

THE SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO 31 APRIL 1995

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EDITORIAL

It is heartening to see that we are still continuing to expand the list of identified perfin users. This issue of the Bulletin contains details of two newly identified firms along with illustrations of their proving covers. It comes as no surprise that one of these elusive covers was to an overseas destination. Indeed, many of the scarcest proving covers are addressed to foreign countries. I believe that proving covers for many still unidentified firms will eventually turn up overseas. That is partly because of the volume of correspondence which took place between Australian businesses and their overseas suppliers and partly because Australian perfins on cover seem to have had a particularly good survival rate overseas.

Very occasionally, the records of a company come to light and we find that it has retained all inwards letters along with their covers. I am aware of a few such hoards which have included good numbers Australian perfins on their proving covers. One was a very large volume of correspondence addressed to Shierlaw and Co in Adelaide (c 1890-1908), another was correspondence to Mr E J Vibert in Shepparton, Victoria (c 1902-1905) and a third was a parcel of letters to Mr E C Button & Co in Tasmania (c 1913-1915). In addition, correspondence to Mr Moors and Mr Fabricius, both of whom were merchants in Apia, Samoa, provided user identities for several Australian perfin patterns. Such finds make the task of user identification easy. Apart from those treasure troves, identifying users has been a hard grind.

The identification of two new users made me wonder what percentage of Australian perfin patterns have now attributed to their user firms. Would a member like to take on this project and report the results for a future issue of the Bulletin?

NEW MEMBER

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new member:

#149 Thomas Lee, Auckland, New Zealand

VALE

It is with much regret that we have learned of the recent passing of Mrs Smit-Seydel of the Netherlands; member #54. She was a keen collector and very much enjoyed reading the Bulletin. A note of condolences has been sent to her family on behalf of the Club.

LITERATURE WATCH

The latest edition of the GB Perfin Society Bulletin (No. 274, Dec 1994) includes the following articles:

Reconstruction of multi-head die "SJ/CO." (Roy Gault)
 More from the Sloper ledgers (Stephen Steere)
 Sir Henry Bessemer - Inventor of perfins !! (Maurice Harp)
 History of Perfin users (two more companies in a continuing series)

Recent editions of the US Perfins Club Bulletin include:

November/December 1994

- . Something to think about (re The Giant Powder Company) (Harry Rickard)
- . Some unusual patterns to look for (re US perfins on revenues) (Harry Rickard & John Lyding)
- . A different Schermack (Harry Rickard & John Lyding)
- . When luck was on our side (re the National Bank of the Republic perfin) (Harry Rickard & John Lyding)
- . Perfins of the Far East
- . Fancy Perfins (Harry Rickard)
- . The Roycroft Shops of East Aurora, New York (Edward S Hoyt)
- . The Oliver Typewriter Company (Edward S Hoyt)

January 1995

- . The Perfin Society's new illustrated catalog of Great Britain perfins: a review (John Lyding)
- . Palestine perfins and non-perfins (Dr Arthur M Hochheiser)
- . Perfins of the Far East
- . Ideal Engine Co = Lansing Co of Delaware (Don Haynes)
- . Perfin values and all that (Roy Everett)

WANTED TO BUY

Copies of Australian private perfin MCCLTD.1. Please write to Colin Beech, PO Box 28, St. Lucia, Qld 4067 (Australia).

See article page 10!

PERFIN CLUB MEETING

A National Stamp Exhibition is scheduled for Sydney in October 1995 and it would be an opportunity for members to get together for a Club meeting. For planning to be made, members who think they could attend (no commitment!) are asked to drop a line to the Secretary by the end of June to indicate what time(s) they would find convenient for a meeting eg. Saturday afternoon (early/mid/late), Sunday morning (early/mid/late).

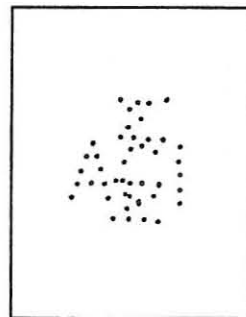
PERFORATING SERVICE IN NEW SOUTH WALES - A SEQUEL

(John Mathews)

In the October 1993 issue of this Bulletin (page 10) are details of a perforating service operating in NSW, as attested to by people with first-hand knowledge. Among the many unknown aspects of this service provided by Miss Dore Lough of Hunter Street, and later Pitt Street, were the list of her client companies and the identity of the maker of the individual dies used by her. Recently, David Andersen has submitted details of two items which may throw some light on these aspects.

