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SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

no.26 January 1994

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Editorial

Due to other commitments I have not accepted nomination as editor for another term. I would like to thank members for their support and comments over the years. The contribution of the many members who have sent information and articles for the Bulletin is very great, without which a specialist philatelic newsletter, such as this one, cannot survive.

As many of you will have heard Winmalee came in for it's share of bushfires in the middle of January. That so little damage was done can be attributed to the large (over 100) number of fire units, including many from Victoria and South Australia, that were waiting in the area for the fires to hit. The contribution of the numerous cement-mixers, petrol tankers and sewage tankers transporting water needs also to be acknowledged. A job well done!

A most appropriate article for summer is that by Robert Samuel reporting the first genuine usage of a perfin in Antarctica. I hope you enjoy this and the other articles/information in this issue of the Bulletin.

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

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NEW MEMBERS

- 135 Peter J Parsons 17/5 Delanty Court, Edens Landing, Qld 4207 Aust.
- 136 Brian Holmes, PO Box 756 Virginia, SA 5120 Aust.
- 137 David Richards, 21 Bromborough Rd, Roseville, NSW 2069 Aust.
- 138 Martin Frischauf, Wallbachstr 8/8/5 A-5202 Neumarkt AUSTRIA

CLUB MEETING

The next meeting of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia will be held at 11.30 am on Saturday 19 March 1994 at the 8th National Philatelic Convention in Canberra, A.C.T. All members (and other people interested in perfin) are most welcome to attend - business will be kept to a minimum, and the emphasis will be to provide a facility for discussions among those present.

The Convention will be held at Dickson College (only a few minutes' drive from the city centre), not at the GPO as on previous occasions. Buses from the city bus interchange run past the college. There will be many dealers present, local and from interstate. The Convention runs from Saturday 19 March to Monday 21 March, the latter being a public holiday in Canberra, and coincides with the last 3 days of Canberra Festival week.

Dickson College is on the south-west corner of Antill Street and Phillip Avenue, Dickson. If arrival is via Goulburn/Hume Highway and the Federal Highway, look for a set of traffic lights soon after entering the urban area - Phillip Avenue is the first exit left from the Federal Highway after those traffic lights. If arrival is via Yass and the Barton Highway, follow the Barton Highway to its end where it joins the Federal Highway from Sydney. Turn left onto the Federal Highway (towards Sydney) and Phillip Avenue is the first exit to the right off the Federal Highway. We look forward to seeing you there!

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS

As there has not been more than one nomination for any of the office-bearers of the Club, it will not be necessary to conduct a vote at the March meeting. Nominees will be announced at that meeting, and in the April Bulletin.

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LITERATURE

Perfin Society Bulletin no.267 December 1993

Articles include: Perfin Collectors Christmas Present List; Most perfined stamp issue in the world (comments); CURRIE perfin by B Dennis; British Colliery Perfin by R Gault; Stamps not recorded as perfin (GB) ; Murphy's law applied to perfin by D Hill; History of Perfin users- Sir Titus Salt of Saltaire near Bradford Yorkshire by R Smith: plus 2 supplements- Catalogues and handbooks in the Perfin Society Library Oct 93; Sloper Experimental Cancels by R Smith.

Perfin Society Bulletin no.266 October 1993

Articles include: NASH full name perfin; The most perfined stamp issue in the world by R Gault; Connected Identities from Slopers Ledgers; What is a perfin by B Birch.

Literature cont.

Perfins Bulletin v.46 no.9 October 1993

Articles include: Forgeries and fakes by H Ratzler; Cummins no. 52(5 die perforator) advertisement from 1908; An unrecorded Barbados perfin by E Bayley; Recent usage of perfin pattern S98(SD) by J Laura.

Perfins Bulletin v.46 no.8 September 1993

Articles include: Confirmation of Polish Perfins needed for the World Perfin Catalog by B Schwerdt; A Polish forger by M Werner British South Africa (World Catalog pages); Possible South African perfins used abroad; More holes in Bosnia.

Perfins Bulletin v.46 no.7 July/August 1993

Articles include: Schermack question by R Mewhinney; Bank of Italy Mezzogiorno by D Cutler; British South Africa A&C pages 2.

