZEALAND SCENE

Barry Clarke brings us up to date on the perfin scene in New Zealand:

- a) The highlight of the the New Zealand Perfin scene, so far as I am concerned, is the resurfacing of David Dell. I have never met the guy, but it sure takes a lot of guts to say "I was wrong and I am sorry" and I like to think I am Christian enough to take that at face value. He helped introduce me to the fascinating world of perfins, for which I will always be grateful.

New Zealand Scene cont.

- b) I have applied for meeting space at Northpex, Alexander Park Raceway, Auckland at opening time on Saturday 31st July 1993 (9-30 or 10am). However allocations of space have not yet been finalised. Hopefully we will have a final time and date for this meeting in time for the July issue of the bulletin.
- c) New Zealand Circuit
Our first circuit books were mailed 11.11.89, and in the next year five other sets of books "did the rounds" (books value \$3377.40, sales \$1589.90). During 1991 only 2 sets of books were circulated (value \$2721.75, sales \$736.25). One of these books took nearly 6 months to travel to 13 addresses in the North Island, a very unnecessary hassle. Again in 1992 only 2 sets of books (value \$3135.15, sales \$859.45) were circulated. Circuit no.11 left here on March 1 1993 with stamps priced at \$313.25.

At this point we had \$232.87 in the bank.

I was surprised at the percentage drop in sales, but put it down to either 1) all the good stuff was sold early and there isn't much changing hands now, or, 2) members are reaching saturation and so are not buying as much.

The pricing of these "damaged" stamps is also a factor. Several vendors still expect full S.G. prices for a higher value stamp with a common perfin, but also expect the "perfin value" on common stamps. I am pleased to see many "foreign" perfins sell for 20c to 50c each.

At one stage we had 14 Club members on our mailing list but 4 have recently dropped off. One has sold all his stamps "at a price that was too good to refuse", another says circuit books stamps are too expensive, and the other two are resigning from the Club over the problems of paying a prohibitive amount to the banks for \$A to pay subs. Hopefully this can be overcome in the near future, with a minor change to the rules NZ subs could be payable in New Zealand in \$NZ.

- d) The "THANKYOU" etc perfin sale was a complete non-event. Not a single letter did I receive.
- e) The New Zealand census has not been proceeded with. It has been suggested that the rarity factor is already well known and that a very detailed survey would not be all that useful for such stamps as the 1d Universal as so few collectors can distinguish between the different papers used. At Shorex 91 Robert Samuel indicated he thought a new book on NZ perfins was due and followed this up by supplying the series of articles published in the bulletin about New Zealand perfins (enough information to make a saleable booklet).

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A PROBABLE TRAGIC END FOR A PERFORATOR

(John Mathews)

Research into the history of perfins and the companies who used them has revealed many interesting stories - some unusual, some real "eye-openers" and some frustratingly incomplete.

One of the companies whose period of history involving perfins provides a different aspect is Harrison Bros. and Kettle, who were storekeepers who had extensive premises in Wangaratta, Victoria, and a branch store at Moyhu, 16 miles (25 kilometers) to the South.

A general store was established on the site in the main street of Wangaratta, Murphy Street, in 1867 by W. Meldrum. In the late 1870s, it was sold to Harrison Bros. and Kettle who expanded the store and, with the wide range of goods they stocked, they became known as "universal providers". It was said that "they had more departments than even Foy and Gibson of Collingwood". (As an aside, when this writer was at high school in Adelaide, one of his teachers had a saying to describe anyone with an air of impudence as having "more front than Foy and Gibson". In contrast, the perfin F&G.1 is quite compact!)

The earliest known dated copy of a stamp with the perfin HB&K.1 is postmarked at Wangaratta on December 2, 1903. At the time "Commercial Perfins of Australia" was published, the latest known date of usage was February 8, 1904. This was an extremely short period of use for a perforator customised for a country storekeeper!

With curiosity thus aroused, I made some enquiries on my next trip through Wangaratta. From these, I found that the store had been gutted by fire sometime before 1910. The National Library in Canberra has on microfilm the "Wangaratta Despatch" which became "The North-Eastern Despatch". Searching from 1904 onwards was progressing slowly when I recently got two "breaks" in close succession. First, I came across a copy of HB&K.1 with a postmark date of November 26, 1907. Then I received follow-up correspondence from Wangaratta saying that the most probable date of the fire was around the end of 1908. With this narrower date range, the microfilm search was quickly concluded.