The first is a New South Wales 1/6 duty stamp with two different perfin patterns - AGI.1 and MM.5. From the 1940s to the 1960s, the Australian General Insurance Co. Ltd. and the Mercantile Mutual Insurance Co. were both at 117 Pitt Street, almost directly opposite Miss Lough's office. It is, of course, probable that both lots of perforating were done by the same person or office, and one can only surmise whether these were done at 117 Pitt Street or whether these two companies were clients of the same perforating service.

From the locations of these two companies, such a perforating service was probably that provided by Miss Lough.



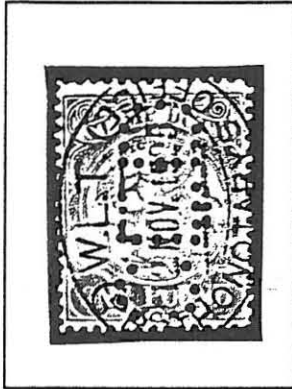
The second item is a New South Wales 1d red Shield/Arms stamp (ASC 70) with a previously unrecorded "GM" perfin. The "G" of this pattern matches that in AGI.1! Sands' Sydney Directory for 1910 lists several companies to which a perfin pattern "GM" would be relevant, but none of them are insurance companies. However, one did occur to me to have a possible connection, namely, "Gustaf Miller, engraver and die sinker, 10 Bond Street, Sydney" - just the sort of person to make perforator dies. Bond Street is certainly very close to the premises of many insurance companies which stopped using perforated stamps about the time of Miss Lough's death in 1966, and indeed not far from Miss Lough's own office. The company started by Gustaf Miller remained in the city area until after 1966, and still exists in 1995. Unfortunately, it has changed ownership along the way and no records from the early days have survived.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

1. H&J.1 - "A clue to an identity ?" (SPPB January 1995, page 6)

David Richards reports that he has a similar piece to that shown in the article, but with slightly more wording, namely "..ON have them". That appears to reach the right-hand edge of the envelope. So what are the "them"? And who are "..ON" who have them?

2. CLD.1 - "A perfin or not ?" (SPPB January 1995, page 7)



John Amiet has forwarded two items with this "perfin", again Victorian duty stamps and with dates in 1925 and 1928. This time the cachet is of a different design, consisting of an oblate oval with initials inside the top of the oval (different sets in each example), the date across the centre and, in a horseshoe-shaped frame bordering the rest of the inside of the oval, the words "PROTHONOTARY'S OFFICE".



The 1928 example still has part of a document attached and the "CLD" penetrates the document also, indicating punching after the stamp was affixed.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines "prothonotary" as a principal clerk or registrar, etc. In the Melbourne telephone directory for 1928, under the heading "Law Courts" in the State Government departments section, there is an entry for "Prothonotary (Mr W. Richards)". The initials on John's 1928 example are "W.R.", and are therefore possibly those of the Prothonotary of that time. On the other hand, Mr. Richards' term as Prothonotary according to telephone directories and post office directories extended over a period during which other initials were in these cachets. It would seem that each official in that office had a cachet stamp with his own initials.

3. The George Adams "A" perfins (SPPB October 1994, page 6)

Ray Bennett (NZ) and Bryan Moore have both sent new date information on these, and the author has sighted others. A.2 has now been seen with postmarks for April 1903 and June 1905, giving an unbroken run of months for this pattern from December 1902 to November 1906 except for January 1906. An isolated example of A.2 used in August 1908 was also reported.

For A.6, an isolated September 1903 usage was sighted.

Early usage of A.8 should have read "May 1907", and additional usage in the months of June 1907, November 1907 and April 1909 has now been reported.

EDWARD THOMAS MOULDEN (1852 - 1927)

(John Mathews)

Edward Thomas Moulden was born in Adelaide, South Australia, on 27 September 1852 (refs 1,2), the second child and elder son of Thomas and Caroline Moulden (ref 3). His father had emigrated from Southwark, London (ref 5), as a single man aged 29 years when the infant colony of South Australia had been settled for less than 3 years.

