

THE SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO 30 JANUARY 1995

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President	John Grant, PO Box 3111, Weston Creek ACT 2606, Australia
Secretary	John Mathews, 21 McConnell Cres, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia
Treasurer	Peter Wood, 9 Roslyn Street, Mt Martha, Victoria, 3934, Australia
Editor	Vacant (John Grant acting)
Circuit Managers:	
New Zealand	Barry Clarke, 24 Spedding Road, Whangarei, New Zealand
Australia	John Mathews, 21 McConnell Cres, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia

EDITORIAL

When I first became interested in perfins some years ago, it was rare for stamp dealers to show any interest in the material I wanted. Dealers' stocks of perfins were never kept in stockbooks; invariably they sat in a cardboard box along with cheap used issues and general junk. That picture has changed considerably. Dealers are now well aware of perfins and most can show you a small range of loose stamps and, very occasionally, a perfin on cover. The penalty to collectors is that material which had been cheap can now be relatively expensive, depending on the particular dealer's understanding of the perfin market. Most dealers will charge more or less the same price for a stamp regardless of whether it is punctured. However, it is not unusual to find that a dealer has priced a common perfin at 4 or 5 times the price of that stamp unpunctured. To my way of thinking, that simply encourages forgery.

Prices for perfin covers vary enormously from a few dollars up into three figure amounts. Generally, the more highly priced covers have something other than the perfin which has pushed the price up. For instance, a perfin cover with attractive advertising or a rare postal marking, or a cover to an unusual destination or with a scarce combination of stamps will be keenly sought by non-perfin collectors and will command a high price.

The benefit to collectors in the increased interest in perfins is that material is slightly easier to find now than it was some years ago. Most of the better auction catalogues include one or two perfin lots and the Auction Watch column in this Bulletin is evidence of that. The inclusion of perfins as separate lots in auction catalogues has also facilitated research on perfins as useful information now appears fairly regularly in catalogue descriptions of perfin lots. All in all, I don't think its a bad thing that the general philatelic world is more aware of us.

NEW MEMBERS

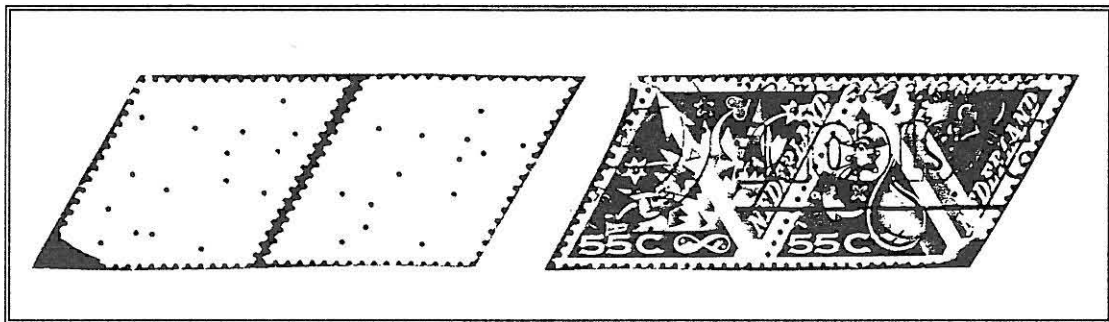
We welcome the following new members to the Club:

- #147 James Betson, Flemington, Victoria
 #148 Alan Sandy, Petaluma, CA, USA

SNOWFLAKES! HOW WRONG CAN YOU BE ?

(David Andersen)

Barry Clarke wrote to me in November asking if I knew anything about a few recent Netherlands stamps with some unusual perfin. These are shown below.



Of the four stamps, two were red and two were blue; the stamps of each colour having the same pattern but different from that on the other colour stamps. After checking in the Dutch perfin catalogue and not finding any possible pattern my suggestion was a partial punch of an unknown pattern. Little did I know! The day after I sent my reply to Barry, the October 1994 Perfins Bulletin (US) arrived and provided the explanation.

