



Northpex Meeting cont.

talk next day on '16 page exhibits'. Most enjoyable to see items I just dream about.

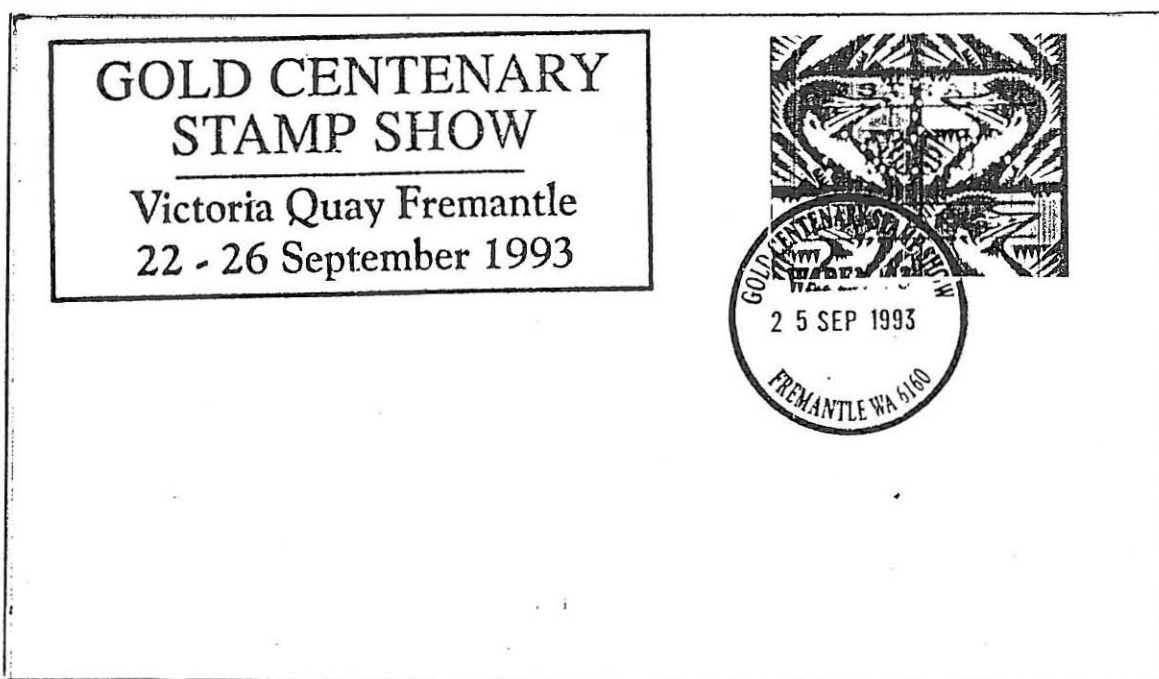
I would like to thank those stalwarts who did attend, especially from Wellington and Christchurch. I think the 100 miles from Whangarei is quite far enough to travel.

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WAPEX 93 PERFINS

The Western Australian Stamp Promotion Council perfin 'W(swan)A' has been used once again on frames for the WAPEX 93 Gold Centenary Stamp Show( PO Box 8468 Perth Stirling Street WA 6849)held 22nd to 26th of September 1993.

50c emu frames were perfined and attached to souvenir covers with Show cachet and postmarked at the show. The perfined frames were not available mint. Covers were priced at \$2 per cover and were available postmarked each day of the Show.



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VICTORIAN PIN PERFORATIONS : a conspectus by R A Bradford

I had recently acquired a quantity of B&R perfins, and decided to put in some study time on the pin perfs, as the similarity between certain letters for different firms has always intrigued me, also the spacing of the letters for the same configuration. So armed with a 30X microscope and an open mind, I proceeded to examine stamp after stamp.

Victorian Pin Perforations cont.

It soon became obvious that a number of the letters were similar. e.g. The second pin in from the top of a "B" was lower than rest, the third pin down the vertical of the "R" is further to the right, making the vertical appear curved, the four pins forming a square to represent "&" are sometimes found three spaces up from the base etc.

Therefore I put forward the following hypothesis, as a starting point for further investigation. Could the die head of these perforators have been similar to the early hand cancellors and been alterable? Was the operator privy to a box of alphabet and blank slugs to make up the head? Were the heads capable of one, two or three lines of text?

This makes sense to me when I view an S&S with spaces between, then another copy without space between the "&" and the "S". I imagine the operator forgot the blank spacer, or left it out to get the pattern on the stamp. By inserting blank slugs in different positions all manner of spacings are possible.