Probably because of his experience in England prior to emigrating, Thomas established himself as a brewer and publican (ref 6). South Australians, particularly, will be aware of the Southwark Brewery in Adelaide, although it is not known if Thomas Moulden had any connection with it. Thomas obviously saw a great market for his trade in the gold rush era in central Victoria, and by 1865 was listed as living at Barkly Place, Sandhurst (now Bendigo) (ref 7).

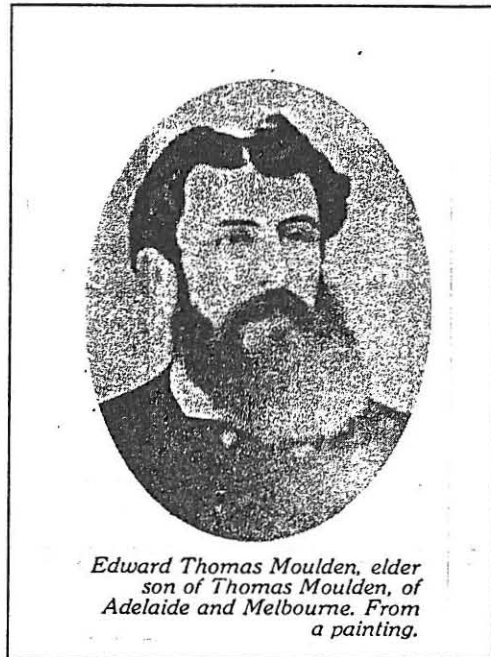
The following year, Thomas and his family moved to Winter's Flat, a small mining hamlet near Castlemaine, and Thomas became the brewer for the newly-established Castlemaine Brewery, owned by Nicholas Fitzgerald (who later became a member of Victoria's Legislative Council). It was here that Edward Thomas Moulden therefore spent his early teenage years.

Thomas Moulden and his family moved to Melbourne in 1868 (ref 8) while still maintaining his business connections with Nicholas Fitzgerald, who set up an ale depot in Queen Street, Melbourne, in 1869 and a malthouse in Emerald Hill (now called South Melbourne) in 1873 (ref 9).

As was often the custom, Edward Thomas followed his father in the brewing trade and the 1875 Melbourne Directory lists Thomas Moulden as "consultant brewer" and Edward Thomas as "brewer" sharing offices at 111 William Street in the city. Meanwhile, Fitzgerald's malthouse had become the South Melbourne Brewery in 1874, and was renamed the Castlemaine Brewery in 1878. By 1881, Edward Thomas had become head brewer at the Castlemaine Brewery in Emerald Hill. The following year his father died aged 72 years (ref 4).

In 1884 or 1885, Edward Thomas and his wife and infant son moved to Mooroopna, near Shepparton in the Goulburn Valley, where he bought the local brewery. Tragedy struck not long afterwards when the brewery burned to the ground, leaving Edward Thomas a heavy loser.

He and his family moved to Geelong (his wife's birthplace) by 1886 for a short period (ref 10), then back to Melbourne where, on 4 April 1888, he applied to the Victorian Postmaster-General's Department for a licence to sell stamps (ref 11). Between 1893 and 1895, he applied several times to that department for permission to perforate stamps with



Edward Thomas Moulden, elder son of Thomas Moulden, of Adelaide and Melbourne. From a painting.

initials on behalf of client companies. This appears to have been a flourishing business, and the number of "Victorian Service Punctures" bears witness to this.

Although the Melbourne Directory continued to list Edward T. Moulden as a stamp vendor until 1903, the Electoral Rolls from 1899 onwards show his residence to be in Preston (now a northern suburb of Melbourne) and his occupation as farmer or grazier (ref 13). By the early 1900s, he had gone blind and this may explain why there are so many varieties of perfins resulting from the misplacement of pins in the grid, and the variation of spacing between letters. Despite this blindness, he also built up the business of "E.T. Moulden and Son Pty. Ltd (ABC Fodder Stores)" in Victoria Street, North Melbourne. This firm specialised in poultry and stock foods, fertilisers, agricultural and vegetable seeds, and the latest incubators, brooders and poultry requisites, according to a large "box ad." in the Melbourne telephone directories of the late 1940s and early 1950s (ref 12), at which time a son was carrying on the business started by Edward Thomas.