According to a detailed report in "The North-Eastern Despatch" of Wednesday, March 3, 1909, the store and contents were "totally consumed" on the previous Sunday evening. It went on to say:

"The night was beautifully clear, and the fire, destructive though it was, made an inspiring spectacle. Angry tongues of flame licked the air high above the buildings, to the accompaniment of loud crackling of burning timbers, and showers of sparks, in dazzling succession, flew upwards, penetrating, like thousands of shafts of light, the clouds of smoke which momentarily hung over the fire and then lazily rolled away to the westward."

(The standard of Press journalism has gone a long way backwards since then!).

The representative of the fire insurance company visited Wangaratta the following evening and gave the company approval to continue trading. Alongside the March 3 report of the fire was Harrison's (as they were popularly known) announcement of their Fire Sale with stock brought from their Moyhu store, plus new shipments. On the following Saturday, the paper carried a report that the contents of the store's two safes had been recovered undamaged. Alas, among the list of these items there was no mention of a stamp perforator!

In the issue of the Despatch of Saturday, April 17, 1909, there was a news report of the settlement of the insurance compensation claim, and also a prominent advertisement by Harrison Bros. and Kettle extolling the wisdom of fire insurance, stating that the Phoenix Assurance Co. had "promptly paid EVERY SHILLING of our claim" which amounted to 10,400 pounds. Harrison Bros. and Kettle were the Wangaratta agents for the Phoenix Assurance Co.

Re-building of the store had been partially completed when the business was bought by Messrs. Callander and Forer in May 1910. It has been recalled that, while operating from temporary premises, "Mr. Callander was selling fire damaged beer at four pence per bottle", Buffalo Brewery beer being popular at that time.

As was quite typical of those days, especially in country towns, the storekeeping family of Harrisons was prominent in community affairs and between them provided the town's Mayor several times over a long period.

The writer is indebted to researchers of the North-Eastern Historical Society in Wangaratta for their valuable assistance in providing photocopies of articles and photographs. Their Museum is also well worth a visit (ironically, it is housed in the old Fire Station, just around the corner from where Harrison Bros. and Kettle's store stood). Among a range of local memorabilia, it contains two seal presses used by local chemists. The style of these seal presses suggests that they were probably made by a company which also made stamp perforators, although no manufacturer's identity appears on either of them.

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SOME INTERESTING VICTORIAN OFFICIALS

Bryan Toop

1) I enclose photocopies of a 50c Dampier stamp recently shown to me by a collector. This item is interesting in that it has both a VG puncture and a telegraph puncture. The cancel is Kew but the date is unreadable. This is the first telegraph puncture I've seen on a VG stamp.

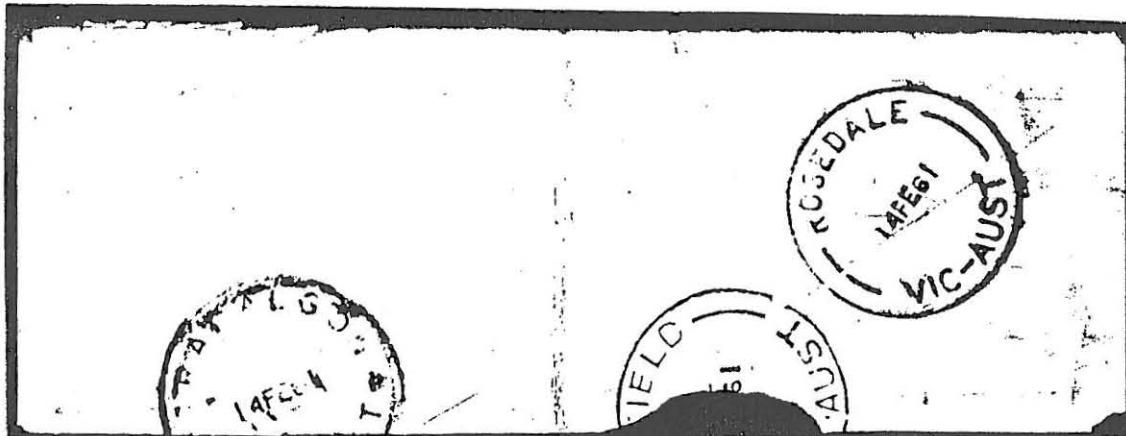
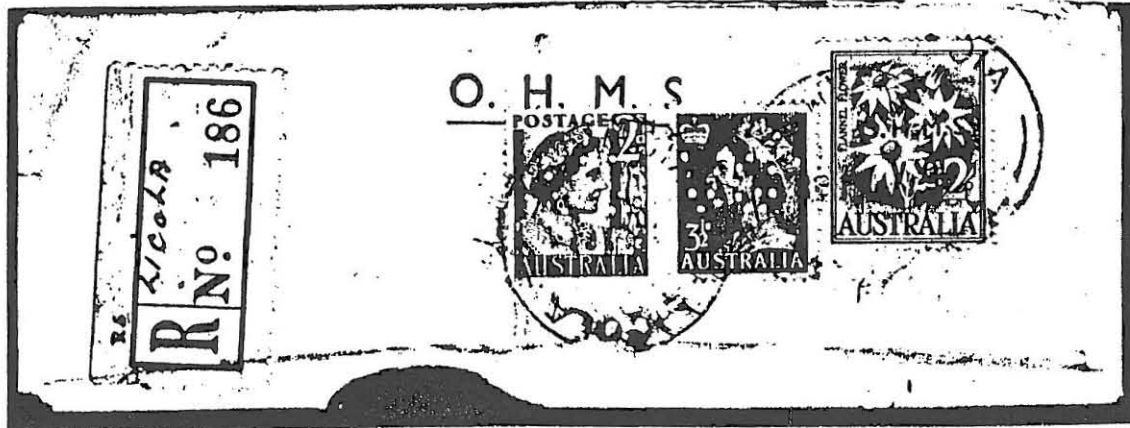