Perfins Bulletin v.46 no.6 June 1993

Articles include: Three decades of Foreign Census reports (results of a Perfins Club census of no. of patterns found on countries worldwide- over 41,200 non-US patterns reported); Norway-Harald Lyde & Company by J Lyding; More holes in Bosnia.

The Tomkins Catalogue of Identified GB perfins 7th Edition Edited by R Gault. Perfin Society, 1993. Soft Cover, Spiral bound. B4 200+ pages

This catalogue lists GB perfins with identified users (up to December 1992). For each pattern the number of holes, height of letters, period of usage, user if known and the number of dies in the head are listed. Patterns are not illustrated as these are provided in the Edwards & Lucas Catalogue of Great Britain Perfins 1986-92. Used in combination with the catalogue mentioned above a most comprehensive listing of GB perfins is available.

Copies of the Tomkins catalogue were mailed to Perfin Society members as part of their annual membership subscription (£4 UK, £7 abroad). Price for non-members £11 UK, £13 abroad.

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Australian Related Literature

"Official punctures" Sydney Views no.41 November 1993 p.10-12

Records information from various archival files 1902 to 1905 relating to the introduction of OS perfins in the Australian States.

Victorian Government Punctures 5th Edition by Neale Scott and Bryan Toop 1993 61 pages plus Supp no.1

An updated edition of this well known work on the VG punctures. This edition includes a deal of information on the VG forgeries and fakes known to have originated from Queensland in the last few years. A very useful publication and a must for VG collectors. An order form is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin.

AUCTION 2/1993 - PRICES REALISED

Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A
1	1.25	54	14.00	94	1.00	123	3.75	155	10.00
2	5.00	55	9.00	95	6.50	125	3.00	156	5.00
3	5.00	56	10.00	96	5.50	126	36.00	157	1.75
5	5.00	57	13.00	97	4.25	128	3.25	159	3.00
6	5.00	58	4.00	100	3.00	129	2.00	160	5.00
7	5.00	59	4.00	101	3.25	130	2.00	162	2.00
8	4.75	63	5.00	102	2.00	131	3.00	163	2.00
9	5.00	66	5.50	103	3.25	132	2.00	164	6.50
10	8.00	69	3.25	104	15.00	133	36.00	165	2.00
11	12.00	70	5.00	105	42.00	134	2.00	166	2.00
12	13.00	71	5.00	106	7.50	135	3.25	167	2.00
13	5.00	77	4.00	107	2.25	136	2.00	168	5.00
14	5.00	78	6.00	108	7.50	138	3.00	169	3.50
15	13.00	79	5.00	109	2.00	139	2.00	170	2.50
16	15.00	80	4.00	110	4.25	140	3.00	171	15.00
17	10.00	83	5.00	111	4.25	141	5.00	172	3.75
18	10.00	84	42.00	113	55.00	143	3.75	173	5.00
19	15.00	85	15.00	114	4.00	144	6.50	174	12.00
20	5.50	86	2.00	115	1.00	145	6.00	175	5.00
25	8.00	87	7.00	116	3.00	146	6.00	177	10.00
36	10.00	88	6.50	117	5.00	147	3.00	179	5.50
42	5.00	89	21.00	118	10.00	148	2.50	180	6.00
44	4.25	90	3.00	119	7.00	149	11.00	181	3.25
46	5.00	91	10.00	120	46.00	150	2.00	182	1.00
49	5.00	92	4.25	121	5.00	152	4.75	183	4.50
51	4.00	93	2.25	122	10.00	154	2.00		

Auction 2/1993 has been a great success from many aspects, although some bidders may be surprised at having been outbid on individual lots!

Compared with the first auction, this one saw more vendors, who contributed more than twice the total number of lots on offer, and many more bidders. There were overseas vendors and several successful overseas buyers.

Covers and other "proving" items were particularly keenly sought after, as study of the prices realised will show. Even after just two auctions in the current series, "market forces" are starting to become apparent and we can only hope that there aren't any dealers reading this! However, we do hope that it will encourage even more vendors to offer their spare material in future auctions.