The Netherland PTT (Post Office) had issued a sheetlet of 20 diamond shaped stamps arranged in the shape of a Christmas tree in 1993. Each stamp in the sheet was punched with one of two different patterns, one of 14 holes the other of 16 holes. The holes were a random arrangement designed to resemble snowflakes when affixed to white envelopes. Brown envelopes would have spoiled the effect !

Puncturing stamps for aesthetic purposes is rather unusual and while not a run of the mill perfin this usage will be of interest to many collectors. Does anyone have any spare copies ?

EXCHANGE WANTED

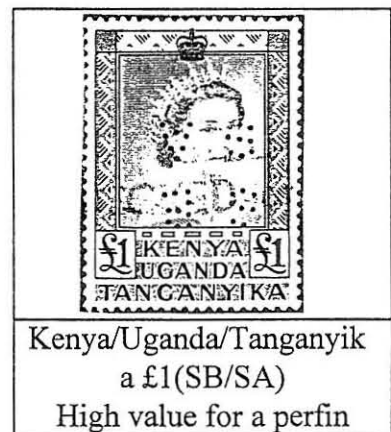
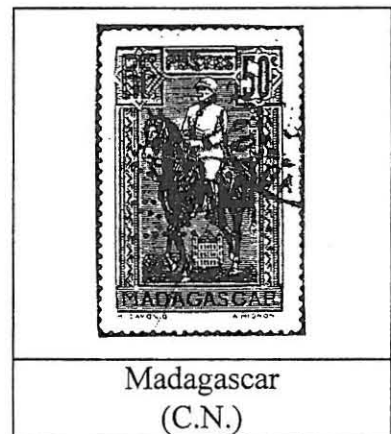
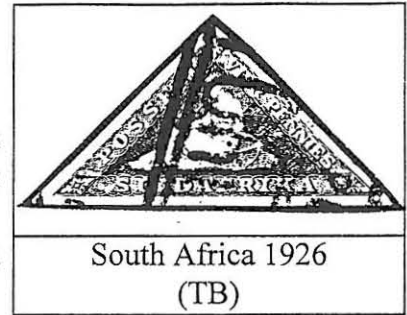
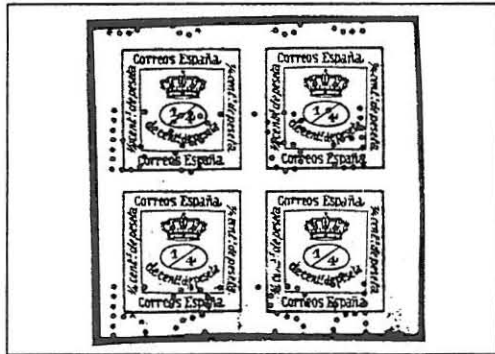
Dick Scheper has written from the Netherlands seeking exchange of perfins. He collects perfins from the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, Bosnia, Romania and Turkey (loose stamps and covers). He has duplicates of these countries and also of Great Britain, Germany, USA and other nations. For members wishing to exchange, Dick's address is Hogeland 1, NL-2264 JX Leidschendam, The Netherlands

TRY FOREIGN PERFINS

(David Andersen)

Just as most stamp collectors in Australia collect Australian stamps, so most Australian Perfin collectors collect Australian Perfins. I get the impression that many Australian perfin collectors limit themselves to Australian perfins or to a subsection thereof. Naturally, as your collection grows, it gets

Spanish
¼ c green
imperf
(PS)

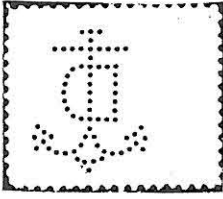
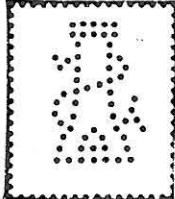
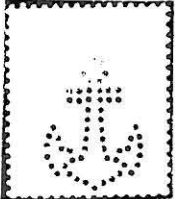



harder to find patterns not already held. If you are finding yourself in such a situation why not expand the scope of your collecting and include a few other countries. Consider Britain with over 20,000 patterns. Surely there is enough scope for any collector here. Worldwide, there more than 60,000 patterns known, a much more modest number than for normal stamps, with few additions each year. You can not realistically expect to complete a collection of patterns worldwide, nor indeed for most countries as so many are difficult to obtain, but you can have a lot of fun trying. It is quite surprising to see the range of countries and territories with perfins.

