

THE SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO 34 JANUARY 1996

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EDITORIAL

Because of the demands of my job, this will be the last issue of the Bulletin for which I will act as editor. I encourage other members of the Club to come forward to try their hand at the task.

In leaving the role as acting editor, I thank all those who have assisted with the preparation of the Bulletin and, in particular, those who have provided articles or information. Special thanks to John Mathews, Tony Nobilo and David Andersen who have been regular contributors.

LITERATURE WATCH

Recent publications of other perfin societies have included the following articles:

The Perfin Society (G.B.) Bulletin No. 279 (Dec '95)

- Perfins on British Empire Exhibition Stamps (update) (John Nelson)
- German Perfin Catalogue
- Perfin Auction Comments (Derek Pocock)
- Perfins - Partial - or Rubbish (many responses to a previous article)

The (US) Perfins Bulletin, No 483 (October 1995)

- United States Perfin Catalog (report on progress of the draft of a new edition)
- British Colonial Perforated Specimens

The (US) Perfins Bulletin, No 484 (November/December 1995)

- Disposing of a Perfin Collection - different approaches (John Lyding)
- Perfins and the Internet (Floyd A Walker)
- Specimen Punches

NEW MEMBER

We extend a warm welcome to the following new member :

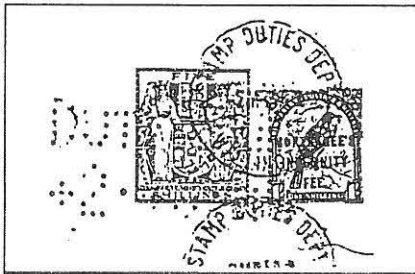
#150 Rod McNeil, Raglan, New Zealand

This represents a significant milestone for the club with the issuing of membership number 150 (although discontinued numbers are not re-used).

NEW ZEALAND OVERPRINTS INDICATING USAGE

(John Mathews)

In a recent Club auction, there was a New Zealand item with a combination of stamps, one Duty Stamp with part of the "DUTY PAID", plus date, perfin and the other a "Postage and Revenue" stamp (S.G.567, the 1/- Tui, issued 1935) overprinted "MORTGAGE / INDEMNITY / FEE". It was the first time I had seen such an overprint, and I am grateful to Richard Smolnicki, one of our New Zealand members, for providing the following information.



The "MORTGAGE INDEMNITY FEE" stamps were used to receipt the 1/- fee paid into a fund established to compensate for people injured at work (the illustration accompanying this showed S.G.494 overprinted, the KGV 1/- value). There were also several overprints associated with the collection of stamp duty on legal documents. Normally, the duty payable was receipted by affixing a duty stamp and it

was "cancelled" on the document with the "DUTY PAID", plus date, punch. Sometimes, no duty was payable and this was indicated by a stamp having the words "NOT LIABLE" overprinted on it.

If the document was deposited later than required, then a fine was payable, the payment of which was shown by using stamps overprinted "FINE PAID". More than one style of this overprint are known.

If a duplicate of a document was required, a 3/- fee was charged for the duplicate and was receipted with a stamp overprinted "COUNTERPART".

When there was a transaction involving more than one set of documents over a period of time, only the original deposited document would have the duty stamp attached, and subsequent papers would have stamps overprinted "DENOTING" affixed.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the fee for the renewal of a passport was 4/- per annum and this was receipted using "PASSPORT FEE" stamps.

For anyone interested in reading more about these items, there was a reference to Volume 6 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

LOCAL MANUFACTURER / SUPPLIER OF PERFORATORS ?

(John Mathews)

On a recent visit to Adelaide, my eyes saw something which caused the pulse to quicken. In the most unexpected location, I saw two pairs of "bookends" which looked from a distance like stamp perforators!

As I got nearer, I realised that they were seal presses, which really came as no great surprise. However, it was to prove not to be a total disappointment because when I examined them closely I found that one device had a name in relief on the casting, which I had never seen on such a device before. The name was that of the firm of "A. W. DOBBIE, ADELAIDE". Presumably, they made and/or supplied at least the body casting.

A.W. Dobbie and Co. are the known users of the perfin "AWD&CO.1" and it is quite probable therefore that they either made, or were selling agents for the manufacturer of, their own perforator.