AUCTION 1/1994

The timetable for this second auction in the new series will be :

- January 1994 issue - call for material, and guide for vendors.
- April 1994 issue - auction catalogue, and guide for buyers.
- July 1994 issue - list of prices realised.

Vendors are invited to submit lots to the coordinator:

John Mathews, 21 McConnel Cres., KAMBAH A.C.T. 2902, AUSTRALIA

Guidelines for submission of lots are:

1. Lots are to be received at the above address by 31 March 1994
2. Material submitted is to be adequately packaged, both as individual lots, and as a total package for posting.
3. Certified mail, etc., for submitted material to be at vendor's discretion (the Club and auction coordinator cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage in transit to the coordinator).
4. Each lot must :
  - a. be clearly identified,
  - b. have a concise, representative description (for the catalogue), and
  - c. have a nominated reserve price.
 (if the vendor provides a separate summary list of lots so identified and described, a signed copy of the list will be returned as a receipt for the material).
5. It is considered that it would be to everyone's advantage to set a minimum reserve for any lot at \$2 (this should still allow for better items to be sold as singles, but encourage "bulk" lots of more common material which are not easy to put in a circuit book).
6. A vendor's commission of 10% will be deducted from the selling price of each lot (this will go towards postage for receipts for material submitted and for forwarding of payments).
7. Do not forget to include the desired return postal address.

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Australian Antarctica Update

John Mathews reports the additional private perfin used on Australian Antarctic Issues listed below:

- IH.8 on ASC1 and 3
- M.5 on ASC3
- VPC.3 on ASC3

As mentioned in the last issue of the Bulletin these issues were not used in Antarctica but on commercial mail in Australia. The first genuine reported usage of a perfin in Antarctica is reported elsewhere in this issue.

AUSTRALIAN STATE REVENUE OVERPRINTS

John Mathews reports a couple of additional overprints on State duty stamps.

The example illustrated on the left is a South Australian 1d duty with an AUSTRALIAN/MUTUAL/PROVIDENT/SOCIETY overprint.



KRAFT  
FOODS  
LIMITED

The other overprint he sighted in an auction but was unable to photocopy. The overprint on a Victorian 3d duty cancelled 24/8/1959 of KRAFT/FOODS/LIMITED was sketched and a likeness (slightly enlarged) is shown on the right.

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WANTED

Need many perfin types of the private/commercial users from Australia. Will buy or exchange for worldwide perfins or regular issues. Can send a partial want list.

Joseph Laura  
PO Box 249  
W Wareham MA 02576  
USA

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BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY (BNAPEX) 93 REPORT

Barry Clarke

This convention was held at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto Canada from 3rd September to 5th September 1993. Some 200 frames of some of the finest Canadian philatelic material in existence were exhibited and a bourse of 26 dealers graced the Concert Hall. Unfortunately none of the exhibits were perfins although a few had been used to complement other displays. Canada (like New Zealand) still does not know where perfins belong.

Friday night we attended a seven course Chinese banquet at the Sai Woo restaurant. We were taken by bus but as it was only about 3 or 4 blocks a number of us walked back, mainly to walk off the delicious meal we had over-eaten.

The Society AGM was held next morning at 8.00am and was to be followed by the Perfin Study Group Seminar at 10.00am. Unfortunately the AGM ran overtime, but a few of us left early to attend the Seminar. A total of 11 people attended the seminar, two new members joining there to bring the membership of the Study group to 50.

Jon Johnson gave a "slide-show" talk on the 4-hole and 5-hole

OH/MS perforators. A real specialist who knows his subject and can express himself clearly. I took the opportunity to hand out some of the 4c Amethyst "THANK/YOU" perfins that Dick Armstrong of the NZ Philatelic Federation had given to me to distribute. These were very appropriate as at the Awards Banquet on Sunday evening a small piece of amethyst crystal was beside every place. A lot of amethyst is mined in Ontario.

I dined a couple of times with Jon Johnson, a most pleasant person. He is a bit disappointed with the non-recognition of perfins in the "exhibition" world. The best he can ever expect is a Gold for an entry with 18 "A" rated perfins. There are less than three known copies of these "A" rated items and in most cases ONLY ONE KNOWN COPY.

