

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

No. 39 October 1997

The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia four times each year. Club subscriptions (including payment for the Bulletin) are A \$10-00 p.a. for New Zealand and Australian residents and A \$15-00 p.a. for residents of other countries (including airmail postage).

President: "Vacant"

Secretary: John Mathews, 21 McConnel Cres, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia
email - johnm@student.canberra.edu.au

Treasurer: Peter Wood, 9 Roslyn Street, Mt Martha Victoria 3934, Australia

Editor: David Andersen, 260 Hawkesbury Rd, Winmalee NSW 2777, Australia
email- d.andersen@library.usyd.edu.au

Circuit Managers:

New Zealand Ray Bennett, PO Box 354, Timaru, New Zealand

Australia John Mathews, 21 McConnel Cres, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia

EDITORIAL

You will notice a short article later in the bulletin relating to a faker being at work. This of course is only the latest instance of this type of problem for official perfin collectors. Perfins are thought to be easier to forge/fake than some other philatelic items, though by no means the easiest.

Because the material we collect is in many cases quite scarce or rare it is not surprising that we are both asked to and willing to pay a reasonable amount for scarcer items and you would not expect to change this situation. However care in what we buy and from whom may help to limit the successful activities of forgers/fakers. When buying more expensive material be aware from whom you are buying material and if possible try to establish the source. However unfortunately no matter how careful we are forgeries will continue to be produced if a forger can make a profit from these activities.

CLUB ELECTIONS

Elections of office-bearers are due to be held in early 1998 at a National Level stamp convention or show. There is such a convention in Canberra, 14th to 16th March 1998. In order for all members to participate in electing office-bearers a nomination form is included with this issue of the Bulletin.

Members are encouraged to nominate people (having checked with the intended nominee first !) for one or more positions on the same form. Nominations should be forwarded to the Secretary by 31 December 1997. A voting form will be included with the January 1998 issue of the Bulletin so that all members may cast their votes, even if they are unable to attend the Club meeting which will be held in March 1998 at the Canberra Stamp Convention.

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members since the last Bulletin:

- #161 Tom Latto, Lancashire, England
 - #162 Andrew Murley, Auckland, New Zealand
-
-

VALE JIM WURR

It was with much regret that we learned of Jim's passing in late July. Jim had been an active Club member for several years and was well known to New Zealand members. Your Secretary has had correspondence with Jim over the years and he was interested in Club matters and a contributor to perfin knowledge. A message of condolence was sent to his widow on behalf of all members. A card has been received thanking members for their kind thoughts.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1997/1998

Many thanks to all those who have paid the subscriptions so promptly, including several who did not even wait for the renewal notice!

MEETING/EXHIBITION IN NEW ZEALAND - AUPEX '97

Barry Clarke has advised that a meeting room has been booked during AUPEX '97 to be held in Auckland from 11 to 16 November 1997. The Club meeting will be held in the Kawau Room of the Sky City Convention Centre (the Exhibition location) at 2 pm on Friday 14 November. We would like to see as many members as possible there for a get-together.

PERFINS WANTED TO BUY / EXCHANGE

William Buekers has written from The Netherlands asking if anyone is interested in selling or exchanging perfins. Unfortunately, he has given no further details. Anyone interested can contact him at

William F. Buekers,
PO Box 3052,
NL-5003 DB, TILBURG
THE NETHERLANDS

C OF A PERFIN ON AIR LETTER ?

The August 1997 issue of the Perfin Society Bulletin mentions a report in the Cinderella Philatelist 1966 about an unidentified British Air Letter with the C Of A perfin, used by Australian Government representatives in Britain. Has anyone come across this item or a similar one ?

FORGERIES REPORTED

The September 1997 issue of Stamp News has two items about perfin.

David Byron in his column "Completely Unhinged" reports that a significant number of 1946 Victory sets perforated "SPECIMEN" have come onto the market. He has concluded that not all of these sets are genuine and recommends when purchasing sets that a guarantee is obtained. As forgeries of these items have appeared in the past and many perfin collectors do not collect these Specimens this news is not earth shattering.

Bernard Doherty provides a two-page spread on perfins in his column "About Stamp Collecting". After talking in general about perfins, official perfins, telegraph punctures, specimen perfins and the like comes the bombshell. He illustrates a current 45c peel and stick Koala stamp with a faked large "federal" OS. That this item is obviously a fake is immediately obvious as this stamp was certainly not punctured with this pattern, the perforator being withdrawn from use in 1913.

I contacted Bernie to get more details. The stamp in question was given to him about a year ago by a dealer who stated that he had been approached in regard to having older issues similarly perforated.

Of course the dealer told the faker where to go but others could have used the offered services.

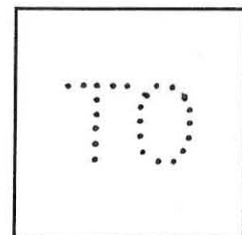
The fake OS was illustrated in Stamp News and there were some differences in the spacing of the holes from a genuine copy shown. However as there is some variation between the dies of this puncturing head it is a little difficult to be certain about which differences are significant at this stage. If you are buying the large Commonwealth OS issues (on Kangaroo issues) take care.

