

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

No. 38 July 1997

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EDITORIAL

It would appear that there is still a deal to be written about New South Wales officials. In the June 1997 issue of Stamp News is a report about a number of copies of Australian KGV 2d red C of A watermark issues with a black "OS" rubber stamp overprint. These items were postmarked during June or July 1933 at Lithgow, Wallerawang, Lawson and Gallymont. These towns/villages are in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, or westward on the other side of the mountains. While there is as yet no explanation for these items one might suspect that they were issued by a regional New South Government office, as they could not obtain the normal official perfins. Mid 1933 was a period of significant change in official perfins in New South Wales including the usage of the large (and wide) OS for a few months.

Have other copies been unearthed or were other issues overprinted? While not a perfin I imagine that many collectors of New South Wales official perfins would like to include an example in their collections.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just a reminder that subscriptions were due on 1st July. New Zealand members may send payments (NZ\$11) to Barry Clarke, 24 Spedding Road, Whangarei, New Zealand (after May 1997). All other members please send payment to the Treasurer, Peter Wood, 9 Roslyn Street, Mt Martha, Victoria 3934 AUSTRALIA

AUCTION WATCH

Items of interest from auctions since the last Bulletin include the following. Special thanks to "auction-watchers" Tony Nobilo and Bryan Magee for their regular contributions to this column, and also to those others who draw the Secretary's attention to these items.

a. 5/- S.H. Bridge with perfin K.5 (Rodney Perry Auction, Mar 97)	Est. \$100-150
b. 5/- S.H. Bridge with perfin VOCO.6 (R. Perry Auction, Mar 97)	\$180-200
c. 1935 NZ 2/- Capt Cook with "MGM". (Stirling & Co Sale 427)	NZ\$ 15.00
d. "NZ" on 2/6 green GB KGVI. (Stirling & Co Sale 427, May 97)	NZ\$ 10.00
e. "BNZ" on GB KEVII 1d & 10d (Stirling & Co Sale 427)	NZ\$20.00
f. Tasmania 1907 9d blue "T" perfin (Stirling & Co Sale 427)	NZ\$7.50
g. "Commercial Perfins of Australia", Grant & Mathews, (Jimbo's May 97 Direct Sale) Postage extra.	\$ 55.00
h. 300+ perfins from Australia, pre-1953 (ACS Auction, May 97)	NZ\$100.00
i. Several individual perfins on Aust State stamps, including DC&CO, RH&CO, JM&CO, AICO. (Academy Stamps).	Each..\$ 1.00
j. Tas. 3c(1) & 5c(5) Thylacine Stamp Duties o/p "AMPS" (Launceston Phil. Soc. Sale 48, May 97)	Res\$ 5.00
k. Perfin "RICO" on Tas 1930 9d green platypus & on 1931-55 1d x 2, 1/- & 2/6 numeral Duty Stamps (Launceston Phil. Soc. Sale 48, May 97)	Res \$ 5.00
l. Australian 1906 postcard with Victoria 1d perfin "LBs" (Ashford Stamps Auction May 97) (private use? - jhm)	NZ\$ 25.00
m. One pound grey Roo (CofA wmk) punct. "G/NSW" used. (Status International Auction 175, June 97)	\$200.00
n. World perfin selection inc 4 USA covers & 2 Netherlands covers, plus stamps from France, Canada, Argentina, GB, Italy, etc. (Status International Auction 175, June 97)	\$ 45.00
o. Tas. 5/- bl-br. Numeral revenue with "RICO" perfin (large) (Teepookana Stamps Anti-clutter Sale 12, May 97)	\$ 10.00
p. Tas 1903 1d rose QV postal card perf "T". Used. (Teepookana Stamps Anti-clutter Sale 12, May 97)	\$150.00
q. Tas. 1917 1d on 11/2d brown cut square from O/p'd Reply Card, perf "T". (Teepookana Stamps Postal Bid Sale, April 97)	\$ 50.00
r. Accum. of David Jones perfins on NSW, Roos, KGV, etc., inc 6d eng. Kooka (Teepookana Stamps Postal Bid Sale, April 97)	\$100.00
s. Accum. of Vacuum Oil perfins on Vic, NSW, Roos, KGV(to 1/4), etc. (121) (Teepookana Stamps Postal Bid Sale, April 97)	\$ 60.00
t. Seln of State Govt. & private perfins, Roos to 5/-, KGV to 1/4. (70) (West Brisbane Auction 105, June 97)	\$ 90.00
u. 1913 4d Roo perf large "OS" (Mowbray Auction 247, June 97)	NZ \$ 45.00
v. 10/- Kangaroo 3rd wmk (BW48) Perf OS/NSW MUH well centred & full perfs (Australian Stamp & Coin Company Private Treaty Sale 10)	\$800