Such diverse places as Crete, Monaco, Haiti, Madagascar and the Leeward Islands are encountered. Not many patterns are found on the stamps of most of the smaller countries and some are quite hard to find. However it is interesting that some small places like Mauritius used large quantities of perfins.

Most of the foreign perfins, when available, are quite inexpensive. There are a few exceptions such as the French EIPA30 (an exhibition perfin), Canadian OH/MS, British Board of Trade and Guatemalan OFICIAL, but all of these have apparently been forged. It seems evident that high prices for perfins encourage forgers and fakers, much as has been the case with the recent VG forgeries. These issues are easily avoided and a lot of collecting can be carried out on a modest budget.

A few interesting items are illustrated to whet your appetite in the perfins of another country.

			
Yugoslavia 1921 (Anchor/D)	Germany (Furnace/S(?))	Germany (Anchor)	Leeward Islands MC/A

AUCTION WATCH

Selected items seen in auctions since the last issue of the Bulletin include:

	Est.	\$
1. KJB Postal Bid Sale No. 37 (November 1994)		
a. 28 different private perfins on 38 KGV 1d red		14
b. Small range commems 1927 Canberra to KGVI inc. 1/- ANZAC, etc. all with private perfins (25)		25
2. PHLAS Stamp Auction No.59 (November 1994)		
a. Perfins and other cinderellas (! - ed.) in 2 stbks.		40
b. Accum. Aust. & World perfins incl. Revenues (357)		40
3. West Brisbane Stamp Sales Auction No. 93 (November 1994)		
a. Perfin coll. with range Roos, Geo V heads, etc. Some mint inc. blocks (160+)		150
b. Perfins in folder, C'wlth & State inc. Roos, Geo V, commems, etc. Mostly used (70+)		80
4. Budget Stamp Sales Postal Bid Sale No. 31 (October 1994)		
a. Selection of overprints on NSW Revenues inc. AMP, David Jones, etc. (17)		40
b. "GIO" overprint on NSW Revenue (8 lots)		20-40
c. Private overprints on Qld State stamps ("AUSN", "McDonald, Hamilton & Co Ltd") (3 lots)		10-15
d. 11 lots each of one Victorian revenue stamp with private overprint-"MYER" (various), "FOYS", "MMBW", "AMP/S", "MOORES", "READ'S/of Prahran"		5-40
5. Status Auctions 157th Public Auction (December 1994)		