Reverting back to my B&R patterns it would appear that the width of the perforation was giving problems on narrow stamps, especially if required in an upright position (i.e. not reading sideways up the stamp) so that in addition to B & R patterns, B with &R underneath, are found with the same distinguishing letter forms.

I have also noted that the "R" patterns varies in number of pins and arrangement while the other letters are the same as on earlier issues. The "slug" may have been repaired but I think that sometimes a new die slug was purchased, or borrowed from another set, as often was the case with date stamps, and you have letters that do not match.

The ampersand was possibly the most used and abused letter and this would explain the large variety of patterns found with the other letters the same as each other. It would wear out or be damaged quickly along with the small "o" of "Co" and consequently would have many copies with missing pins.

By way of interest I remember reading in a popular mechanics book of the 1920's, that a perforator could be made by machining a block of steel to slide into another shaped block, and holes were drilled in the first thinner block to the pattern required, from the back to within a quarter of an inch from the face. The holes were then drilled through with a smaller drill bit and old gramophone needles were inserted (which are tapered). The "head" then slid onto the base and you simply placed your paper or whatever you wished to puncture on a block of wood, put the perforator on top and hammered! Better perms could be obtained by blunting the ends of the needles so that a small portion of paper would be removed forming holes!

EXHIBITION RESULTS

WAPEX 93 (Freemantle) September 1993 National Level

John Grant was awarded a Large Vermeil medal and "Patrons Trophy" for his display " Commercial Perfins of Australia"

John Grant and John Mathews were awarded a Gold medal and the "Barry Scott Research Prize" for the book "Commercial Perfins of Australia"

Judith Sidaway was awarded a Silver medal for her display "Australian Official Perfins"

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BANGKOK 1993 October 1993 International Level

John Grant was awarded a Vermeil medal for his display "Commercial Perfins of Australia"

John Grant and John Mathews were awarded a Vermeil medal for their book "Commercial Perfins of Australia"

Congratulations to Judith, John and John on these awards. It seems that these days there is often at least one perfin related exhibit at Australian exhibitions, a far cry from a decade or two ago. Now that Vermeil awards have been achieved at international level its probably fair to say that perfins are receiving some international recognition.

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LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OVERPRINT

John Mathews reports a 5/- New South Wales QV stamp duty issue with a "London &/Lancashire/ FIRE/Insurance/Company" overprint in purple ink.

The stamp also bears a cancellation of part of an oval date stamp "London .../7 N .../SYDNEY/INSURANCE..."

This item is shown at the right somewhat enlarged.



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AN ELVIS PERFIN

It is quite surprising which stamps have been given perfins. As there are not too many perforators still in use it did not seem likely that the recent 29c Elvis Presley stamp would receive a perfin.

Much to my surprise a copy with a "R.J." perfin used by Bob Murrin turned up on the envelope with his latest perfin offers.





G/NSW TYPE D AND U/NSW UPDATE

David Andersen

Since the production of Australian Official Perfins Supplement no.3 in January 1991 a number of new finds of post 1960 New South Wales official perfins have been made.

The issues listed below are in addition to those listed in Supplement no.3

G/NSW Type D

ASC 398	1/6 Galah	Position	2,3
" 403	3/- Ibis	"	3
" 976	40c Marine Life	"	6
" 1019	\$1 "	"	2,6
	37c Art of the Desert	"	4
	39c Christmas 88	"	4
	1c Living Together	"	4
	2c "	"	2,4
	37c "	"	2,4
	39c "	"	2
	50c "	"	2,6

U/NSW

ASC 272	2/6 Aborigine no wmk.	Position	1
" 385	5d QEII red	"	4
" 421	5c Thornbill	"	1
" 423	6c QEII	"	1

Any further unreported issues can be reported to me and can then appear in a future issue of the bulletin.

These more recent New South Wales perfins can be obtained without a deep pocket unlike the earlier and more prestigious KGV and Kangaroo issues. Most of the items listed above were found in small accumulations of common issues from a diverse number of sources. Some like the Living Together issues should be fairly common while others such as the 1/6 Galah are probably quite scarce.

A deal of patience and persistence is needed however to find these recent issues and a significant amount of time searching through masses of common/ very common issues.

Despite a persistent effort over a number of years a number of issues that have been reported still elude me, such as the G/NSW 45c Callistemon and 80c Pioneer. I presume that these elusive issues are very scarce.

Further finds are expected in the birds, butterflies, marine life and living together definitives. Good Hunting !

