THE SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO 28 JULY 1994

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EDITORIAL

Having assembled this issue of the Bulletin, I was surprised to see that it included four articles which reviewed or reported on literature relevant to perfins.

When I began to study perfins several years ago, it was almost impossible to find any perfin reference material, in particular, any reference material relevant to Australian and/or New Zealand perfins. At the time, I made a thorough search of all the Australian philatelic journals and was sadly disappointed at the lack of published information. Some articles had appeared in 1930s issues of the *Australian Stamp Monthly* and in the late 1960s and early 1970s, four or five well researched pieces were published in *Philately From Australia*. Apart from these few articles, there was simply no literature available. Since that time and since the formation of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, good articles have appeared in various journals. That, and the recent publication of two new high quality perfin books (*An Exhibition Display Of New Zealand Stamps With Perforated Initials* and *Victorian Government Punctures*) is surely a healthy sign for perfin collecting in this region.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members:

#140 Colin Clark Hutchison, Kirkcudbright, Scotland
#141 Derek Brennan, Fyshwick, ACT, Australia
#142 Tony Painting, Hamilton, New Zealand
#143 Ray Bennett, Timaru, New Zealand
#144 Bill Harley, Dubbo, NSW, Australia

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

A reminder to all members that subscriptions for the 1994/1995 financial year are payable to the Treasurer as of 1 July 1994. Current rates are set out on page 1 of this Bulletin.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Set out below are financial statements provided by Peter Wood and Barry Clarke:

Perfin Clu	b of New Zea	land and Australia	
Statement of Receipt and	Expenditure	for the Year Ended 30 June	1994
	\$		\$
Bank Balance as of 1.7.93	2244.55	Preparation and despatch of 4 Bulletins	789.90
Subscriptions incl \$362.93 paid in advance	815.93	Bank charges	8.29
Bank interest	38.29	Postage & stationery	36.65
Sale of Bulletins	50.00		
Auction 1/93	247.25	Auctions 1/93	252.25
Auction 2/93	843.20	Auction 2/93	842.45
Exchange Branch	638.91	Term Deposit	1500.00
		Bank Balance 30.6.94	1448.59
	4878.13		4878.13
		P.A. Wood	
		Hon Treasurer	

	New Zealand	iland and Australia Account f Accounts as 4/5/94	
	NZ \$		NZ \$
Cash in Bank 30/6/93	423.73	Paid Vendors	123.05
Sales	79.05	Bought P.O.D.	150.00
Bank Interest	16.72	Auction Payment	6.50
P.O.D. Sales	30.00		
Auction Sales	102.30		
Members' Dues	67.00	Cash in Bank	439.25
	718.80		718.80

LITERATURE WATCH

Among the articles in the Bulletins of other Perfins Societies are:

GB Perfin Society Bulletin No 269, April 1994.

- . New illustrated catalogue by R Gault;
- . History of the Users of Perfins New Ideal Homesteads Ltd by A Smith;
- . Perfin machine S.B/Co. Ld by C Carr;
- Shepherds Bush Exhibition Perfin SB/EX by J Nelson.

GB Perfin Society Bulletin No 270, June 1994.

- History of Perfin Users Raphael Tuck and Sons by D Hill;
- . Perforating Machines;
- Perfin M.A.B/S by R Smith;
- More from the Sloper Ledgers by S Steere;
- Tracking down design perfin 0730.01 (ULP) by D Hill;
- The Vacuum Oil Company a brief history by R Gault;
- . Francis A Hancock perforator of postage stamps by J Mathews.

Perfins Bulletin (US) v.47 No 2, February 1994.

- What is the future of our hobby and the perfins club? by C Spaulding (A pox on issue collectors and a plea to experienced collectors to make scarcer issues available to others);
 - World Perfins Catalogue Bushire, Crete, Cyprus, Palestine, Persia, Raoul Island, Turkey;

Perfins Bulletin (US) v.47 No 3, March 1994.

- . Hong Kong Security Markings a review;
- . Postcard perfins by H Rickard;
- . World Perfins Catalogue Turkey Austrian, British, Italian and Russian Offices;
- . Two from Curaco by J Lyding.