Sunday afternoon I was taken for a drive around the city by fellow perfinner Owen White and wife as I had been asked by an Auckland friend to take some photos of his ancestors home. The house was no longer there but he was happy with the pics I took of nearby properties.

There is a lot of interest in New Zealand philately in North America and I have quite a list of "wouldya couldyas" to fill. It was great to meet so many I'd met in Vancouver 2 years ago, this time as old friends. To see Ritchie Toop receive "The Order of the Beaver" and to have a ride on the old ferry I used to ride to work, 40 years ago.

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GWALIOR STAMPED PAPER PERFIN

David Andersen

Some time ago I showed John Mathews a revenue stamped paper from Gwalior (India) with a GWALIOR GOVERNMENT/STAMP DEPARTMENT perfin and a separate date perfin. When he last visited the UK he had the opportunity to examine some of the record books from Slopers now held by the Perfin Society. These are some of the work books/order books in which Slopers recorded details of orders and samples of perfins produced.

He noticed an entry in one of these books for the Gwalior patterns I had shown him. Kindly he made a copy for me, which is reproduced on the next page.

Two machines no.64650 and 64651 were supplied to the Gwalior State Government by Slopers. The order (no.484) was received on 3/6/1930, was processed on work ticket 4362 and delivered/sent on 30/6/1930.

The machine for the larger perfin(no.64650) was a no.3 screwfly machine operated by a screw press rather than a lever. The date machine was a different kettle of fish, the details being provided in the workbook. In the description is the mention " + one year 30" which refers to Slopers practice of producing year dies that would slide into the head containing the day/month dies. A great deal of Slopers business was producing such machines for non postal purposes.

1A650/51

1A84. 3/6/30

1.T. 11362

N. 36 30/6/30

No. 3 Screwfly machine  
similar to m/s 61718.  
Sep. 65.

No. 1 Sta. side slide Rev. Bk. Pullover  
lever. link motion machine, complete  
with dies for days, months & one year 30.

No. 1. Sta. size figures, height of drilling or sep.

Dot dies  $\frac{1}{8}$ "

Day dies  $\frac{5}{16}$ "

Month Sta. width.

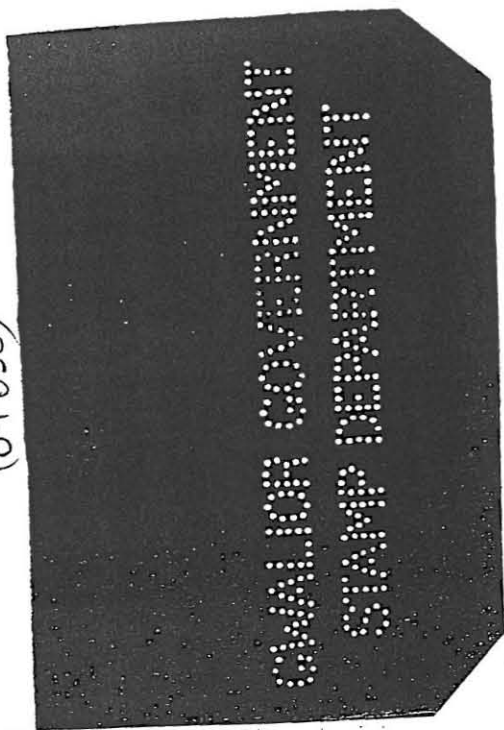
Year  $\frac{5}{8}$ " & drilled so as to give same  
space from edge of steel as month  
dies.