SELDOM SEEN WITH PRIVATE PERFINS: an update

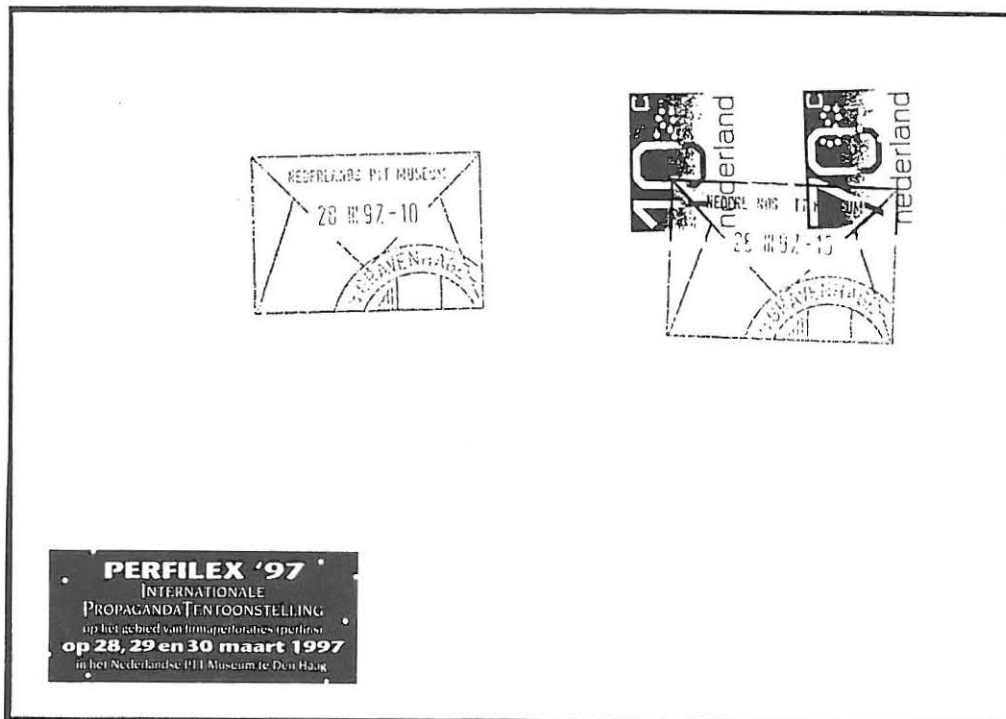
John Amiet reports the following additional items:

2/- Roo (brown) MH.5	4d blue KGV	BGEC.1
1/- Anzac	A+R.1	1/- SA Centenary H.2

PERFILEX 97

Wim Tukker, one of our members in The Netherlands, has sent copies of the catalogue and perfin cover produced for this exhibition at The Hague from 28 - 30 March 1997. The exhibition attracted 21 entries from 17 different exhibitors, including at least one from outside The Netherlands. Wim displayed three frames of his collection of "The Official Perforations of Australia". Other displays included perfins of Belgium, Bayern, Cuba, England (on QV issues), Canada (officials and private, including railway perfins), France, Switzerland and Russia. Of course, there were also several entries of different aspects of Netherlands perfins, and perfins produced by POKO-machines (Porto-Kontroll-und-Brief-Frankiermaschine) were well represented.