CLUB MEETING

As mentioned in the previous Bulletin, there is a "National" Stamp Exhibition in Canberra in March this year ("Canberra StampShow 96"), and elections for our Club's office-bearers are also due at that time. We have therefore booked that meeting area at this exhibition for a meeting of our Club, at which we hope to see as many members of the Club as possible to talk about our collecting topic, to do any Club business as may be necessary (usually minimal) and for the formalities of election of office-bearers.

Members are specially invited to bring along any "favourite" items, new discoveries, etc. The exhibition is at Dickson College, Canberra, from 16 to 18 March 1996, and the meeting time allocated is 4 pm on Saturday 16 March.

At this stage, the only nominations received for the Club's elected positions are the present incumbents! While those individuals are very appreciative of the apparent approval of the way things have been going, we would strongly urge others to indicate a willingness to take part in what are not arduous tasks. In particular, our President has been acting as Editor of the Bulletin, but now finds that pressure of work is really getting in the way of it! Being Editor does not mean having to write it all....mostly it involves layout and arranging the printing.

The Secretary, and most other contributors, can supply material on computer disc if required so access to a Word Processor could be a help. I believe the present acting Editor is going to raise this subject elsewhere as well.

As is said in a well-known advertisementPLEASE CONSIDER.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

1. George Adams' "A" perfins.

Bill Harley has shown a copy of the George Adams perfin A.2 with a postmark of 3 January 1906. This, together with others sighted by John Mathews, means that the sequence of months of usage of this perfin is now continuous from June 1900 to November 1906, except for 5 months in 1902 - February, May, July/August and November (not bad considering their daily mail volume!). Any help to fill those gaps would be most appreciated, as would any future confirmed sightings of any of the following:

- A.1 or A.3/4 for Jan 1900, May 1900 or later
- A.6 for Nov 1901, Sep 1902, Feb 1903 or later
- A.7 for Dec 1906, Apr/May 1907 or later
- A.8 for Apr 1907, Apr 1908, Jun 1908, Sep 1908, Jan - Mar 1909, Jun 1909 or later.

Any further information to John, please.

2. AH&S.2

Bill Harley has also found another dated copy of this perfin, this time giving an earliest recorded usage of July 1907.

"OHMS/VG" OVERPRINT ON FLANNEL FLOWER.

Another copy of this scarce item has turned up on piece, this time in the December 1995 Private Treaty Sale number 2 of the "Australian Stamp and Coin Company Pty Ltd.", with a price of A\$350.00. It is similar in many respects to the ones described by Bryan Toop (SPPB Apr 1993, page 9) in that it is an "OHMS" piece with the 2/- Flannel Flower overprinted "OHMS/VG", together with 6 1/2d orange QEII and 5d blue QEII both perf "VG". All stamps are cancelled with Lindenow, Victoria, cds with date 28 April 1961, within the period of use of the ones cited by Bryan. It may also be significant that 3 of the covers were used in the Gippsland area (Licola, Heyfield and Lindenow), the others being in the Wimmera district (Rainbow) and two at Collins Street P.O. in Melbourne.

SEEN SELDOM WITH PERFINS

There are particular stamp issues which are seldom seen with commercial perfins. While I have not prepared a comprehensive study on this subject, I occasionally see a stamp in my collection and wonder why more copies of that stamp issue were not punctured.

It is to be expected that issues with high-face values will seldom be seen with perfins. Most businesses which perforated stamps seem not to have carried high-value stamps in their punctured stock. The evidence of this is that, even where a high postage value

was required, perfin users seem to have generally made up the necessary value from combinations of lower-value issues. I have not seen kangaroo issues of 10/-, £1 or £2 with private perfins and even the 5/- is exceedingly scarce.

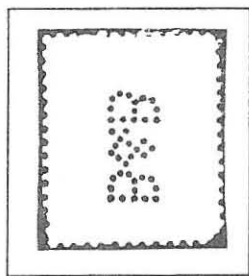
Similarly, the 5/- Sydney Harbour Bridge issue is rare as a perfin. I have seen only two punctured copies (sadly I possess neither) and both had been perforated by the Vacuum Oil Co.

The Robes design of 1938 and the Arms issues of 1949 are other series which are difficult to find with a perfin. While I have a few copies of both designs in the 5/- value with perfins, I cannot remember seeing the 10/- or £1 of either issue or the £2 Arms with a perfin.