Packed in tin lined case  $1'3" \times 1'10" \times 1'11"$

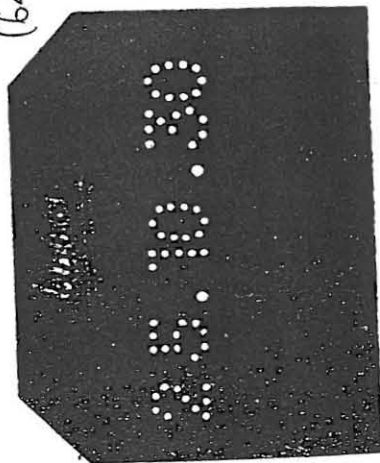
Gross weight  $\frac{1.0.19}{2.12}$   
Nett

From Sloper Ledger #9

(64650)



(64651)



The Officer Stamp Finance Dept  
Gwalior Govt  
Gwalior  
India



NEW ZEALAND PERFINS

SE&Co

New Zealand Philatelic Brokers Ltd recently offered for sale a 1d Second Sideface stamp perforated with the scarce perfin, SE&Co. It was stated to be fiscally used, bore part of the firm's name ("EWEN"), and had a price tag of \$200. Even at that price I missed out; my telephone call was more than half a day too late and the item had been already sold.

A search of the Auckland edition of "Wise's Directory" for 1900 and 1901 has been of no help. I could find no firms at all with the initials SE&Co, and only one firm which contain the name "Ewen." There are several possibilities. One is that the initials are those of the partnership, but that it traded under a different name. Another is that the firm was very small and went out of business almost as soon as it started. A third possibility is that the perfin (but with incorrect initials) was used at the Auckland branch office of Sargood, Son & Ewen. This firm used stamps perforated SSE at its Dunedin Head Office.

I could find only two individuals in the Auckland city area with the surname, Ewen. One of these two people had changed his address between 1900 and 1901 (perhaps suggesting a change of lifestyle and a new business involvement). But even this faint clue came to nothing and I could find no evidence to link this Mr Ewen with the initials SE&Co.

The perfin rather resembles a "one off" Victorian perfin and we know that Sargood, Son & Ewen had close connections with Melbourne, where other family members were in business. It would have been quite easy for the firm to have sent a few sheets of stamps to Melbourne for perforating. The incorrect initials would be explainable if Sargood, Son & Ewen was known, colloquially, as "Sargood Ewen & Co."

The mystery remains. Perhaps another fiscally used stamp, showing other parts of the name, remains to be found.

S&CoLtd

It was suspected that this perfin was used by Sharland & Co. Ltd, of Auckland. Mr W.G. Register, of Christchurch, has a copy of this perfin on cover, proving that this preliminary identification was in fact correct.

A PERFIN FROM THE ANTARCTIC



Stanley Gibbons New Zealand Ltd's auction of 11th December 1993 includes, as Lot 514, two postcards, one described as being franked with a New Zealand "1d Universal perfin (damaged)" postmarked "British Antarctic Expedition." I have been able to obtain a photocopy of this postcard. At the time of writing I am still wondering whether or not to bid; the estimate for the two cards is a cool \$500.

The stamp is perforated USSCo (used by the Union Steam Ship Company Ltd). It is, as described, "damaged" - badly so. It has in fact been torn in half, the two portions joined together, but in a very rough manner. A cut-out from the back of an envelope bearing an oval "S.Y. 'Nimrod'" marking dated FEB 23 1908 has been attached to the card, probably by the recipient. The only part of the date of the datestamp which I can read is part of the day, the figure "2." This, however, is more than enough. The stamp would be postmarked 27FE08, the date of the mail made up prior to the return of the "Nimrod" to New Zealand. A letter with the "Nimrod" backstamp was probably received by the addressee, a Mrs Gordon, in the same mail.

The Union Steam Ship Company was connected with Shackelton's 1908 expedition to the Antarctic; the "Koonyah" which accompanied the ship's to the edge of the pack ice before returning to New Zealand was a Union Steam Ship Company vessel. The "Nimrod" had called at Port Chalmers on its way south and a crew member may well have been asked to send a card to Mrs Gordon, or Mrs Gordon may have given the card to the crew member for posting. There are a number of possibilities.

The item is certainly of interest - the most southerly usage of a New Zealand perfin. But damaged? and \$500? I'm still thinking.

ROBERT SAMUEL

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1d KANGAROO - WATERMARK SIDEWAYS PUNCTURED LARGE OS by L Cowman

The 1993 update of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue featured a review of the Kangaroo and Map series.