The souvenir cover for the exhibition featured the POKO perfin "S.C.", now in the collection of the Dutch Postal Museum, and specially allowed to be used for one time on modern stamps for this occasion. The original user was N. V. Almelosche Confectiefabriek v/h H. Smits & Co., Almelo, during the period 1926-1931.



G/NSW and U/NSW PERFIN'S WANTED

One of my major interests has always been the official perfins of New South Wales. Unfortunately there are still many gaps that I need to fill, even some that should be quite common e.g. 45c Helichrysum, 30c Fish. Will buy or exchange for those that I need (and pay your postage).- David Andersen 260 Hawkesbury Road, Winmalee NSW 2777 AUSTRALIA

HELP WANTED

Bryan Magee has shown the illustrated example of a DJLTD.2 perfin on a 3d green QV issue of New South Wales and wonders if it could be an early usage. The only clue is the distinctive cancellation which looks like part of a large "(PARCEL P)OST" cancel (?). Can any of our postmark specialists throw any light on what the complete cancel might be, and during what period it was used?



AN AUSTRALIAN PERFIN WITH AN ANTARCTIC CONNECTION!

Your Secretary had not yet turned his radio over from Radio National on Saturday 16 May when the Science Show started (it follows The Goons!) and an item about Douglas Mawson's hut in Antarctica caught his immediate attention. During the course of the presentation, it was reported that the hut was prefabricated in Sydney and transported down to Antarctica aboard the supply ship. The firm which did the prefabrication was Hudsons Limited - user of the "GHLTD" perfin (as was recently proved from a receipt shown by Peter Parsons - see SPPB October 1996, page 5)!

AUCTION SPECIAL - TWO 5/- BRIDGES PERFORATED

A highlight from this issue's Auction Watch is the inclusion of two 5/- Bridges with private perfins in Rodney Perry's March auction, reported by a couple of our auction-watching members. One had the perfin K.5 and had a partial "PARCELS OFFICE" oval cancellation, while the other had perfin VOCO.6 with a fine "Rialto" (Melbourne) circular date stamp postmark. Both stamps sold for well above their respective estimates, the Kodak example going for \$150 and that of the Vacuum Oil Company for \$230. Early in 1996, Peter Parsons reported to the Secretary that a 5/- Bridge with Kodak perfin had sold in the West Brisbane Stamps auction of February 1994 for \$135; could this have been the same item? If not, it means that at least two copies of this rare combination have survived!!



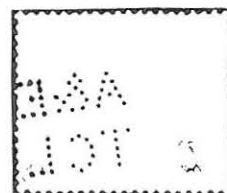
A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO A PREVIOUS ARTICLE

In the April 1997 issue of this Bulletin, John Mathews wrote of a possible puncturing service in New South Wales, among whose customers might have been a company with initials "BCL". John did not have anything more than circumstantial evidence for the user of this family of patterns as his only cover has the flap missing! From across the Tasman Sea, Barry Pawson sent for John's inspection another cover with a "BCL" pattern, and a new one at that. Barry's cover is complete and on the flap is the identity of "Birt & Co. Ltd, Sydney". So another user identity can be confirmed.

The two covers have a couple of similar aspects. Both are franked with 2 1/2d blue Roo stamps, and both have the same style Sydney machine cancellations (dated 1917 and 1920 respectively). Both envelopes have the flap at the end of the envelope. Both have addressees in the same distinctive purple ink used in the early "Addressograph" machines which used metal plates with the embossed addresses.

MORE HELP WANTED

John Mathews has been sent an Australian stamp with a perfin not previously reported on such issues, and seeks help to establish whether, or not, this usage is genuine.



This perfin is "A & E / T C L" as shown, on a 1 1/2d black-brown KGV head postmarked "G.P.O. MELBOURNE, 20 MR 29". It may be significant that the perfin is slightly skew with respect to the edge of the stamp.