Some Interesting Victorian Officials cont.

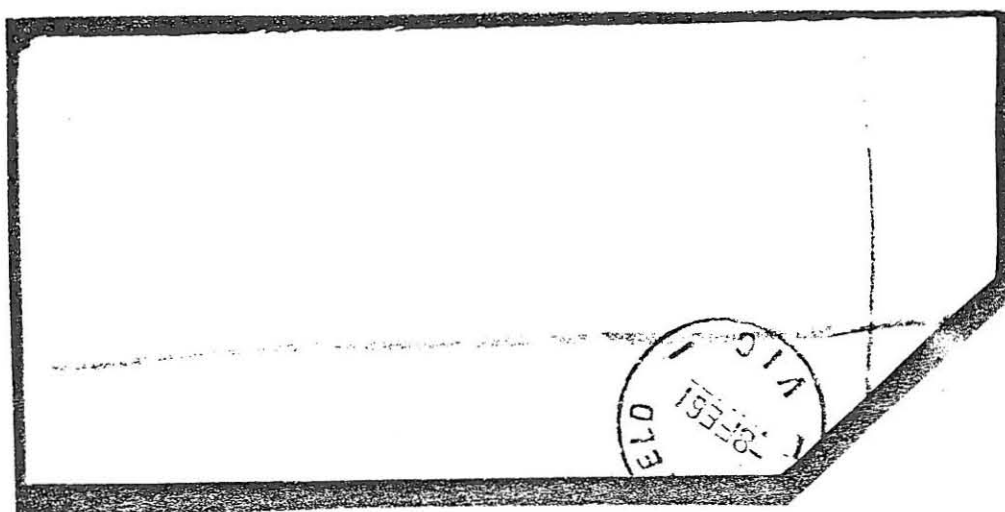
2) The other photocopies I have enclosed relate to the 2/- Flannel Flower stamp overprinted O.H.M.S./V.G.. Few people will know of the existence of this stamp. It was reported many years ago.

(The article Bryan is referring to "Mystery Overprint on Australia 2/- Flannel Flower" was published in Philately from Australia 1966 p.69. The article mentions 5 copies, the first 3 on piece with V.G. perfins. Postmarks were Licola 13/2/61, Collins St. Post Office Je/61, Rainbow 8/8/61, Heyfield and another Collins St Post Office. -Ed)

I am in possession of the first mentioned item, i.e. the part cover registered at Licola. (Illustrated below)



I also have one of the last mentioned items, the one cancelled at Heyfield. This piece is also from a registered letter, and is cancelled Heyfield, 8 Feb 1961 on back and front, and has additional 2d & 3 1/2d stamps with V.G. perfins. (Illustrated on the next page)



One of the cancels on the back of the first item is almost certainly also Heyfield.

There are many questions to be asked about this stamp. How did it arise in the firstplace and why ? Being a high value stamp it must have been produced perhaps only for registered mail.

The fact that several stamps have been discovered with various cancels indicates that a number of offices in different places were using them, or that the same officers used them and took items to different post offices to mail.

These items do not appear to be philatelic items. They have not been given CTO cancels, nor has the recipient taken any care in preserving the envelopes. Only pieces remain.