GIO OVERPRINTS

(David Andersen)

One of the most common overprints found on State duty stamps is the GIO overprint of the Government Insurance Office of NSW (now GIO Australia) found on New South Wales duty issues. Usage of these overprints must have been considerable as this is a large insurance company. That a number of unusual values were overprinted bears this out. I have recorded the following issues so far:

Pre-decimal series 1929 - 1965

3^d, 9^d, 2/-, 2/6, 3/-, 4/-, 5/-, 6/-, 10/-, 18/-, £1

Decimal series

1°, 3°, 4°, 10°, 15°, \$1.20, \$1.80, \$3.00

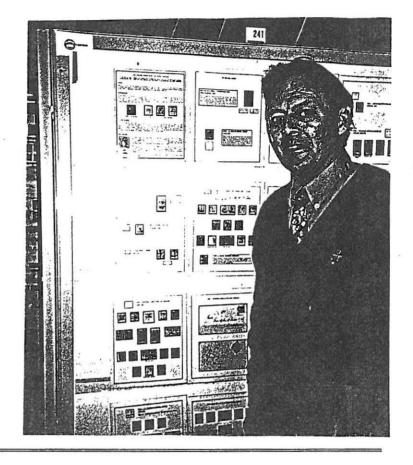
Presumably this overprint is found on a large number of other values. The assistance of other members to expand on this listing would be appreciated.

MEMBER'S AWARD

Congratulations to Robert Samuel who was awarded a Vermeil medal for his perfin display at NORTHPEX 94 in Hamilton, New Zealand in May 1994.

The photo of Robert with his display was kindly provided by our roving reporter at the exhibition.

It is always heartening to see perfins being displayed to potential new collectors and gratifying to see the philatelic world recognising this branch of study with high awards.



BOOK REVIEW: AN EXHIBITION DISPLAY OF NEW ZEALAND STAMPS WITH PERFORATED INITIALS

As noted above, Robert Samuel recently exhibited his collection of New Zealand perfins with great success at NORTHPEX 94. Robert has now published his 128 page exhibit in the form of a book; An Exhibition Display Of New Zealand Stamps With Perforated Initials.

The exhibit itself includes approximately 1,200 stamps and 50 covers, illustrating all New Zealand commercial perfins, including all recognised rarities, as well as the British "NZ" perfins used at the Office of the High Commissioner for New Zealand in London. Numerous scarce and important items are included in the exhibit. The book is therefore a valuable reference work for collectors of New Zealand perfins.

Just as importantly, the book is a valuable item to exhibitors of perfins (or indeed, of any material) and to those who might consider exhibiting their collections in the future. It provides a rare opportunity to study a top class exhibit in detail and examine the approach which Robert has taken in assembling the exhibit and the techniques which he has used to balance his pages and to mount the more difficult material (such as oversize covers). In the preface to the book, Robert writes of the challenges, problems and dilemmas faced by exhibitors and provides invaluable advice for intending exhibitors.

The book is available from the Philatelic Foundation Christchurch (Inc.), PO Box 1129, Christchurch, New Zealand @ NZ\$25 plus postage and packing. An order form is included with this issue of the Bulletin.

A CLUE TO A USER IDENTITY (J. H. Mathews)

One of our members, John Amiet, has shown the piece of envelope illustrated at right. The stamp which is tied to this piece has the perfin WCB&CO.1.

'Commercial Perfins of Australia' lists only one possible user of this distinctive combination of letters - William Cameron Bros., & Co., tobacco merchants of 20 a'Beckett Street East Melbourne, Vic. This piece would add some weight to the suggested identity.

Does any member have a complete envelope with this design (even an unstamped copy) which has a user identity and/or return address on it?



BOOK REVIEW: VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT PUNCTURES

It is now five years since the publication of the fourth edition of Victorian Government Punctures by Bryan Toop. In the intervening period, substantial new information has come to light. In addition, VG collecting has undergone turmoil because of the forgery of VG punctures on ordinary used issues.