Note 2 on page 2/21 de-listed the above item with the following comment:

" The previous listing included this variety punctured Large or Small OS but there is no evidence for the existence of these. "


Prior to receiving this update I had purchased the following item offered by Gabriele's Philatelic Service in the June 1993 Stamp News: " 1d Kangaroo Perforated Large OS Wmk Sideways- Fine Used, Scarce Item"

This stamp was shown to Rodney Perry, of the National Stamp Gallery. Examination did not reveal any reason to doubt it's authenticity.

The question remains as to the existence of this item with the small OS puncture.

#####

WANTED

South African and other African perfin material particularly on cover, piece or receipt that shows the user and manner of usage. In particular covers bearing the Cape of Good Hope  perfin (used mainly on overseas correspondence) are wanted.

Brian Dennis  
PO Box 238, Hilton 3245 Natal  
SOUTH AFRICA

AN UNCOMMON COMBINATION

(J. H. Mathews)

One of my regular correspondents, who has added considerably to details of perfins known at the time of publication of "Commercial Perfins of Australia", is Joe Laura who lives near Boston, USA.

Amongst his latest samples for me to study is a fine copy of a Tasmanian 3d. yellow duty stamp perforated with a strike of LLG.3 which is cleaner than the only one available when the book went to the printers.

As a matter of routine, I put the stamp under my magnifier to get a better look at the penscript date of cancellation and to my surprise found that the stamp also had an overprint, showing a crown with "TAS" underneath. The overprint appears to be in a pale blue ink, the paleness probably not due to fading because the stamp colour is brilliantly fresh.

I photocopied the stamp, enlarging it and adjusting the exposure to get optimum contrast between the overprint and the background. Then, with the original and photocopy alongside each other under a magnifier, I manually enhanced the darkness of the overprint on the photocopy.



With the stamp design in the photocopy faded almost completely out, prominently visible are the strike of LLG.3, the diagonal penscript cancellation date 31/10/28, and the enhanced overprint.

Company identification and a date were required to cancel a duty stamp (J. Sloper and Co. did a lot of business overprinting GB stamps for revenue usage), but with an overprint for such identification and a perfin for security protection, this item is rather special.

Are there any other known examples of other companies having combinations of perfins and cancelling overprints (as distinct from company cachets or penscript initials) on the same stamp?

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OS with South African Postmark

In a recent letter Brian Dennis, a nonmember from South Africa, mentions an interesting item.

"It is an OS perfin on a KGV Australian. The stamp is a 4d orange of the 1914-21 series and appears to have a 1917 postmark on it, which fits. The cancellation is a very clear Cape Town Paquebot.

Have you any views or comparative experience as to how such a stamp could have been used in South Africa? I suppose an Australian Government representative could have been on route to England and wanted to mail letters when the ship stopped at Cape Town."

Any comments, solutions or similar copies to be reported ?

C OF A PERFINS ON WILDINGS

David Andersen

I recently had an opportunity to examine about 100 British CofA perfins on QEII Wilding issues. Many of these were not listed in my book or supplements to it. I was quite astounded by the number of copies in this accumulation, rarely have I seen more than a few of these issues at once.

As I find the values to 1/6 difficult to classify as to wmk etc I have not attempted to separate these out.

Values	Positions							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1d		x		x		x		x
2d	x	x						x
3d		x		x		x		x
4d				x				x
6d		x		x		x		x
9d		x		x		x		x
1/-		x		x		x		x
Wmk Edwards Crown								
2/6								x
Wmk Multi Crown								
2/6		x		x	x	x	x	x
5/-			x	x		x	x	
10/-		x		x	x	x	x	x
£1				x		x		x
No Wmk								
2/6							x	
10/-								x
£1	x				x			

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PHILATELIC POSTAGE

Kevin Pearse wrote with a plea for members to use high value commemoratives or Antarctic/Christmas Island issues on circuit books etc. He suggests that Australia Post staff will usually postmark such material lightly on the corner so that the recipient will get a useful stamp on their mail.

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WANTED

G/NSW perfins (any position) on the following Australian issues: \$4 Navigator, 30c Fish, 45c Callistemon, 11c Spectrophotometry, 24c Astronomy, 44c Oceanography. Will buy or exchange. David Andersen 260 Hawkesbury Rd, Winmalee NSW 2777 AUSTRALIA