Why are these stamps so scarce ? Surely each office using them must have had a supply, or were they overprinted at each office with a rubber stamp when required, as when needed for registered mail.

How did the author of the article mentioned above find out the details of the five examples mentioned ? Does anyone know if any more of these stamps exist ?

LITERATURE

Perfin Society Bulletin no.262 January 1993. Articles include:
Reconstructed Alphabets-Roy Gault ; History of Firms using
perfins-John Dickinson & Co., Sir John Brown of Thomas Firth
& John Brown Ltd,Thomas Firth ; Post Office Archives-Records
Relating to Perfins.

Perfins Bulletin v.46 no.1, January 1993. Articles include:
Pattern U4 identified ; CKH-C.K. Hansen (Denmark)- J.F.
Lyding ; Pacific Coast Company P43 ; Canada OHMS Wartime
Usage- D.A. Cooper ; I WILL in song-A.E. Spence ;
Porto Kontroll Kasse-J Heimans.

Perfins Bulletin v.46 no.2, February 1993. Articles include:
R113 Ramsey Pump Co. ; T55-THOR ; More echoes from the
past ; Czechoslovakian Question-H Smit ; Bankers Life
BLC-S Gersch ; Please Pay-Canada Perfin Pattern W12-
DA Cooper.

Bentley, Ron "Perfins on the Stamps of French Indo-China"
Indo China Philatelist v.22 no.5 Sep/Oct 1992 p.76-82
This article lists, catalogues and illustrates the 10
perfins used on the stamps of French Indo China. A
checklist of the 7 most common perfins lists the issues
so perforated by Scott and Yvert numbers. A number of
covers are also illustrated. The author requests
information about the various Offices in China with
perfins for a future listing. A useful article.

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MARKET PLACE

Over the last few months there have been quite a few higher
priced perfins advertised in auctions or for direct sale.
In some cases the prices/reserves/estimates appear to be
greater than one would expect. It will be interesting to
see if most of the higher priced items sell. Certainly
some of the Kangaroo issues with State Officials were not
selling well at similar prices a year or two ago.

A few of the interesting items noted recently were:

New Zealand Stamp Auctions Postal Bid Sale 131 (Closing
29th March 1993)
Lot no.467 Used Rhodesia 1897 E1 Black/red fiscally used
perfed letters "USED", SG 73 Cat \$675 postally
used (1) \$90
Lot no.468 Used Rhodesia 1901 E10 lilac fiscally used
with perfed date 31/1/03 SG 93 Cat \$6750
postally used (1) \$250

Richard Juzwin Autumn/Winter Direct Order Price List 1993
Selected items for the Connoisseur
no.57 Kangaroo Third Wmk 5/- MUH perf OS/NSW \$375

Market Place cont.

Robin Linke Advertisement Stamp News March 1993

Item no.8 Australia Kangaroo £2 purple,Black and rose
3rd wmk Punc. OS CTO V Scarce. Available for a
few weeks only in 1930 in collector presentation
packs \$1250

Item no.59 Western Australia Selection 1854-1880 (15)
with Official Punctures 3mm &4mm incl. 4d blue
impf. Used mostly fine \$250

Item no.60 Western Australia 1902-10 1d to 10/- Punc.
OS (12) fine used \$150

Gabrieles Philatelic Service Adverisement Stamp News Dec 1992

Item no.35 CofA Watermark £2 Black & Rose PERFD VG mint
part Imprint copy \$2450
(Bryan Toop advises that a similar copy sold by West
Brisbane Sales some 15 years ago realised \$800 -Ed)

Shields Stamps & Coins Postal Bid Sale no.22 Stamp News Feb 1993
Australian States-New South Wales

Lot no.44 Used 1897 10d violet scarce OS/NSW perfin Res \$180

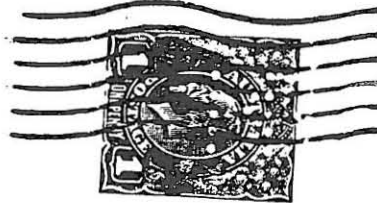
Lot no.45 Used 1903 10/- SG251 rare OS/NSW perfin Res \$360

Lot no.46 Mint 1890 20/- SG264 OS/NSW perfin Res \$775

(As there are two OS/NSW patterns Shields was contacted to check
which pattern(s) these items were. It turned out that all were
the less scarce '8 holes in the S'pattern rather than the '10 hole in the
S'pattern which is scarcer. -Ed)

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Prescott Limited -PLD.1 -Another cover from Jon Johnson



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TO BOX 105 CC G.P.O.