#####

A NON-STAMP PERFORATOR

(J. Mathews)

In a recent auction catalogue from Queensland, there were several lots of interest to perfin collectors. One, for example, had an estimate of \$18,000 and consisted largely of "varieties" of official perfins. Connected by description to that lot was the subsequent lot, described as a perforating machine whose British maker was identified.

Because of the possibility of connecting this perforator maker with known patterns, I sent some index cards to the auction house requesting samples of strikes of representative letters whose style might show distinctive characteristics. They obliged with a complete alphabet of patterns - the perforator could select (by dial) and punch one letter at a time.

I believe that this perforator was neither intended nor used for stamps, because the letters are each 17 mm. by 8.5 mm., with holes 1.3 mm. in diameter. For example, the "H" and "K" are much larger than, and of a different style to, H.2 and H.3, and K.4, K.5 and K.8 respectively. The illustration below is half actual size.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P  
Q R S T U V W X Y Z

( The device was subsequently obtained by one of our members who confirms that it appears to have been designed for some type of industrial use.

Of interest, however, was a card which accompanied the item. This is reproduced on the next page. It consists of pieces of paper pasted onto card. The pieces seem to have been extracted from some publication- note the reference to page 209 !

The model of perforator depicted is quite different to the actual device involved. )

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USE OF PERFINS ON AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY STAMPS

David Andersen

(This article updates " Perfins on Australian Antarctic Stamps" published in Penguin Views no.5 Sept 1986.)

Although there are no perfins originating in the Australian Antarctic Territory a number of AAT issues have been perforated by State Governments and private companies for use in Australia.

## PERFORATING MACHINES

### Use in Offices and Banks.

In the office there are such records as incoming letters, invoices, vouchers and the like, that require dating in an unalterable manner. Again, postage stamps should be perforated with the firm's initials to prevent their misuse. These are just a few instances where this inexpensive machine might be used.

Perforating machines are largely used in Banks for cancelling cheques, dating internal documents, marking the amounts on cheques, drafts, etc. Coupons or securities can also be marked with the word "Paid" or "Cancelled" (see p. 209).

### Other Uses.

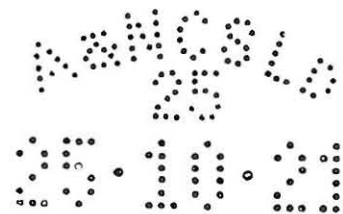
One of the biggest users of perforating machines is the manufacturer and exporter of perishable goods. A simple code will give the date, packer's number and contents and so ensure the goods being sold in proper rotation—viz. the oldest first.

Dyers and cleaners make use of perforating machines for marking tags which are attached to the garments and give details of the branch, job number, colour, shade, and number of garments to be dyed or cleaned.

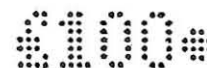
Again cinema and photo films are perforated as a means of identification.

In shops doing a ready money trade the perforating machine has been installed in many cash desks. Cash vouchers are perforated with the name of the firm, number of the cash desk and the date. This method in ready cash transactions saves the 2d. receipt stamp for amounts over £2.

The perforating machine has also invaded the hat trade. The leather band inside gentlemen's hats can be perforated with initials. These initials never come off, are always at hand, and are never out of stock when wanted.



SPECIMEN OF PERFORATION



SPECIMEN OF PERFORATION FOR CHEQUE PROTECTING



PERFORATING MACHINE

The card accompanying the perforating device described in the article "A Non-stamp Perforator".



Use of perfins on AAT stamps cont.

This usage demonstrates the significant non-philatelic usage of AAT stamp issues (which are valid for postage within Australia) in Australia. It seems likely that these issues were those on current sale at the post office from which these organisations obtained their postal requirements and that they were not specifically requested.

It does not appear likely that any perfins were actually used in the AAT, even philatelically inspired, though this is theoretically possible.

Now that Christmas Island issues are also valid for use in Australia will any of these appear with perfins, albeit philatelically inspired? Three perforators, all philatelic could be available: PHILAS (not used for years), W(swan)A (Western Australian Stamp Promotion Council) and PS (Perfin Society UK). One of these patterns was used on AAT issues. Interestingly there have been no reports of perfins on Cocos issues which were also able to be used in Australia for a period and will soon again be so usable for postage.