a.	Perfin "GSB" on OHMS envelope "Government Savings Bank NSW". Used Sydney Aug 7 1912.	50
b.	2 lots of State Govt perfins	60-120
c.	Coll. of SA perfins inc State and C'wlth issues	140
d.	12 lots of SA private perfins on commercial cover. Perfins include ES&CO, ET, ACS, VOCO, IH, W&CO/A, AS&S, D&J/F, GDCO/A, JRS/A, GRW, GM. Est. price per cover in range	22-130
6.	Macray Watson Auction Sale No. 65 (November 1994)	
a.	"AS&S" on AIF 1d and 2d on A. Simpson & Son adv. cover (this cover reported later to have sold for \$50.00)	75
7.	Rodney Perry Auction Galleries (10 December 1994)	
a.	(Used) Duplicated range in stockbook from Roos to Decimals including Perf "OS" (116), "OS/NSW" (18), "G/NSW" (270), "T" (18), "VG" (1,050), "W/A" (17) and private perfins (300+) including "JI/N", "MH/C", "S&S/LTD" "WILLS" (some rated scarce) on KGV etc, few better commems, perfin doubles etc (1,800+)	300-400
b.	(Mint/MUH) Perf OS/NSW selection comprising KGV Single Wmk 1d red Die I (2), III, 1d violet, 1½d green, 2d orange (2), brown, scarlet, 4d orange, olive, No Wmk 1d and 1½d and CofA 2d pair, (15)	250-300
c.	(Mint/MUH) Perf G/NSW: 1932 6d Kooka block of 4, 1935 3d Jubilee unused, 1/- Anzac, 1937 3d NSW Sesqui, P13½ 1/- Lyrebird John Ash imprint block of 4, P 15 x 14 2d purple block of 4, 1958 3½d Christmas (16)	250-300
d.	(Mint/MUH) Perf 'VG': Selection including KGV CofA wmk 1d block of 6, 2d strip of 4 perfin double, 4d olive, 1937-1949 ½d, 1½d, 3d blue Die III, 6d Kooka imprint blocks, 2/- Crocodile strip of 5, 1961 5/- Cattle block of 4 etc, few sideways, inverted etc (62)	200-250

AUCTION DISAPPOINTMENT

The Rodney Perry Auction catalogue described earlier in this edition of the Bulletin included a photograph of a New Zealand £1,000 revenue issue which quite clearly showed a partial perfin strike although I was unable to decipher the particular pattern. The stamp was part of a lot of 15 high-value New Zealand revenues and although the catalogue description made no reference to the inclusion of any perfins, I was convinced that I had spotted something worthwhile. A phone call to one of our NZ members soon set me straight. The perfin was merely a part strike of a "PAID" cancellation puncture which is routinely found on high value NZ revenues. Great disappointment.

WANTED TO BUY

International Harvester Co perfins from anywhere in the world, either pattern or the characters "IHC". Please send priced list to Mr Barry Clarke, 24 Spedding Road, Whangarei, New Zealand.

LITERATURE WATCH

Recent editions of the GB Perfin Society Bulletin included the following articles:

No. 272. October 1994

Throwing some light on Local Authority perfins (Mr. Chambers)
 Telegraph with Perfin through Fiscal stamp (Arthur Smith)
 Used on opposite sides of the World? ("OK" perfin) (John Mathews)

No. 273. December 1994

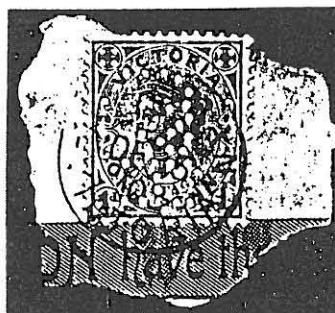
Publications Price List
 Perfins in current use (George Dyke)
 Sloper circular
 Suppliers of Perforators (John Mathews)
 Update of "Sloper Experimental Cancels" (Rosemary Smith)

A CLUE TO AN IDENTITY ?

(John Mathews)

John Amiet has submitted the illustrated tantalising piece with perfin H&J. 1 tied with a clear PRAHRAN, VICTORIA postmark. The lettering printed on the part envelope reads "...ON have th(e?).." and may well provide a clue to the identity of the user who, based on fairly strong circumstantial evidence of location and period, is thought to be Henderson and Jupp.

Does anyone have a cover with more complete wording to match this piece, even without a stamp? Perhaps some of our Victorian members may even be familiar with the slogan of which this is a part.



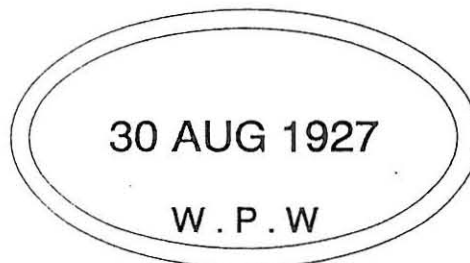
A PERFIN - OR NOT ?