This pattern is listed in the GB catalogue as A2150.01, known used on KGV issues and the KGV dark colours, which is consistent with the postmark date. The user according to the 7th edition of Tomkins Catalogue is "Africa and Eastern Trade Corporation Limited" (of Liverpool?). The "Eastern" suggests that their trade may have included Australia, although Melbourne Directories for the period 1926 to 1932 make no mention of a company of this name, or any similar name.

It could be that the stamp, and possibly the envelope to which it was affixed, got perfinned on arrival in UK for some reason.

Does any member have another copy of this perfin on an Australian stamp? Does any member have any knowledge of this company, or an agent of it, trading in Australia around 1929?

PERFINS ON AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS STAMPS (John Mathews)

In the April 1997 Bulletin, I commented that the "CSLSA" perfin shown by John Amiet may have been the first recorded use of such stamps, perfined, in UK. That was based on addresses listed in "Commercial Perfins of Australia".

However, when I checked my collection, I discovered that I had CTCO.2 (the variety with the "T" with the long tail) on both the US and UK versions of these customs stamps. A quick check with Kelly's London Post Office Directory over a number of years revealed that the Caterpillar Tractor Co. was listed in London from 1916 to 1926 inclusive. Their address was initially 60 Queen Victoria Street, EC4, and changed sometime between 1920 and 1922 to 36 Queen Street, EC4 (just around the corner).

RARE RAILWAYS PARCELS STAMP USAGE.

Bryan Magee has found a Tasmanian Railway Parcels Stamp with private perfin DWMLTD.2 - the first such railway stamp recorded with a perfin. The stamp is the 1/- indigo value, Craig & Ingles Cat. No. 1333.



Previous reports of such a stamp have been made by David Andersen (SPPB, Sep.88, p.8) and P.B. Edwards (Philately from Australia, Dec.83, p.93).

Railway Parcels Stamps of all Australian States are now known with private perfins. For those who have a specialist sub-collection of these, the patterns known on these stamps for the various States so far are:


Vic.	B&WPTYLTD.1	Qld.	ED.1
	KL.1		FINNEYS.1
			L.2
			Q.1
NSW	EFLD.1		SH&CO.1
	MCCLD.1		TBS.3
	WG&COLD.1		TCB&CO.1
	WILLS.1		
		WA	GDCOP.
			WS&CO.1
SA	WCR.1	Tas.	DWMLTD.2

If any members have any others, we would be interested to hear of them.

Also, it is known that the Railway Parcels Stamps of Belgium also exist with perfins - are there any other countries whose Railway Parcels Stamps are known perfined?

AN ATTRACTIVE PROVING ITEM

Bryan Magee is the proud new owner of a very nice trade postcard which is a proving item for a perfin whose "probable identity" it proves to be incorrect. The perfin is OK.1 which is clearly visible on the 1d Roo in the illustration of the card front. The message side of the card is delightfully illustrated and reveals the user as "Orme, Keigwin & Co., Limited" of 269-271 George Street, Sydney.



269, 271 GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY.

6th February, 1913


We beg to acknowledge your Order just received
per Post and to advise the dispatch of
4 cs Reaper Lager Quarts

FEB 10 1913

Per "Wakatipu" on next trip

Yours faithfully,
ORME, KEIGWIN & CO., Limited.
Arthur Secretary
Director.

POST CARD.



For Address Only SYDNEY N.S.W. SYDNEY

13 FEB - 5-30P 1913 FEB - 5-30P

Messrs. Johnstone & Wilmot, Ltd.,
St. John Street,
Launceston.

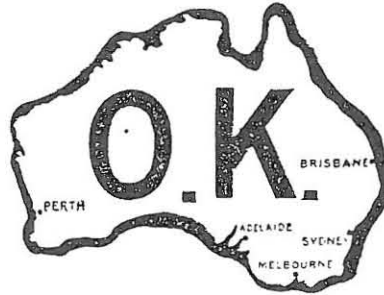
When John Mathews searched the Australian Official Journal of Trade Marks looking for possible perfin users, he found two candidates for "OK", one of which was the jam company and the other was Orme, Keigwin & Co Ltd.