While any high-value stamp is desirable as a perfin, I have made it a rule never to pay more for a punctured stamp than I would for the same stamp in unpunctured condition. To do so is simply to encourage forgery of perfins.

In relation to lower value issues, there are particular designs which are difficult to obtain with a perfin. The Victorian Centenary 1/- black is one such example. I have seen few copies of that issue although I have two copies in my own collection showing AH&S.1.

Another of the extremely difficult to find issues is the KGV 1d engraved issued in 1913. This stamp was on issue for only a very short period from December 1913 to

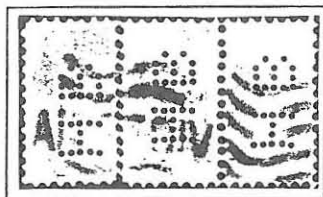


April 1914 although supplies were exhausted twice within that period. Many of these stamps were issued to philatelists and the philatelic demand was fanned by the extraordinarily high incidence of double perforations, misplaced perforations and missing perforations. In my view, it is easier now to find mint copies of this issue than it is to find genuine commercially used issues.



This is reflected in the high list price for used copies. Small wonder then that the issue is difficult to find as a perfin. I have only one perfin copy of the 1d engraved and it shows the pattern B&B.1.

While the high-value issues and the 1d engraved are *nice to have*s, my favourite scarce stamp is quite common as an unpunctured issue but, because of its size, very rare as a perfin. That stamp is the Victorian



½d design issued in a red colour in 1873 and in green in 1901 (the 1901 issue carried the additional word "postage"). The tiny size of the stamp precluded its common use for perfins. One occasionally sees the



issue with an indecipherable partial perfin strike. However, I have seen one full perfin strike on the issue and that is of the perfin HB.10 of which I have a (tenuously) joined strip of three. From the small size of that perfin, it would not be surprising to find that it was made specifically for the ½d issue.

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS PERFINS

(John Mathews)

Dave Elsmore (Queensland) has shown me two very interesting and unusual items. The first is a Queensland Railways "Stamped Parcel" label (nine pence denomination) with the perfin "QUEENSLAND/GOVT RAILYS". The pattern immediately looked familiar to me, as it was one I had photocopied from the Sloper workshop impression books (see SPPB July 1993, page 6). The annotation which accompanied the perfin impression showed that it was machine number 6967 and the die was made by a Mr. Gilbert. It would have been made in the early months of 1890. Dave's item has a manuscript cancel "4/5/90", so must have been among the first items perforated by this device.



The second item is a trial for a new design of Queensland Railways parcel stamp. It is perfined with a railway station number "333"! This item may well be unique, as the submitted design was modified slightly to allow the printing of the station number in a rectangular tablet on the stamp, thus doing away with the need for perforating.

SALISBURY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

The President of the Salisbury Philatelic Society (Ron Young) heard that your Secretary was going to be visiting Adelaide in December last and very kindly extended an invitation to be a guest at their December meeting which happened to be their Christmas Party. The meeting was attended by over 70 members, including many juniors, and all had a great time - including your Secretary! Business was despatched in a quick and enlightening fashion, no doubt influenced by the silent pressure of the members looking forward to the "party" afterwards. While the delicious supper was being consumed, an auction of varied material was conducted and your Secretary had some determined opposition for the perfin lots!

Thanks, Ron, for the invitation and to the ladies who provided the "Christmas fare", and to all your members, who made me so welcome. I also appreciated the chance to catch up with so many whom I had had the pleasure of meeting previously around the philatelic circles - including one from my High School class (and to the other readers, there is no lottery prize for guessing what years that covered !!)

RESULTS OF AUCTION 2/1995

As anticipated in the last Bulletin, the material on offer in this auction proved very much sought after. Bids were received from about one third of our members and about two thirds of the number of lots were sold, many at well above what proved to be conservative reserve prices. Several lots were decided on the basis of "first bid received" in cases of equal highest bids. Overall results were as follows:

Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A	Lot	\$A
1	16.00	32	12.00	87	2.00	134	13.00	162	4.00
2	26.00	33	12.00	89	20.00	135	10.50	165	6.50
3	34.00	34	29.00	94	2.00	136	7.00	166	3.00
4	8.50	35	26.00	97	6.00	137	10.00	167	7.00
5	16.00	36	17.00	98	5.00	138	5.50	168	1.50
7	5.50	40	0.30	103	5.00	139	8.50	169	2.00
9	21.00	42	0.70	105	5.00	140	5.50	170	16.00
10	15.00	49	1.00	107	5.00	141	4.75	171	36.00
15	6.50	51	0.35	108	1.00	142	8.00	173	3.25
16	2.00	56	0.35	109	7.00	143	5.50	174	21.00
17	5.50	59	34.00	110	5.00	144	7.00	175	4.00
18	5.50	60	11.00	111	2.00	145	6.50	176	3.25
19	5.50	61	7.50	112	2.00	146	4.00	177	2.00
20	5.50	62	17.00	113	2.00	147	16.00	178	1.00
21	6.50	63	16.00	114	3.25	149	11.00	179	6.50
22	2.00	64	26.00	118	5.00	150	10.00	180	3.50
23	6.00	65	15.00	119	5.00	151	7.50	182	26.00
24	8.00	68	12.00	120	2.00	154	4.25	183	4.25
25	5.50	69	16.00	123	3.00	155	2.25	185	4.25
26	2.00	70	16.00	124	3.00	156	2.25	186	11.00
27	11.00	80	5.00	125	3.75	157	2.00	187	5.50
28	3.00	81	5.00	127	5.00	158	8.50	188	5.00
29	5.50	82	5.00	128	6.50	159	4.00	189	5.00
30	8.50	83	10.00	132	6.50	160	3.00	190	20.00
31	11.00	84	6.50	133	6.50	161	2.00	----	-----

AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest noted in auctions since the previous Bulletin are set out below. Thanks to John Mathews and Tony Nobile for supplying the information.

Est \$A

1. Launceston Philatelic Society Sale No. 45, October 1995

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. McKay, Sampson & McKinley perfins on cover, receipt and loose | 18.50 |
| b. ditto - 4 samples on Pictorials | 3.00 |

2. Philas Stamp Auction No. 62, November 1995	
a. Perfins GB, Aust and world. All Used	60.00
3. Status International 164th Public Auction, November 1995	
a. Aust KGV heads 1d red perfins colln used (143)	100.00
b. PTPO envelope with perfin "HJ/D" through envelope	70.00
c. Roos (2), KGV (90) used with "OS/NSW" perfins	60.00
4. Status International 165th Public Auction, December 1995	
a. Dept. of Railways OHMS large letter with 1/- Anzac and 2d KGV "G/NSW".	100.00
b. OHMS large letter "G/NSW"	100.00
c. "Treasury of NSW" official cover with 2 1/2d (2) and 3d 1941 o'prints perf "G/NSW"	100.00
5. West Brisbane Stamp Sales Auction no. 97, December 1995	
a. Sel perfins, used Roos, KGV; "OS/NSW", "G/NSW", "VG"	70.00
b. 2d brown KGV single wmk. perf "OK". UHM	50.00
6. Budget Stamp Sales Postal Bid Sale No. 33, January 1996	
a. Several lots with private overprints. Incl. NZ, Qld, Vic.	
b. NSW Stamp Duty 1 pound with perfin "EL".	25.00
c. Seln of 9 values of GB revenues with "MC" (Mayors' Court) perfin.	150.00
	Est \$NZ
7. Ashford Stamps Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand, Postal Auction No 2	
a. Australia, Used Roos range of perfed "OS" 1d to 1/- various values & wmk, also 3 "OS/NSW" perfins, one each of "H/LTD" and "K". Very mixed condition (25)	50
b. New Zealand, used 1d Dominion perfin "W&T/W" upright & inverted (2)	8
c. New Zealand, used Edward VII 6d red perfin "W&T/W" (1)	5
8. New Zealand Stamp Auctions, Postal Bid Sale No 145	
a. NZ U 1900's long type on pieces, noted some higher values with some duplication. Also some NOT LIABLE and COUNTERPART (48 pieces)	175
b. 1d Dominion perfin VOCO no stop (1) U	35
Australia, Roos, Range of used perforated Large "OS" to 2/-, nice lot (32)	450
Australia, Mint 1d Roo with full offset on the back. Perf Large "OS", rare	150
9. David Holmes Philatelist Ltd, Auckland NZ, Direct Sale 2, January '96	
a. Perfin "MLS" on 1d 1882. Used. Scarce	75
b. Perfin "S & S" on 1d 1901. Used	30

THE FIRST PUNCTURED "OS" STAMPS

(Keith Small)

The *Post and Telegraph Rate Act 1901* came into force on 1 November 1902. In anticipation of the proclamation of that Act, the Prime Minister advised all Commonwealth Ministers on 21 October 1902 to issue instructions to the responsible officers of their respective Departments that they should make immediate requisition on the Deputy Postmasters-General in their States for supplies of stamps, perforated with the "OS" indicator, for the use of Commonwealth Departments..