(John Mathews)

The pattern listed as CLD.1 is known only on Victorian Duty Stamps, over a period 1927 to 1931, with one reported occurrence with a 1961 date stamp.

Recently, I bought a copy of such a stamp with a cachet consisting of a double oval enclosing the date 30 AUG 1927 and the initials W.P.W, as shown.

The Melbourne telephone book for 1928 includes two possible candidates with these initials - Walhalla Plating Works, 141 Leicester Street, Carlton, and W. P. Walklate, window ticket writer, 49 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.



Notwithstanding the relative locations with respect to the central business district, the electroplaters at Carlton would seem to be a more likely user. Support for this comes from Sands' Melbourne Directories and the Victorian Electoral Rolls, which show that William Petchy Walklate retired to his Moonee Ponds residence in 1929 after having had his office at 49 Elizabeth Street (8th floor, Room 8) since at least the turn of the century.

The Walhalla Plating Works succeeded a similar business at 141 Leicester Street in the late 1920s, and continued under that name until the late 1950s.

At this stage of writing, I conjectured that the cachet on this stamp supported the idea that the "CLD" perforation is a contraction of a generic "CANCELLED", and that other samples may have had different users. Even before I had submitted the article to the Editor, I found another example of this "CLD" perfin on a Victorian duty stamp, this time with a similar cachet dated 15 SEP 1931 and the letters at the bottom "J.F.M" in the same style as the illustration. So the questions which arise from this are two-fold - who punctured the stamps, and is there any significance in the similarity of style of these two cachets?

Are there any other copies of this "perfin" with readable letters and/or dates on them?