Perfins on AAT Issues

Pattern (Grant & Mathews number)	Issues (ASC cat no.)
AGI (AGI.1)	ASC 3
DJ/LTD (DJLTD.1)	ASC 1,7
G/NSW Type C	ASC 1,4,5
G/NSW Type D	ASC 51,62,64
HS. (HS.4)	ASC 3,7
IHC (IHC.1)	ASC 3
JKS (JKS.2)	ASC 1
PA/C (PAC.1)	ASC 3
SH/&/CoLTD (SH&COLTD.1)	ASC 1
TB (TB.2)	ASC 2,3,7
VG Type III *	ASC 1,4
VG Type IV **	ASC 52,67,74
VOC (VOC.4)	ASC 7
W(swan)A (WA.1)	ASC 37
C (C.1)	ASC 4

\* ASC 52 also reported. However this item is suspicious as the Type III perforator went out of use in 1976 but the stamp was not issued until 1982.

\*\* ASC 62-64,68,71-73,76 also reported but status uncertain due to fakes emanating from Qld of the VG Type IV.

All of these perfins found on AAT issues are common patterns and as there is no real 'special value' attached to these perfins by being on these issues, they should attract no premium. Just an interesting curiosity value.

(For the benefit of those not familiar with ASC Catalogue numbers ASC 1=1957 2/- map, ASC 2-5=1959 defins 5d to 1/-, ASC 7= 1961 5d Mawson, ASC 37=1c Aurora, ASC 51= \$1 Resolution, ASC 52=1982 27c Mawson, ASC 62-77= 1984-87 Scenes (62=5c,64=30c,67=15c,74=2c)

A PERFORATING SERVICE IN NEW SOUTH WALES  
(J. Mathews)

The acquisition of knowledge about the practice of producing perfins is often made frustratingly difficult by the period of time which has elapsed since it was done together with the lack of documented records relating to it. It is therefore fortunate when some first-hand recollections are available from people who were directly involved in this practice.

The changing commercial scene has resulted in very few perfin users remaining in business to the present day. In recent times, I have spent some time while in Sydney visiting those firms who used to use perforated stamps.

Through a combination of fortunate circumstances, I was able to make contact with two former NSW branch managers of a particular insurance company which had been a prolific perfin user. Both of these gentlemen had clear recollections back to those days in the late 1920s and early 1930s when they had started with the company as junior office staff members.

They told how they would collect a cheque from the accountant's office and go "around the corner" to collect the next batch of duty stamps - "already perforated" - from the vendor of those stamps. They gave the vendor's name as Miss Dore Lough (although not certain of the spelling of the surname), and added that her office was in Pitt Street between Hunter Street and Martin Place. One of these gentlemen recalled that his firm had paid for the manufacture of a perforating die which fitted into a machine Miss Lough had.

Miss Lough's business was listed in the Wise's Post Office Directories, Sands' Sydney Directories and, in later years, the Sydney Telephone Directory (Yellow Pages). According to the Post Office Directories, she started in business in 1909 as a "Stamp Dealer" at 25 Hunter Street, Sydney. A change of premises to 68 1/2 Pitt Street took place in 1911 and then to 74 Pitt Street in 1927, and her listed occupation was given variously as Commission Agent, "Royal Library", and Duty Stamp Licensee. The last listed entry was in the "Yellow Pages" section of the Sydney Telephone Directory for 1966 under the classification of "Duty Stamp Licensees". Her business life spanned 57 years.

Many companies, mainly in the insurance "district" around Hunter, O'Connell and Pitt Streets, stopped using perfinned duty stamps in 1966. One wonders how many of them were also customers of Miss Lough. For example, long-serving staff at the NRMA have told me that their duty stamps were already perforated with their letters when they were purchased - the NRMA were at 3 Spring Street (just off Pitt Street, one block north of number 74) until 1965.

In a quest based on hope that her machine and/or records might have been retained by relatives, I found out from public records that Miss Dore Lough had died on 16 September, 1966, aged 79 years (from Sydney Morning Herald of 21 September 1966, and other sources) and had been survived by a sister and a brother. The sister and brother have since died, and none of these three ever married so there are no close relatives living.

After all my researching, I almost feel that I know Miss Dore Lough, though I have not even seen a photo of her - she must have been a remarkable woman. If only I had started collecting perfins 30 or 40 years ago ...

LITERATURE

Perfins on the Commemorative Stamps of the 1924 and 1925 British Empire Exhibition by J Nelson Perfin Society 1993 16 pages

This booklet was produced following a Perfin Society survey of the Perfins on the 1924 and 1925 British Empire Exhibition stamps. Some 61 members contributed information. each of the patterns reported are illustrated and when known identified. The results of the survey are tabulated. It was found that the 1925 issues were scarce and that many of the perfin users were also exhibitors at the exhibition.