Edward Thomas Moulden died on 13 June 1927, aged 74 years, and was buried with his father, Thomas, in the Melbourne General Cemetery (refs 4,14).

References and acknowledgement

Most of the information used in this article was extracted from the following public records:

1. "S.A. Register" (newspaper) of 7 October 1852.
2. South Australian Births Index.
3. South Australian Marriages Index.
4. Victorian Deaths Index.
5. International Genealogical Index.
6. South Australian Almanacs and Directories (various, 1843 - 1846).
7. Directories for Sandhurst and Castlemaine areas (Various, 1862 - 1867).
8. Bailliere's Victoria Directory (1868 - 1871/2).
9. Sands' Melbourne Directory (1868 - 1928).
10. Victorian Births Index.
11. Victorian Archives - PMG Department records.
12. Melbourne Telephone Directory (various).
13. Victorian Electoral Rolls (various, 1899 - 1928).
14. Melbourne "Age" and "Argus" newspapers for 14 June 1927.

The photo of Edward Thomas Moulden and details of his career, other than stamp-related aspects, are reproduced from the book "The Moulden Family" by Barbara Brummitt, by kind permission of the authoress. This is a most interesting read of a remarkable family.

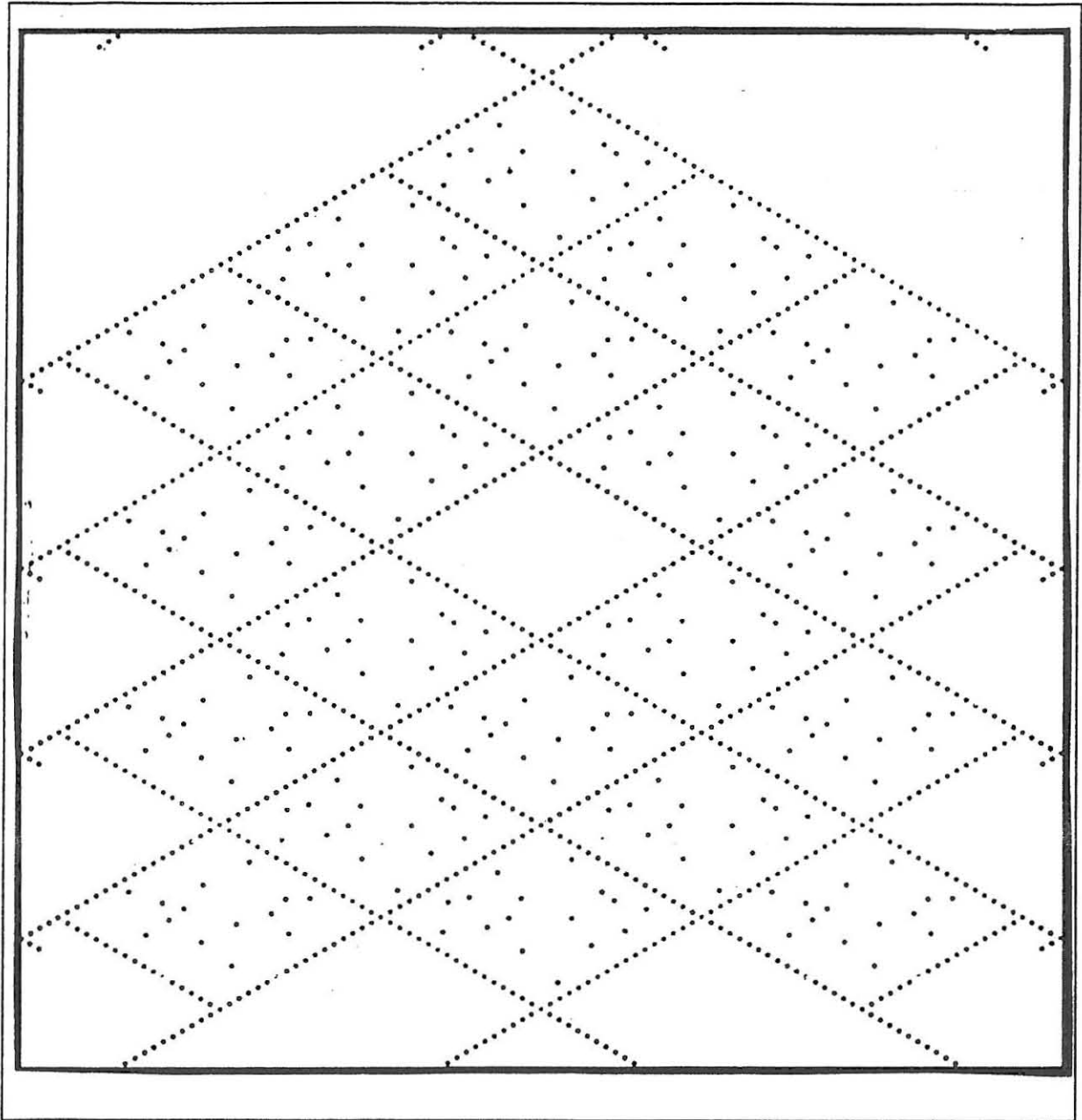
Further details of Edward Thomas Moulden's stamp vending and perforating business are contained in "Commercial Perfins of Australia" by John Grant and John Mathews.