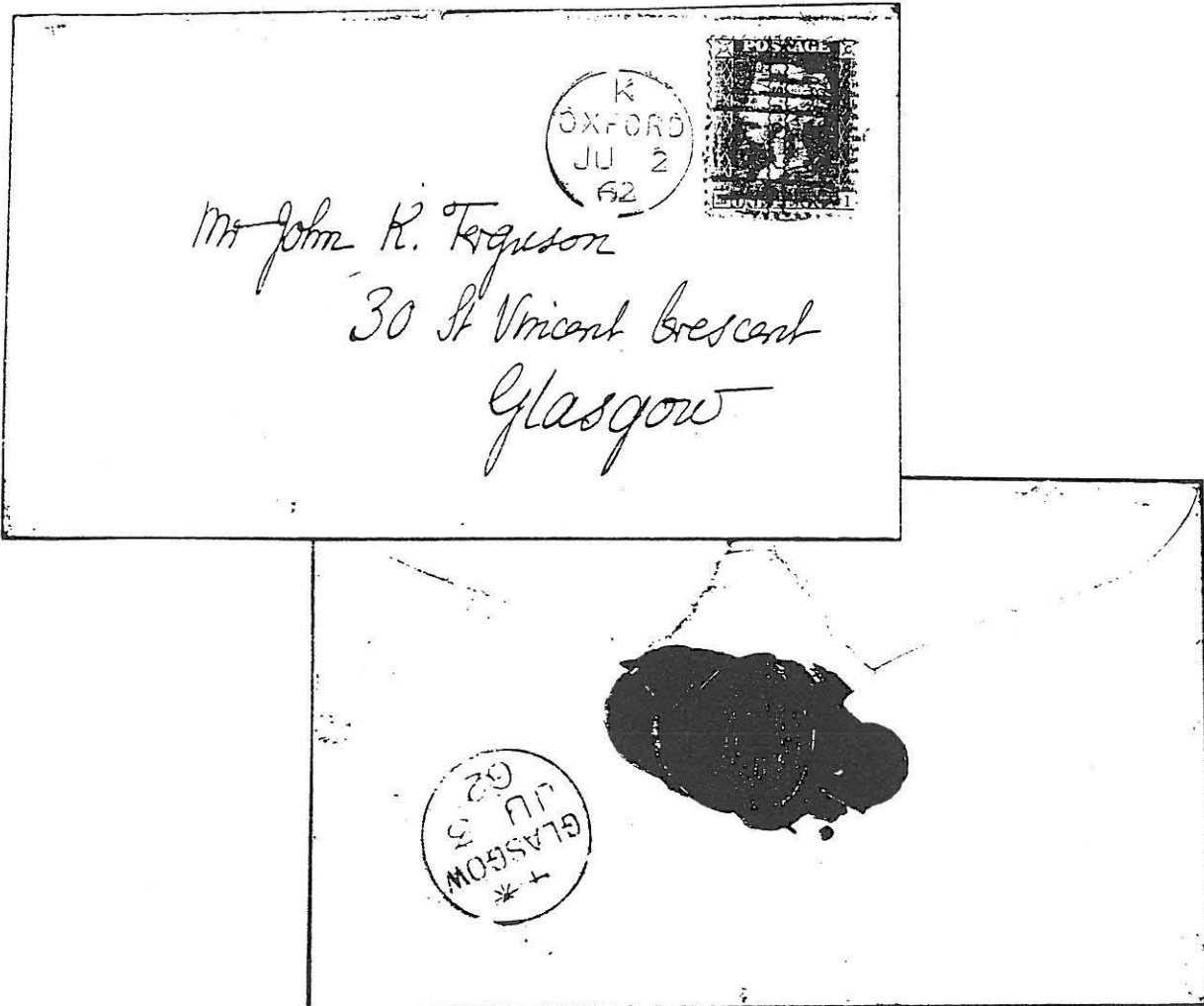
AULSEBROOKS BISCUITS

I recently saw a magnificent 1906 Tasmanian advertising cover for Aulsebrooks Biscuits. I had recently obtained a different, but equally attractive advertising cover for the New South Wales branch of the same company, showing the perfin A&SLD.1 and couldn't help thinking what a fine pair they would make on an exhibition page. However, the Tasmanian branch of the company had not adopted the practice of puncturing stamps and regretfully, I decided not to bid.

A FAVOURITE COVER

(John Mathews)

Recently, I bought a selection of Oxford Union Society "O.U.S." overprints and underprints to be a lead-in to my collection of perfin. To my delight, one was on a cover and this has become an instant "favourite".



The Id stamp is tied with the Oxford duplex cancel and there is a well-preserved wax seal of the Society on the flap (see illustration).

The arrival date stamp on the reverse shows a next-day delivery. I wonder if the Royal Mail still manages to achieve this?

ARTICLES WANTED

Articles are sought for future editions of the Bulletin. Readers seem to particularly like to hear of the results of research projects and to hear about interesting perfin items, desirably with illustrations. We would like to hear from all members of the Club and especially from readers who may not have contributed articles before.

AN EXTRAORDINARY COVER

One of the more extraordinary perfin items I have seen is the cover illustrated below. The cover was posted in June 1940 from Adelaide to New York, via Hong Kong.

The cover shows a total franking of 9 shillings and threepence, made up of 5 x 1 shilling, 8 x sixpence, 1 x twopence and 1 x one penny stamps. The unusual franking represents the cost of the trans-Pacific air letter rate to the United States. For letters, that rate was 4 shillings and eightpence per half ounce, plus a further 4 shillings and sevenpence for each additional half ounce. The Pacific clipper service on which this cover was carried ceased in 1941 with the fall of Pearl Harbour and Singapore to Japanese forces.

All stamps show the perfin AS&S.1 used by A Simpson & Son Ltd of Adelaide. Although difficult to see in the illustration, the entire front of the cover is printed with decorative advertising for the firm.

The final attraction in the cover is the dual censor marking. The censor tape at left was applied by Australian censors and the cover and its contents underwent further examination as evidenced by the censor cachet reading "Hong Kong/Passed/Censor/9". The cover also shows a Hong Kong transit stamp on the reverse.