In the fifth edition of *Victorian Government Punctures*, Bryan Toop has combined with a new co-editor, Neale Scott to update the previous edition and, most importantly, to set down their findings on the forged punctures. In regard to the latter, the book provides several pages of advice as to how to detect forged VG punctures and provides a listing of suspected forgeries and the issues on which they appear. The work done by Neale Scott and Bryan Toop is a fascinating piece of philatelic detective work and will allow students of VG punctures to continue their collecting with confidence.

Victorian Government Punctures gives details of the government authorities which used VG punctures. It also gives illustrations of the four dies and details of their puncturing heads and provides listings of all VG-punctured issues, together with details of the dies and their positions. The book is an invaluable reference for both specialist and casual collectors of VG punctures.

The book is 54 pages, A4 size and spiral bound with a soft cover and is available from Neale Scott, 11 Knight Street, Redcliffe, Queensland 4020, Australia. Purchase price is A\$14.00 within Australia or \$15.00 for overseas delivery (prices include surface postage).

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT PUNCTURED STAMPS

Firstly let me introduce myself. My name is Neale Scott and I recently co-authored the fifth edition of *Victorian Government Punctures* with the previous author Bryan Toop.

My stamp collecting experience in terms of years is extremely limited having only commenced collecting used Australian decimal stamps for my young children in 1987. It was through this humble introduction to stamps that I progressed to the challenging field of perfins. My initiation to perfins was a chance meeting with a dedicated perfin collector when attending annual stamp club days of various Brisbane clubs. It was through this acquaintance that I realised the additional challenge of collecting punctured stamps as opposed to collecting normal stamps.

Initially I purchased any punctured stamp. I realised after accumulating multiple copies of most common OS and official state punctures that I needed to concentrate my collection to some specific type and then acquire a listing of known existing stamps of that type and purchase only those that I needed or copies to improve my collection.

During my search for information on punctured stamps, I came across the fourth edition of *Victorian Government Punctures* by Bryan Toop. I recognised the complexity of the four types of punctures and up to eight different positions and decided to take up the challenge of collecting as per Bryan's rated listings. I wrote to Bryan initially to purchase common types to assess if my decision to commence a VG collection was sound or not. Bryan willingly supplied me with hundreds from my wants list and even patiently sorted through thousands of his spares to supply copies with my preferred Circular Date Stamp which is a bottom left hand corner cancel. I can only imagine Bryan's first thoughts when I commenced corresponding and requested only bottom left hand corner cancels (probably something like -who is this nut expecting to collect each VG punctured stamp with bottom left hand corner cancels). I appreciate the effort Bryan output to satisfy my unusual request and am extremely grateful. I now realise that one should be thankful obtaining a copy at all let alone with preferred cancels. However I am still addicted to collecting with my preferred cancel.

My search for VGs entailed writing to numerous dealers, perfin collectors, approvals, visiting local collectors who may have had perfins put aside and attending all local stamp exhibitions and club days. It was at a stamp exhibition in September 1991 that I was contacted by a collector who offered me the opportunity to purchase VGs as per Bryan's book.

My immediate reaction when first viewing the offering was one of great excitement at locating a source of rare material and I enquired how such numbers of rare material had been accumulated. The response was that it was part of a family heirloom. Accepting the response, I set about recording the details and wondered how I could manage to purchase those required. The stamps offered were outrageously overpriced (\$20.00 for a rated 5 on a common value stamp and in some instances more for high value rated 5). I purchased several hundred dollars worth of mainly rated 4 and flushed with excitement inserted them into my collection.

I had previously made contact with Jim Dean who has collected perfins for over 30 years and proudly displayed the additions to my collection. Jim commended me on my resourcefulness in obtaining a source for such rare material but suggested that they had some similarities to a lot he had purchased at auction and had reservations about their genuineness. He was also concerned that despite having accumulated large quantities of VGs from genuine sources over a number of years he had not seen some of the positions I had purchased.