SNOWFLAKES!.....HOW WRONG CAN ONE BE?

(John Mathews)

This article was first drafted under the title "Twinkle, twinkle, little star...", but as David Andersen covered this item first in the January 1995 Bulletin, use of a title closer to David's will probably make it easier for these two to be associated.

When the 1993 Netherlands' Christmas stamps were first shown to me, they were in the form of the complete sheet and it was a sight which could understandably cause mild twitching in most perfin collectors. The appearance of the reverse of this sheet is shown, and the 10 stamps of each of two designs can readily be identified.



At first sight, the pin placements seemed random but with so much effort put into producing the perforator, I thought this to be unlikely so I started to wonder what the holes were meant to portray. I came to my own interpretation to which I will return.

I was therefore most interested to read David's article with the explanation from the October 1994 Perfins Bulletin (US) of "snowflakes" in a random pattern. Was this explanation on advice from the Netherlands Post Office? My doubts about this arose from the fact that the "snowflakes" do not stand out very well even when the stamp is on white paper because the placement of the holes almost invariably coincides with a detailed part of the design on the front of the stamp.

The complete sheet had looked so much like a star chart that I compared it with an atlas of constellations. The pattern of holes in one of the "se-tenant pair" arrangements could be part of the constellations Draco, Hercules, Ophiuchus and Scorpius which appear overhead in the Northern Hemisphere near midnight in December. However, that could also indicate an over-active imagination!

I hope some of our members in the Netherlands will have been able to reveal the official intent of the designer.

AUCTION WATCH

The following items have been seen in auctions since the last Bulletin:

	Est.
1. Philatelics (Australia) Pty Ltd. Sale No. 116, Dec. 1994.	
a. Selection of 88 different private perfins, mainly on KGV era issues.	\$ 40
2. Jimbo's Postal Bid Sale No.7, February 1995.	
a. Australian Commonwealth Commercial Perfins. A comprehensive pre-decimal collection (c. 700) plus 32 other lots of individual perfins.	\$995
3. PHILAS postal history auction No. 1, Jan 1995	
a. 1904 1d red perf "DWMLTD"	\$2
4. Status Auctions No. 158, Feb 1995	
a. Austr. accumulation of perfins, box full of Govt. types (G/NSW, VG, T, etc) (1000s)	\$60
b. Range of "OS" covers and "SA" covers (19)	\$300
c. Printed reg.d OHMS cover (Education Dept) with 5d QV perfin "SA"	\$50
5. Macray Watson Auction No. 66, March 1995	
a. Extensive colln of private perfins mostly KGV heads (100s + 12 'tied' covers)	\$100 0
6. Don Ion (New Zealand) Sale No 164, Jan 1995.	
a. Collection of 75 NZ perfins from 1882	\$30
b. Selection inc. ASust. States (approx 200)	\$15
c. Seln of Australia inc. "OS" strength in Roos and KGV (approx 290)	\$50