The trade marks of the latter are illustrated below.

OK

By the REGISTERED PROPRIETOR in the State of New South Wales, No. 7286.
1707. (Vol. 1, No. 8.) Fermented Liquors and Spirits. ORME KEIGWIN & Co. LIMITED,
119 George-street, Sydney, New South Wales, merchant.—21st August, 1906.

[To be associated with Trade Mark No. 1707.]



The essential particular of the Trade Mark is the following:—The distinctive mark.

4380. (Vol. 2, No 25.) Fermented Liquors and Spirits. ORME, KEIGWIN & Co.
LIMITED, 169 George-street, Sydney, merchant.—27th May, 1907.

PERFORATION "T" ON STAMPS OF VICTORIA - A GOVERNMENT PUNCTURE ? (Bill Harley)

A Victorian stamp has been found with a perfin "T" and a "LAUNCESTON" postmark, and it is conjectured whether this might be a stamp actually used by a Tasmanian Government department.

The stamp, shown in the illustration, is a 2d mauve inscribed with the word "POSTAGE" (as distinct from the earlier "Stamp Duty" issue), perf 12 1/2 on V over Crown watermark paper. It is in Die I state and thus would have been printed from Plate 1 or 2 which were used up to April 1904 (see "The Stamps of Victoria - The Commonwealth Period", by Geoff Kellow, pages 297-298).



The holes of this "T" do not align with those of the "T" found on Tasmanian stamps. The latter are of a spacing consistent with the modification of a perf. 11 line perforator, while this example is of a Victorian Service Puncture type B with a row spacing of 1.5 mm.

A well-known Tasmanian collector and dealer has stated that he believes that at one stage during the period when Tasmanian stamps were being printed in Melbourne, there was a problem in supplying them in time and that an arrangement was made to send stocks of Victorian stamps for use by Tasmanian Government departments. Does any reader have any knowledge of this having happened - I can find no reference to it in any sources I have read?

If this was the case, it may have been that the Victorian Government Printer arranged for them to be perforated "T" in Melbourne as a precaution against loss in transit, etc. Is it a coincidence that this "T" is of the same size as some of the known varieties of the "TB" perfins of the Tramways Board which, of course, were much later? As it is also the same size as a number of examples of the same letter in private perfins such as "ET", could the perforating have been contracted out to one of those people who produced the type B Victorian Service Punctures? Does any other reader have an example of such a Victorian stamp perf "T" - one on cover would be a very nice find!!

WORTH A SECOND LOOK (Bill Harley and John Mathews)

Sometimes a first glance will fail to detect fine detail, and in this example, variations in what was thought to be a single pattern of a customised perfin were overlooked.

Some time ago, Bill received a consignment of some 35,000 State stamps to clean and sort. The average sprinkling of perfins was among them, and the first impression was that these were going to be rather mundane as about four out of five of the perfins seemed to be of the same pattern - AWF.2. Because the number of them was so great and included usage on stamps of Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania, Bill started to look more carefully at them. From the date range, 1905 to December 1906, it seemed obvious that this was an "office stamp bin" lot, probably untouched since they came into the hands of a hoarder. "Is it my imagination, or are there differences between some of these patterns?" Bill asked himself.

Overall, the characteristics of the range of patterns varied from State to State. On the Queensland issues, the pattern was found in all eight possible orientations, as well as one which was skew. The postmarks for the Queensland usage were all Brisbane ones. The majority were on 2d blue Queen Victoria, with a few 1d red Queen Victoria (ASC 44 and 43 respectively). A few which seemed to have missing pins had dates very close to, and on each side of, other examples where the pins were all visible, so "missing" probably meant "short".