Jim provided me with large quantities for research in an endeavour to establish if similarities existed between my purchases and his genuine bulk ones. Needless to say, commonality could not be established but I realised that to state that copies were suspect, one would have to collect and document substantial evidence to substantiate such. At this point, the focus was the clean holes and handwriting on the reverse side but it was obvious that this evidence alone would not convince police or experienced collectors as the dies appeared genuine. Another intrigue was the increasing number of dies identified with suspect punctures.

I commenced recording details of each individual suspect stamp that Jim and I had and I identified the individual first and second head dies. Researching these details I noted that some dies of the first and second head were more prevalent than others and commenced the focus on this aspect of the suspects. I devised my King George V cliche theory¹ from this focus given that the puncturing machine was designed to accommodate a full sheet of KGV stamps ie if a cliche can be identified as belonging to a particular position on the sheet, it must align with the appropriate VG die.

I sought the assistance of Len Cooley (Elcee Stamps) a recognised experienced KGV collector and dealer. Len identified the cliches of several suspect copies whilst I identified the VG die and then determined which die the cliche should have aligned with. In all instances so far, ALL stamps with suspect punctures have failed to align with the appropriate VG die. Conversely, all cliches identified on punctured stamps of genuine appearance have aligned with the appropriate VG die. I have no doubt though that one day a suspect copy will be found to align, just as in a game of roulette a number will eventually come up.

Armed with proof of the cliche theory I then focused on the issue dates of stamps and the dies. I have identified numerous copies of commemoratives and definitive series stamps issued after 1937 with first head dies which were replaced in 1934/35. One benefit of the manufacturer's lack of knowledge of the VG puncturing machine usage is that I was able to capitalise on these mistakes and now positively document procedures to assist collectors. Unfortunately though the manufacturer and marketing agents have made considerable financial gains from their efforts prior to me exposing their game. All suspects identified by me have emanated from Queensland.

¹ The King George V eliebe theory rests on the knowledge that within any value of the KGV series, a high percentage of stamps can be "plated" - ie, the positions of the stamps on the original printed sheet can be determined. Given that the VG puncturing machines had 12 puncturing heads (dies), corresponding to the rows of 12 stamps on the printed sheet, a stamp which is known, for example, to be the 3rd unit in a given row must show the 3rd puncture head of the relevant VG die.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The New Illustrated Catalogue of G.B. Perfins, ed. by Roy Gault, published by The Perfin Society, 1994 (unbound). Reviewed by John Mathews.

It is eight years since the previous edition of this catalogue was commenced, and the number of known GB perfins has risen from about 21,500 to over 25,000 in that time.

This A4 size, loose-leaf publication is being produced in two formats (as if there is not enough work involved to produce one!) to cater for the varied requirements of collectors and researchers of this material. Both formats are printed on one side of the page only.

One version includes illustrations only, arranged 6-to-a-row with 6 rows per page, in much the same arrangement as the previous edition, but with the use of computer typesetting giving an improved appearance. Each perfin is illustrated actual size and is boxed and identified with its catalogue number. The companion volume to this version would be "The Tomkins Catalogue of Identified G.B. Perfins", 7th ed., produced by the Perfin Society in 1993.

For those who may not have the Tomkins Catalogue, or for those who prefer to have all known details of the perfins' usage and users co-located, the New Illustrated Catalogue is also being produced in an "Illustrations plus Details" version, which has a two-column format not unlike that of "Commercial Perfins of Australia". On the left hand side of each column is the boxed full size illustration of each perfin with its catalogue number, and alongside this are listed the known details under the headings In Use (year range of usage), Dates (earliest and latest postmark dates), Issues (actual stamp issues known with the perfin), Ident (details of user(s) of the perfin), Pmks (details of known postmarks if user is not known) and notes (any additional relevant information). There are also some illustrations of company cachets and logos which relate to the perfins, and these enhance the visual appeal of the catalogue.

The catalogues are divided into sections by first letter of the perfins, and at the end of each section there is a comprehensive summary for the perfins beginning with that letter, for the statistically-minded.

The first sections produced are for the letters "O" and "Q" (27 and 6 pages respectively), and sections "U", "V" and "X" are now also available. The cost of the "O" and "Q" sections post-paid to countries outside UK and Europe is $\pounds 3$ for the "Illustrations only" version, and $\pounds 5$ for the "Illustrations plus details" version. The second instalment (for "U", "V" and "X") costs $\pounds 4$ and $\pounds 6.10$ respectively for the two versions, again post-paid.