d.	Approx 500 Gt Britain perfins from QV to QE2.	\$30
e.	Colln inc approx 60 USA, 50 Canada, 10 Canal Zone plus 400 USA precancels	\$50
f.	Collection of approx 500 world perfins, mainly Europe, in stockbook	\$50
g.	Collection of 50+ India, Ireland, Japan, etc (these estimates were very low - actual prices realised were much higher)	\$30
7.	Doug Slade Postal Bid Sale No. 7, March 1995.	
a.	Govt perfins (1000s) pre-decimal and decimal.	\$100
8.	PHILAS auction No. 60, March 1995.	
a.	5 Philatelic books, inc "Commercial Perfins of Australia" (sold for just over \$200 !)	\$50
b.	44 commercial perfin covers + small packet of perfins	\$40
c.	New South Wales collection of perfins + some other States + some GB (60)	\$85
9.	Edlins of Canberra auction No. 105, March 1995.	
a.	KGVI 2 1/2d David Jones Ltd PTPO envelope bearing perfins for Air Mail	\$40
b.	6d Engraved Kooka, strip of 5 with perfin "DJLTD", heavy cancel	\$120
10.	Cinderella Stamp Auctions Sale No. 24.	
a.	NSW Stamp Duty accum (88) some on insurance policies, inc 5 perfins (3 on docs.)	\$15
b.	NSW Stamp Duty private-user overprints + 1 Vic similar (16)	\$22
c.	Gt Britain perfin "J.D./&Co." on QV 1901 cover + Netherlands perfin "J.T.V./&Co." on 1909 cover	\$45
d.	Gt Britain private perfins KGV to QE2 approx 100.	\$20
e.	Gt Britain 650+ private perfins mainly QE2	\$40
11.	Status Auctions Sale No. 159, March 1995.	
a.	Accum of approx 1700 perfins from State period to decimal, mainly "OS", "OS/NSW" of KGV and KGVI era.	\$140

ARTICLES WANTED

Articles are wanted for future issues of the Bulletin. We would particularly like to hear of new finds, new acquisitions and information related to perfin users.

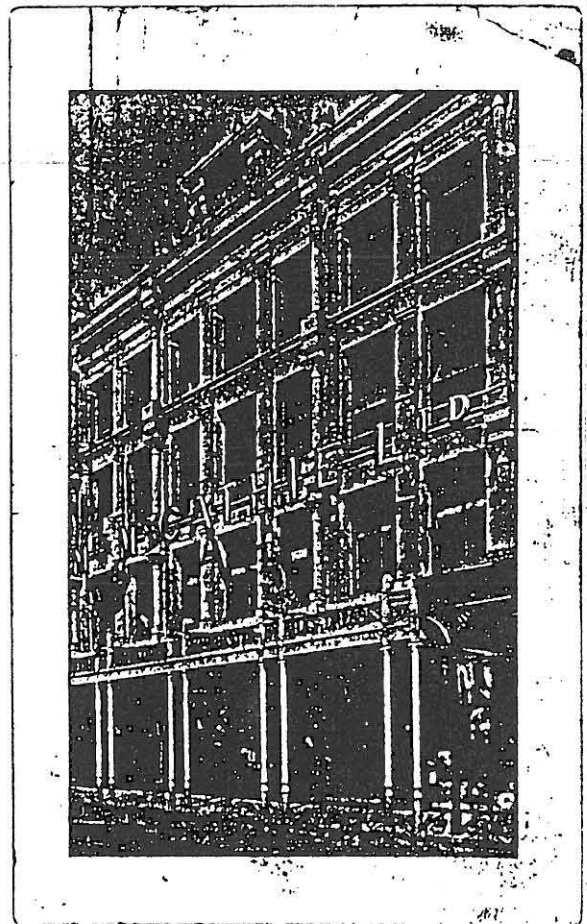
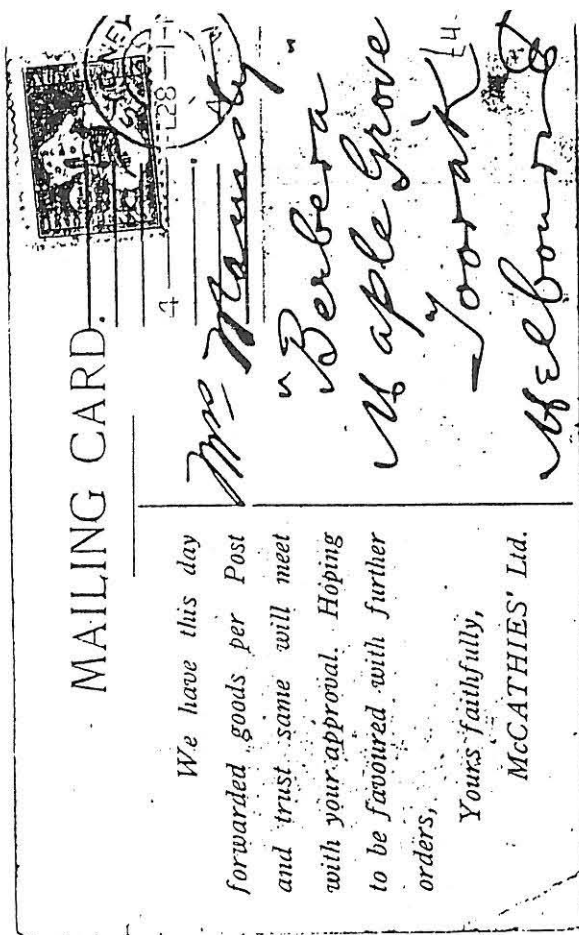
Any offerings could be sent to John Grant at the address shown on Page 1 of this Bulletin.