One can speculate as to why so many stamps should be used on the one cover. It is possible that wartime pressures had caused a shortage in the supply of the higher value stamps which one might expect on such a cover. However I suggest that is not the case. From the rarity of high-value Australian perfins, we know that most firms did not keep a comprehensive stock of punctured stamps on hand - probably because of the PMG Department's repurchase policy affecting punctured stamps. Rather than buying the required high-value issues, Simpson's mail room simply made up the required postage out of the punctured stocks which they already held.

POSTSCRIPT ON THE "VG" PERFORATING MACHINE

(John Mathews)

After I wrote the article about the "VG" perforator for the October 1994 issue of the Bulletin, I pondered on the statement in "Victorian Government Punctures" by Neale Scott and Bryan Toop that it was not known when the electric motor was fitted to this machine.

I had initially ascertained that the manufacturer, McColl Electric Works of Melbourne, had existed over the whole period during which the machine had been in use, which did not help to narrow down the possibilities. There was no entry in the latest Melbourne telephone directory for this firm. However, when next I had the opportunity to consult Post Office Directories for Victoria, I discovered that in about 1977 the company had changed name and then later moved to new premises, where they still trade as Stone McColl Pty Ltd.

In response to my sending down the complete details from the motor's specification plate, the company was able to tell me that this motor was built by the company between July and November in 1964.

THE USERS OF PERFINS

The following articles draw heavily on *Life in the Cities* by Michael Cannon (Thomas Nelson Australia Pty Ltd, Melbourne 1973) and *The International Trade Developer July 1918* (publisher unknown).

GOLLIN & CO PTY LTD

The firm of Gollin & Co was established in London as a general merchant, importer and exporter, specialising in trade between (former) British colonies and British-based firms. By 1910 it had established offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, as well as in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin, although only one of these offices (Sydney) is definitely known to have used perfins. (I suspect that the Melbourne office did as well.)

Gollin & Co represented over 100 British firms as well as businesses in Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East, United States and Asia and acted as their agent in foreign countries. Their Australian clientele included several other perfin user firms including Swallow & Ariell, Castlemaine Brewery and Foggitt Jones & Co.

It seems that the company did not survive in Australia past 1935 for I have not been able to find reference to them beyond that date.

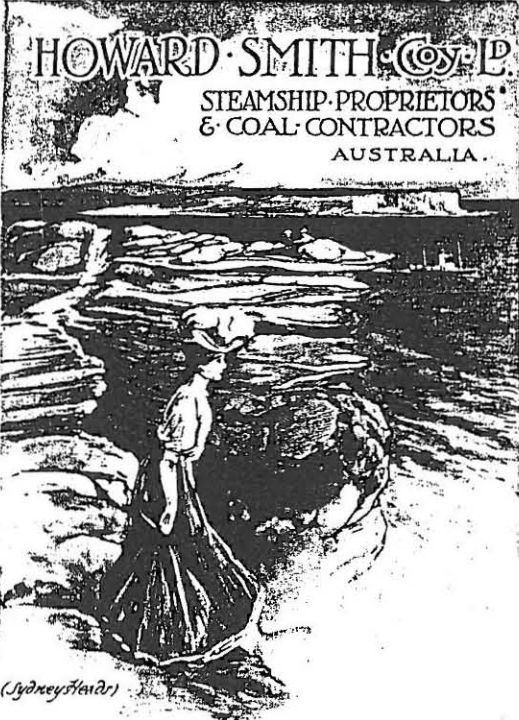
HOWARD SMITH & CO LTD

A significant user of perfins was the Howard Smith & Co Ltd. The founder of the company was William Howard Smith who was described by his biographer as a man of "Viking characteristics". Smith was born in Norfolk and learned his seamanship in the North Sea.

During the 1850's he acquired a 130 ton schooner and loaded it with merchandise for the Australian goldfields. Having sold the goods, he then used his vessel to open up a quick route between Melbourne and Geelong.

Smith then returned to England and purchased surplus naval vessels from the Crimean War and developed a large trade in minerals, timber, sugar, coal, wool and wheat, around the Australian coastline. The extent of his business is evident from the number of different perfins known to have been used by the offices of his company at Fremantle, Cairns and all ports in between.