Members may place orders with the Society's Publications Officer or, rather than having to remit several small amounts from overseas, a larger remittance can be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer who will arrange for the instalments to be sent as they are produced and will advise when the credit amount is running out. Annual subscription rates for Society membership outside UK are £6 (Bulletins sent by surface mail) or £7 (airmail).

I know that much consideration went into the planning of this mammoth task, and all concerned are to be congratulated on a fine production which will be a great companion for all those interested in perfins and especially to collectors of GB perfins.

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AUCTION WATCH

Perfin lots seen in auction catalogues since the last Bulletin include (Australian unless otherwise mentioned):

1.	Cinc	lerella Stamp Auction No. 23 (April 1994)	
	a.	"VG" - 101 loose stamps, plus 8 covers	Est \$40
	b.	Accumulation of 113 perfins(68 Aust private, 32 Aust State Govts, 13 GB/USA)	Est \$40
	c.	A/M/P on NSW ld Arms on postcard (apparent private	Est \$10
	d.	usage?) large "K" on Kodak cover, plus "VG" on OHMS	Est \$10
	e.	Victorian Railways cover "IOA" on Insurance Office of Australia cover (+ few non-perfin covers)	Est \$15
2. A	uckland	Postal History Postal Bid Sale May 1994	
	a.	"AS&S" cover (1940) to USA	Est \$40(NZ)
3. Ji	mbo's (N	Melbourne) Postal Bid Sale No. 4, May 1994	
	a.	Accumulation of 85 private perfins on NSW Duty	Est \$40
	b.	Stamps "DWMLTD" on Tasmania 5d on 10/- orange Duty Stamp o/print "REVENUE"	Est \$100
4.	Statu	us Auction No. 153 (June 1994)	
	a.	"C&B" private stationery postcard (1901)	Est \$200
5.	West	t Brisbane Stamp Sales Auction 91.5 (June 1994)	
	a.	World collection in stockbook	Est \$200
	b.	Shoebox of about 100 perfin covers (Aust dec. and world)	Est \$90
	C.	shoebox with accumulation in packets, mainly perfins	Est \$70
	d.	(VG, GNSW, private inc. world) G/NSW collection in stockbook	Est \$300
	e.	Stockbook of official & private perfins	Est \$500
	с. f.	Stockbook with extensive private perfin collection	Est \$200
	plus	26 perfin literature lots including some which sounded	
	The second se	extracts from SPP Bulletin !	
6.	KJB	Postal Bid Sale No. 33 (June 1994)	
	a.	Selection of 45 private perfins (duplication)	Est \$20

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THE "OK" PERFORATOR OF HARROLD BROS.

(J.H. Mathews)

The perfin patterns OK.2, OK.3 and OK.4 have all been identified with the firm of Harrold Bros. or its successor companies Harrold, Colton and Co., and Colton, Palmer and Preston Ltd., ironmongers and hardware merchants, of Currie Street, Adelaide. The letters "OK" were one of their trade marks.

The only difference between OK.2 and OK.3 is the presence, or not, of the hole between the two letters, and this may have been due to that pin being shorter than the others and not perforating all stamps in a pile, since the period of use of these two patterns overlaps almost exactly. It appears that the top pin of the letter "O" broke, or fell out, in about 1925 as all subsequent strikes are as OK.4.

A strike identical to OK.2 is found in Sloper's workshop ledgers for their serial number 6447. There is no date for this entry, but from dated entries earlier and later than this one, the date of manufacture of this machine must have been approximately September 1884.

The earliest known usage of OK.2 (on South Australian stamps) is 1890, well after the date of manufacture, even allowing for delivery by sea at the end of last century.

I have just found a clue as to where this machine was until 1890. The first instalment of the New Illustrated Catalogue of GB perfins has just been delivered and it includes pages for perfins starting with the letter "O". The GB pattern designated O0960.01 is identical to OK.2. Its known period of usage on GB stamps is 1885 to 1890! It is recorded on the QV ld lilac (SG170) and the 2d value of the QV Jubilee issue (SG200).