In some States the Government Printers did not possess suitable perforating machines, while in other States, modifications had to be made to existing perforating machines. It was therefore not possible to supply punctured "OS" stamps to Commonwealth Departments immediately. In fact, in the smaller States, "OS" stamps were not available until 1905.

The position in each State was as follows:

New South Wales - Arrangements were made quickly for stamps to be punctured "OS" for the use of Commonwealth Departments and "OS/N.S.W." for the use of State Departments. The work was carried out by the State Government Printer. The "OS" stamps were in use in Commonwealth Departments early in November 1902.

Victoria - The delay in the availability of suitably perforated stamps was only slight. The Deputy Postmaster-General, Melbourne, advised on 29 December 1902 that the State Government Printer had arranged for the perforation of "OS" stamps and that they are now being supplied to both State and Commonwealth Departments.

Queensland - The Queensland Government Printer did not have suitable machinery to puncture the "OS" and applied to have the stamps overprinted "OS". This request was denied. Eventually arrangements were made for the Government Printer to have the dies for the "OS" made in Sydney. After a considerable delay, the first supplies of punctured "OS" stamps were taken into stock at Brisbane on 7 August 1905. These stamps were for use in Commonwealth Departments only. However, following a request from the State Government, approval was given on 11 April 1906 for them to be made available to State Departments.

South Australia - At the time of Federation, the stamps used by State Departments were distinguished by the overprint "OS". In October 1902, the State Government requested that this practice be allowed to continue. The request was denied. The Deputy Postmaster-General, Adelaide, advised the Secretary of the PMG Department on 4 November 1902 that the printing of "OS" stamps was being discontinued.

Owing to delay in securing a suitable perforating machine, it was not possible to commence puncturing the initials on stamps until approximately April 1905.

A year earlier, stamps perforated "SA" had been introduced for the use of State Government Departments. From 1905 onwards, the "OS" puncture was applied.

Punctured "OS" stamps were not supplied for the use of Commonwealth Departments at Darwin until October 1906.

Tasmania - In October 1902, the Tasmanian Government sought permission to overprint their stamps "TS" but as for South Australia and Queensland, permission was denied. Approval was given in the same month for stamps to be punctured "TS" but the State authorities decided to use the initial "T" only, and such stamps were brought into use at the beginning of 1903. The Commonwealth Departments continued to use ordinary stamps until the punctured "OS" stamps were supplied in 1905 by the Government Printer in Melbourne.

Western Australia - The State Government asked on 5 September 1902 that stamps overprinted "WA" be allowed for the use of State Government Departments. The Postmaster-General's did not agree to the proposal. In June 1903, the State was informed that there was no objection to the stamps being punctured "WA" and such stamps were issued shortly after. Punctured "OS" stamps were not made available for the use of Commonwealth Departments until 1905 and at stage they were adopted by the State Authorities, the "WA" punctures being discontinued.

ANTHONY HORDERN & SONS' REPLY "ENVELOPE"

(John Mathews)

Proving covers are hard to find, even for the more common perfins, so I was delighted when a fellow stamp-collector offered me an "Anthony Hordern's envelope" as he called it.

At first, I thought it may have been an example of private usage for the folded "envelope" had no external identification of the sender, even though the "AH&S" perfin and the "865" barred numeral duplex cancel (Haymarket, NSW) were an unmistakable combination.

However my amazement increased rapidly when I untucked the securing flap, and found flaps on the other 3 sides which unfolded to reveal various advertising material and instructions on each side. On the reverse of the address panel was Anthony Hordern & Sons' name and Haymarket address, ready for the folding process to be reversed and provide a reply "envelope". The 2 sides of the opened "envelope" are shown.

With the volume of Horderns' business which was done by mail order, there must have been many such items sent out by them. How many loose "AH&S" stamps were once affixed to items such as this? Did this one survive only because it was not returned? The postmark date appears to be 1900 and the firm's disastrous fire occurred the following year!

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of
Specially Trained
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