Copies were distributed free-of-charge to those who contributed to the survey. However copies are also available from the Perfins Society Publications Officer, John Donner 28 Fullbrook Way, Odiham Basingstoke Hants RG25 1QG UK (price quoted was £1-20 including postage though it might be best to check with John on price and method of payment if outside of the UK)

Perfins Society Bulletin no.265 August 1993

Articles include: Charles Bein, BPA etc by J Nelson; Perfin with a Crete connection by M Bavin; Slopers Advertising Cards; CURRIE perfin by R Smith; GB Numeral perfins by J Mathews; Provisional identity of early perfin users by M Harp; Royal School for Deaf Children by A Smith; Postmark clues to perfin identities by R Gault.

Perfins Bulletin v.46 no.4 April 1993

Articles include: Perfins on TWO CENT RED WASHINGTONS by J Laura; British South Africa (Catalogue) A and C pages no.2; Pokos- a follow-up by M-Ogrady.

Perfins Bulletin v.46 no.5 May 1993

Articles include:- Perfins Club Library List; Have you ever had a Velie by H Rickard; Perfinned stamps on cover (including 1880 cover from France with triangular punch used by Credit Lyonnais.

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AUCTION/SALE WATCH

June seems to have been a good month to acquire scarce Tasmanian 'T' officials.

Elcee Stamps (PO Box 40, Coolum Beach QLD 4573) listed the following in their Postal Bid Sale no.11 (28th June 1993)

KGV Small multi Wmk p.13.5x12.5

Lot 515 1/4 Dull Blue punct T 5/5 W/CPF L1 cds BURNIE FU Scarce est \$75

KGV CofA Wmk

Lot 576 1/4 Blue Punct T 5/5 cds QUEENSTOWN FU Rare est \$65

plus many other 'T' perfins. Also of note was:

Lot 599 6d Kooka (1933) Punct G/NSW Type B Pt cds Port Kembla FU V/Rare est \$70

and KJB (PO Box 848 Cooma NSW 2630) offered in their Postal Bid Sale no.22 (30th June 1993) a good selection of 'T' perfins.

Brian Jeffries provided some information about the realisations on a few of these lots, which demonstrate the significant demand for this material.

	est	highest bid	no. of bids
Lot 36 Kangaroos all wmk colln (27)	140	150	3
Lot 154 KGV 1/4 single wmk FU	100	100	2

Auction/Sale Watch cont.

		est	highest bid	no. of bids
Lot 215	KGV SMW p.14 1/2d to 4 1/2d U/FU	130	192	3
Lot 247	KGV SMW p.13.5x12.5 1/4 VGU	85	85	1
Lot 248	Ditto FU	100	110	3
Lot 252A	KGV SMW p.13.5x12.5 Group (18)	120	120	3
Lot 265	KGV CofA wmk 1/4 FU	80	90	2
Lot 338A	Predecimal collection 1927 to 10/- Navigator (360)	80	130	7
Lot 365	Decimal collection to 1974 (170)	40	50	5
Lot 374	Tasmanian Colonial issues perfins T, OS and A (160)	160	250*	5

\* bids ranged from \$180 to \$250

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During May 1993 other lists were noted:

Papua 1901-1939 pricelist from Kevin Duffy in Stamp News May 1993 p.95 provides a useful pricelist of Papuan OS officials SG01 to SG050. As a special offer the 47 items listed were available as a collection(used) for \$950.

and Direct Sale List no.6 May 1993 from L. J. Armstrong (PO Box 140440 Kilburnie, Wellington 6030 NZ) lists a large range of New Zealand VO/Co. and VCo. perfins. Somewhat over 300 stamps were listed on issues ranging from QV through to 1940 Centennial issues. Prices ranged from \$4 to \$60 though most were around or below \$10. Rarely is such a range of perfins for the issue collector offered.

However the "highlight", in terms of price at least, over the past few months would have to be from the West Brisbane Stamp Sales Public Stamp Auction Sale no.88 held on 13th August 1993.

Lot 266 Award Winning Collection of Australian & State Official Perfins.(The description continued for some 40 lines listing many scarce/rare and expensive items). Estimate \$18,000

(This impressive collection was however not sold at auction)

Lot 267 Perforating machine, turn of the century, manufactured Turner, Atherton & Co Ltd Manchester will puncture letters A to Z in full working order with pins complete. Lovely piece of machinery, quite a conversation piece ! Ideal companion to the previous lot. Estimate \$250

(see the separate article on this machine elsewhere in this Bulletin).

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AUSTRALIA POST AND BIG HOLES !

Ron Bradford reports that recently he has had a high value stamp on mail he had received cut out before delivery, presumably removed while being transported/delivered by Australia Post. He urges members to report such tampering and to send a photocopy to the relevant postal officials.