The GB user of this perforator has not been recorded, but a "London EC" postmark is known on stamps with this perfin. In the Post Office London Directory for 1889, the firm of Harrold Bros., merchants, is listed as the occupants of 29 Great St. Helen's, EC. Great St. Helen's is a short thoroughfare near the eastern end of Threadneedle Street (the Bank of England is at the western end of Threadneedle Street), and quite close to the office premises of Joseph Sloper and Co.

BULLETIN ARTICLES WANTED

Articles are always wanted for publication in the Bulletin. If you have interesting perfin items, information on firms which used perfins, research material, a "wants" list, or if you are seeking information on perfins or related matters, please put pen to paper and send your article to the acting Editor.

Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A
1	4.00	56	10.00	87	7.50	115	40.00	145	5.00	167	30.00
3	5.00	57	4.25	89	2.00	118	5.00	146	10.00	169	1.75
6	3.00	58	4.25	90	26.00	119	10.00	148	2.75	170	20.00
10	5.00	59	16.00	92	23.00	120	8.50	149	2.75	171	2.75
18	13.00	60	8.50	93	3.00	121	16.00	150	2.00	172	6.00
24	2.25	61	5.00	94	4.25	124	5.00	151	2.75	173	8.50
25	2.00	62	8.00	95	22.00	126	5.00	152	5.00	174	2.75
31	2.00	65	10.00	97	3.50	127	5.00	153	3.50	175	21.00
32	6.50	67	5.50	100	7.00	129	23.00	154	2.00	176	2.75
35	6.50	69	6.50	101	6.50	132	34.00	155	4.25	178	6.75
41	2.00	71	4.00	102	4.25	133	42.00	156	11.00	185	7.00
44	4.00	73	13.00	103	2.00	134	31.00	157	4.25	186	1.25
45	6.50	74	13.00	104	2.00	135	27.00	158	2.00	187	4.25
46	3.00	75	7.00	105	4.00	136	4.25	159	7.00	188	3.00
48	10.00	76	10.00	106	8.00	137	7.50	160	5.00	189	5.50
49	6.50	77	5.00	107	5.00	138	3.25	161	7.50	191	2.00
50	6.50	78	5.00	108	4.00	139	7.00	162	3.00	192	2.75
51	4.00	79	4.00	109	8.00	140	5.50	163	14.00	193	1.25
52	6.50	80	5.00	110	4.25	-141	4.00	164	4.25	194	4.25
54	2.00	82	3.00	111	22.00	142	3.00	165	5.50	195	8.50
55	13.00	86	7.00	114	6.50	143	2.00	166	19.00		

AUCTION 1/1994 - PRICES REALISED

Auction 1/1994 has been another great success, with all vendors and most bidders sharing in the positive results. We do hope that this will encourage even more vendors to offer their spare material in future auctions.

AUCTION 2/1994

The timetable for the next auction will be:

July 1994 issue:	call for material, and guide for vendors.
October 1994 issue:	auction catalogue, and guide for buyers.
January 1995 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 30 September 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).
- 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.

EDITOR WANTED

I would be pleased to hear from any Club member who is interested in taking over as editor of the Bulletin. I can assure anyone who might be interested that the workload is not heavy and that there would be plenty of support from other Club members.

A FINAL THOUGHT

A fellow philatelist from the local stamp club provided me with a photocopy of a page from the Boy's Own Newspaper - Guide to Stamp Collecting (c 1920). It read: "At any time that you are tempted to acquire a damaged stamp for inclusion in your collection, you should remember that, except in the case of a great rarity, such a specimen is really worthless. The same remark applies to stamps that have been perforated, or punctured as some describe it, with the initials of a business firm. Every one of these imperfect stamps should be entertained in your album only as a mere temporary tenant. It is indeed wise for the collector to look upon each imperfect stamp as being an eyesore in his album."

Having read these words of wisdom, it came as no surprise when the spell checker on my computer prompted me to alter the word "perfin" to "profane".