TWO NEW CONFIRMED IDENTITIES

(Colin Clark Hutchison, Scotland)

MCCLTD.1

A recent find of a picture postcard now allows positive identification of the user of perfin MCCLTD.1 as Mrs. McCathie Ltd., general drapers and ladies' outfitters, 197 - 201 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW. The front of the card shows the shop front with name, street number and mention of silks and dresses. The reverse carries a printed message and is signed "McCathie's Ltd."

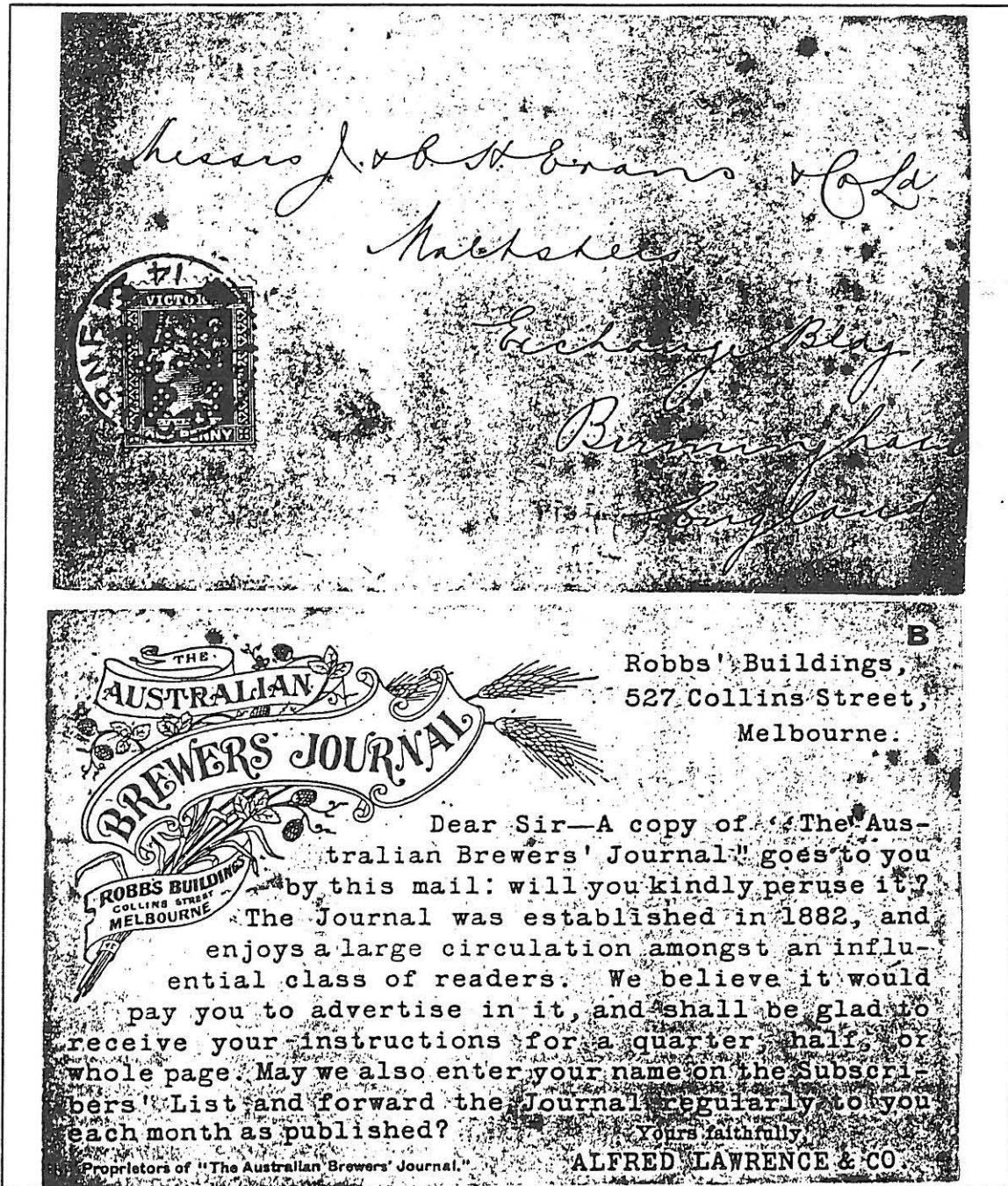


AL&CO.2

Another recent find of a postcard sent to Birmingham, England confirms that Alfred Lawrence and Company, 527 Collins Street, Melbourne used the perfin AL&CO.2. The

front of the card has a 1d orange of Victoria with a clear postmark for Melbourne with date 19-6-00.

As shown in the illustration below, the reverse carries a message advertising "The Australian Brewers' Journal", and there is the address in Robb's Buildings. In the Sands' Melbourne Directory for that period, Alfred Lawrence & Co. were listed as "Brewers' Supply Merchants", and proprietors of. "The Australian Brewers' Journal". Photocopies of both sides of the card are shown.



(Comment by John Mathews - from entries in the Sands' Melbourne Directories for the period 1898 - 1910, it is considered probable that the perfins AL&C.1 - .2 and AL&CO.1, .3 - .5 were all used by this company).

THE USERS OF PERFINS JAMES MOORE SAW MILLS

This article draws on the *Cyclopedia of Victoria* (c 1903), publisher unknown and *Life in the Cities* by Michael Cannon (Thomas Nelson Australia Pty Ltd, Melbourne 1973).

When we were first able to attribute the JM/SM perfins to their user, the name of the company meant little to me. However, this firm was a a major force behind many prominent public works projects in Melbourne and was responsible for the construction of major Melbourne landmarks.