All the examples on the stamps of Tasmania are on 1d and 2d Pictorials (ASC 35 and 36) and are postmarked "Launceston" except for two with "LOOSE SHIP LETTER" (type 58 - ref.1) and "LOOSE SHIP PACKET" (type 61). Can anyone confirm "Hobart" usage quoted in "Commercial Perfins of Australia"? This usage is found in all eight positions, plus one in a diagonal position.

The South Australian examples, all in an upright position, appear on the 1d red and 2d violet Queen Victoria issues (ASC 23a and 24b), mainly the latter. The postmarks are mostly the double circle of Adelaide, but there are also a few squared circle type of which the only readable placename is "Murray Bridge". The stamps are printed on both Crown over SA and Crown over A papers.

On the issues of New South Wales, the "AWF" perfin pattern appears upright in nearly all cases, with just three inverted examples. Postmarks include "Special/Sydney", "George St. North" and the following Sydney numeral duplexes - 22, 24, 26, 30, 36, 41, 43, and 44, and the stamps are predominantly 2d Queen Victoria (ASC 71) with a few 1d Shield (ASC 70). Watermarks are

mainly Crown over Single-lined A with some Crown over NSW.

Two aspects of the patterns on the stamps of Victoria which stand out are the much finer pins than on the examples from other States, and the wide variety of locations throughout Victoria at which the stamps were postmarked. The following Melbourne postmarks are noted:

- Type 1, Double Circle with Thick Arcs, numbers 3, 8, 10, 16, and 20 (ref. 2).
- Type 2, Double Circle with Thin Arcs, numbers 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 12, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 22 (ref 2).
- Type 3, Commonwealth type, number 15.

Circular date stamps appear for the following suburbs and country towns - Benalla, Bendigo, Bruthen, Clifton Hill, Geelong, Inglewood, Katunga, Lang Lang, Leongatha, Rialto, Sorrento, St. Kilda, Warrnambool and Yarram Yarram.

The following barred numerals are also discernible - 5 (Ballarat), 16 (Ballan), 51 (Horsham), 54 (Kilmore), 78 (St. Kilda), 132 (Newstead), 144 (Rushworth), 174 (Bairnsdale), 598 (Concoweella Creek), 730 (Sorrento), 849 (Murtoa), 879 (Tatura), 985 (Warragul), M83 (1083)(Nathalia), and MCC11 (1211)(Nhill) - see ref 3.

The Victorian "AWF" patterns are predominantly on 1d issues - ASC 41, and ASC 84 (V over Crown and Crown over A wmk). Other issues sighted are 2d purple (ASC 65 and 86), 6d blue/dark ultramarine (ASC 67) and 6d emerald (ASC 91). Five examples were found with the pattern inverted.

From the above, it is apparent that this accumulation was put together over a relatively short period from material received at the Melbourne head office of Australian Widows' Fund Society. Victorian stamps have postmarks from all over that State and are predominantly of the intrastate postal rate. Stamps from other States are mainly of the interstate postal rate and postmarked at the capital city.

The pins of the pattern on Victorian stamps are consistently finer than those of the other States. This would indicate that these stamps probably all originated from the one place, namely the head office in Melbourne, and were carried to the various places of posting, either by representatives of the company or having been sent out perhaps as "Stamped Self-Addressed Envelopes" for a reply.

But what about the perforating of the stamps of the other States? Where was this done, at one location and the stamps distributed, or at each capital city? Bill sent a representative sample to John for close inspection of the patterns on the stamps of the respective States and this revealed some minute but noticeable differences which are summarised in the following table. From this, it can be concluded that State offices in Brisbane, Adelaide and Sydney each had their own perforators. The Tasmanian pattern has not been able to be distinguished from that of New South Wales, and those stamps may have been perforated in Sydney.

Strangely, though, the "AWF" pattern known on the stamps of New Zealand is also indistinguishable from that of New South Wales and one can hardly imagine that NZ stamps would have been sent twice across the Tasman Sea just to be perforated! So maybe the New

South Wales, Tasmanian and New Zealand perfins were all made by separate devices, with the engineering of them so precise that one cannot spot any differences in the patterns.