To complement the carriage of freight, Howard Smith & Co Ltd also developed a major passenger business and held a reputation for the comfort provided on his vessels. The attractive menu with detachable postcard (shown below) was produced for one of the company vessels and while tastes in food may have changed since 1907, one cannot help but be impressed.

 <p>HOWARD SMITH & CO. LTD. STEAMSHIP PROPRIETORS & COAL CONTRACTORS AUSTRALIA.</p> <p>(Sydney Herald)</p> <p>S.S. Date ..</p>	<p><i>MENU</i></p>
	<p>✻ DINNER. ✻</p>
	<p>Cavair sur Croute</p>
	<p>Consomme d'Artois Potage Cream of Chicken</p>
	<p>Boiled Taylor, Anchovy sauce</p>
	<p>Fillets of Mutton a la Minute</p>
	<p>Ox Tail, Jardiniere</p>
	<p>Roast Prime Ribs of Beef & Brown Gravy</p>
	<p>Hindquarter of Lamb, Mint sauce</p>
	<p>Boiled Veal & Lemon sauce</p>
	<p>Pickled Pork & Parsnips</p>
	<p>Boiled Fowl, sauce Bechamel</p>
	<p>Karachi Curry and Rice</p>
	<p>Cauliflower Cabbage</p>
	<p>Baked & Boiled Potatoes</p>
	<p>Black Cap Pudding with Lemon Cream</p>
	<p>Apple Tart</p>
	<p>Rice Custard Alexandras</p>
	<p>Cheese Straws</p>
	<p>Fruit in Season</p>
	<p>S.S. "COOMA," Sept. 11, 1907</p>

Obviously, standards were difficult to maintain. On his vessel *The City of Adelaide* in the 1870's, notices throughout the lower deck read "Passengers are particularly requested to take off their boots before getting into bed."

The company continued to gather in strength past the turn of the century and continues in business as a major shipping firm to the present day.

AUCTION 2/1994 - PRICES REALISED

Auction 2/1994 was somewhat smaller than the previous one but has nevertheless been a great success with only 15 lots unsold out of 109! We do hope that this will encourage even more vendors to offer their spare material in future auctions.

Auction lots for the next auction should be provided to the Secretary by 31 March 1995.

Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A
1	2.00	25	5.00	47	7.50	66	6.50	91	3.00
3	5.00	27	13.00	48	6.50	68	6.50	92	1.50
4	2.25	28	3.75	49	21.00	69	5.25	93	1.30
5	3.25	29	4.75	50	7.00	70	21.00	94	2.00
6	1.75	30	6.00	51	7.50	71	8.50	96	4.00
8	5.00	31	2.00	52	8.00	72	4.75	97	3.75
9	12.00	32	2.00	53	4.25	73	2.75	98	2.50
10	5.00	33	2.00	54	3.25	74	2.25	99	2.25
11	3.00	35	5.00	55	4.25	75	5.50	100	2.00
13	5.00	37	6.50	56	10.00	76	5.50	101	2.00
14	6.00	38	3.00	57	8.50	77	11.00	102	2.75
15	5.50	39	2.00	58	8.00	78	4.50	103	4.25
16	5.50	40	48.00	59	22.00	79	2.25	104	3.75
17	5.00	41	2.00	60	8.50	80	3.50	105	4.75
18	10.00	42	3.00	61	8.50	81	2.25	106	1.25
19	10.00	43	7.00	62	8.00	85	3.00	107	11.00
20	4.00	44	7.00	63	5.00	87	2.25	108	10.00
22	6.00	45	7.50	64	1.50	88	1.50	109	8.00
23	2.00	46	7.00	65	6.50	90	1.00		

AN APOLOGY

My apologies to all Club members for the delay in getting out this and the previous edition of the Bulletin. Pressures of work have prevailed but I will try to do better with future issues.