The founder of the company, James Moore, was born in England in 1842 where he had worked in the building/construction industry. In 1863, he started a business on his own account as a builder and contractor and apparently prospered over the next four years.

In 1867, James Moore apparently saw that greater opportunities lay in the booming city of Melbourne. He emigrated to Australia and immediately embarked on a career as a builder and contractor. His business enjoyed remarkable success and a list of its projects is too large to be included here. However, some of the more notable public and private works were Goldsbrough Mort's grain stores in Bourke Street, the New Zealand Loan & Agency Co's premises in Collins Street, the Foster Brewing Co's works in Collingwood, the Railway Offices (covering a full city block) in Spencer Street, the Exhibition Building (covering 33 acres) in East Melbourne, the town halls at Collingwood, Fitzroy and Kew, the (first?) grandstand at the MCG and the tramway engine house in Fitzroy.

The company was also prominent in civil engineering works, the most notable of which was the great main sewer in Melbourne which was completed during the 1890's.; about two miles in length, a uniform 13 feet in diameter and set at an average depth of 50 feet below the surface, it was one of the largest sewer tunnels in the world.

In 1880, James Moore had many large building projects in progress and required a reliable source of timber and quality joinery. That requirement led to his opening his own timber yards and saw mills. The timber business flourished and gradually took over from construction as the focus of the company, continuing, I believe, into the 1950s. I can recall the company's premises in City Road, South Melbourne but I do not know whether they are still standing today.



James Moore's Timber Mills, City Road, South Melbourne.