References:

1. Tasmanian Postal History and Postal Markings, Part II, Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.
2. The Cancellations of Melbourne 1861 - 1912, Davies, Winfield and Purves.
3. Victoria - The Barred Numeral Cancellations, 1856 - 1912, J.R.W. Purves.

Pattern	Victoria	New South Wales	Queensland	South Australia	Tasmania	New Zealand
Width of pins	Narrower	Wider			As NSW	As NSW
Top pin of 'A'	Right of Centre	Left of centre			As NSW	As NSW
Legs of 'W'	Slightly bowed	Straight, except 5th pin from top of right leg	Straight	As NSW	As NSW	
Top arm of 'F'	Curves up in middle	Level (or possibly dips very slightly in middle)			As NSW	As NSW
Cross arm of 'A'	-	Centre pin slightly lower than the other two	Level	As NSW	As NSW	
Centre pin of cross arm of 'A'	-	Evenly spaced	Slightly to left of centre	Evenly spaced	As NSW	As NSW

Distinguishing features indicated by cells in double outline.

A POSSIBLE IDENTITY ?

While going through the Melbourne Directory for 1905, your Secretary's eye spotted a name familiar to the perfin fraternity, that of Thomas H. Mate & Co. Ltd. who are considered to be the likely user of the perfin ME.1, whose examples known so far all have an Albury NSW postmark. Their store was known as "Mate's Emporium".

What commanded a bit more attention about this Directory entry was the address - 17 Queen Street. In the same building in 1905 were Noyes Bros (perfin NB.1) and "Miss M. Palmer, stamp vendor". The same three entries also appeared in the 1910 edition of the Melbourne Directory. In the 1900 edition, Thomas H. Mate & Co. Ltd. were at that same address, and so was Miss Palmer - as a partner of "Elliot & Palmer, typists". Now, Elliot & Palmer are known to have applied to the Deputy Postmaster-General in Melbourne in July 1897 for permission to perforate stamps on behalf of Messrs. Beath, Scheiss & Co. (see "Commercial Perfins of Australia", Chapter 8). Could it be that they did the perforating of NB.1? In addition, could they have perforated stamps for Thomas H. Mate & Co. Ltd.?

So far, no perfin has been attributed to Mates' Melbourne office, but the perfin listed in "Commercial Perfins of Australia" as MHT.1 could be "THM" or "MTH" when viewed from the other side of the stamp!! Known usage of MHT.1 is circa 1899 which is consistent with the period when Elliot & Palmer were perforating stamps. Another priority in the search for proving covers.

2/- JUBILEE WITH G/NSW PERFIN

According to the available literature the Australian 2/- Jubilee with G/NSW perfin was punctured per favour. The editor has seen one copy only of this stamp, which was Mint Unhinged.

How many other copies of this issue exist? Are there any in blocks of 4 as someone thought they had seen, but couldn't quite remember where? Do any copies exist in used condition?

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1997

Bank balance 1 July 96	4238.25	Prep & despatch 4 Bulletins	625.12
Subs inc. \$469.23 in advance	1626.12	Postage & Stationery	511.85
Bank charge credit	10.00	Government charges	22.79
Adjustment Govt. charges	1.20		
Bank interest	39.86		
Term deposit interest	143.76		
Exchange branch	6391.33	Exchange branch	4707.85
Auction 1/96	577.25	Auction 1/96	597.30
Auction 2/96	1314.83	Auction 2/96	1199.75
		Bank balance 30 June 97	6677.94
	<u>14342.60</u>		<u>14342.60</u>

<u>Bank reconciliation:</u>	Balance per statement	7541.14
	Less unrepresented cheque	<u>863.20</u>
		6677.94
	Balance per cash book	6677.94

Term Deposit account: \$2500.00 @ 4% for 12 months due 6 April 98.

(Signed) P. A. Wood
Hon. Treasurer
7 July 1997

Our thanks to Peter and to Barry Clarke for their good work in keeping our accounts in good order.