ANOTHER 5/- SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE WITH PERFIN!

Auction-watcher Bryan Magee has informed us that there was another 5/- Sydney Harbour Bridge with perfin offered in the Stanley Gibbons (Aust) auction of 14 June 1997. The pattern is VOCO.6, and the c.d.s. is "(?REGISTERE)D / 7 SE.32 / MELBOURNE VIC", so is not the same item as previously reported.

ANOTHER MYSTERY ITEM

John Amiet has shown a Victorian 25 shilling pink Duty Stamp with The perforated letter pattern is illustrated. There is a pen cancel consisting of the initials "JD" and the date "10/5/05". The size of the letters and the fact that they are against the edge of the stamp would suggest that it was a cancellation rather than a perfin. Has anyone ever seen such a pattern on a document? Any ideas as to what the letters "TO" stand for - Taxation Office?



SELDOM SEEN a further update.

The following additions to those previously listed have come from Jen Prosser, Bill Harley, Jim Betson and John Amiet.

4d Roo - F&G.1	3d blue Kooka - IHC.9
5d Roo - HM.2, MH.14	1/- Victoria Centenary - GWP.1
2/- Roo (brown) - BS&F.5	1/- Anzac BLTD.1
5/- Roo - ED&CO.?	2/- KGV Silver Jubilee - AH&S.1
6d Eng Kooka - G&COS.1	1/- SA Centenary - GRW.1
4d blue KGV - B&N.15, DJLTD.2, ETCO.1, GWS.1, PO&C.2	9d NSW Sesquicentenary - CB.4, EFLD.1, F.1/2
1 / 4 KGV (1st wmk) - HS.4	6d AIF - AC&CO.1, NASC.2, VOCO.11
1/ 4 KGV (p13.5 x 12.5) - GWA.1	

AUCTION WATCH

Items of interest seen in auctions since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobilo, Bryan Magee, David Andersen and David Richards for their contributions.

	Res/Est
a. AC&S on NZ 2d 2nd sideface (Stirling & Co Sale 429, July 97)	NZ\$ 8
b. BGEC on NZ 2d KEVII (Mowbray Postal Auction 249, Aug 97)	NZ\$ 35
c. SSE mirror pair on NZ 1d 2nd sideface (Mowbray Postal Auction 249, Aug 97)	NZ\$ 30
d. AWF on 3d small Huia (Mowbray Postal Auction 249, Aug 97)	NZ\$ 15
e. M&CLTD on NZ 2d KGV (Mowbray Postal Auction 249, Aug 97)	NZ\$ 40
f. 41 private perfins values 1d to 2/6 inc revenues (Teepookana Stamps Sale, Sep 97)	\$ 50
g. 1/4 KGV (p 13.5) horiz pr perf VOCO (Teepookana Stamps Sale, Sep 97)	\$ 20
h. CTCO on 2d, 3d & 1/- Aust Customs Duty Stamps (London) (Teepookana Stamps Sale, Sep 97)	\$ 15
i. CTCO on 1/- Aust Customs Duty Stamp (London) (Budget Stamps Sale 37, Aug 97)	\$ 5
j. 1914 cover with 1d Roo perfin "DWMLTD" pmk Melbourne 11SE14 (Ashford Stamps Postal Auction 7, Sep 97)	NZ\$ 50
k. 1930 cover with 2d orange KGV perfin "GB" pmk Melbourne 19OC20 (Ashford Stamps Postal Auction 7, Sep 97)	NZ\$ 40
l. 1937 cover Melb 4AUG37 to USA, 1d & 2d KGV perf "VG" (Ashford Stamps Postal Auction 7, Sep 97)	NZ\$ 50
m. EMW/W on NZ 1d Universal (Ashford Stamps Postal Auction 7, Sep 97)	NZ\$ 10
n. M&C/LTD on 2d Whare tied to part receipt by cachet of Milne & Choyce Ltd dated 9SEP35 (Ashford Stamps Postal Auction 7, Sep 97)	NZ\$ 50
o. Canada. Collection of stamps perf "OHMS", o/p "OHMS" and o/p "G" (Auckland City Stamps Sale 149, Sep 97)	NZ\$1200
p. "NZ" on QE2 1/6 pair on envelope used Jan 64 (Stirling & Co Sale 431, Sep 97)	NZ\$ 40
q. "NZ" on 2/6 brown KGV I on official envelope to "Prime Minister, Wellington" (Stirling & Co Sale 431, Sep 97)	NZ\$100
r. NZ OHMS aerogramme from NZ Scientific Office, London to NZ. Has GB 6d QE perfin "NZ" (D. Holmes Direct Sale 7, Sep 97)	NZ\$ 75

EMAIL ADDRESSES

The number of people with access to email is increasing daily. John Mathews would like to use email for PCNZA related correspondence, so if you are willing to use this method of communication please send him your email address (preferably by email)-johnm@student.canberra.edu.au

MAWSON'S HUTS RE-VISITED

John Mathews

After I sent my previous item on this subject to the editor, my attention was drawn to a special supplement in "The Weekend Australian" newspaper of May 10-11, 1997, devoted to the project for restoration of Mawson's Huts in Antarctica. The following information is extracted from that supplement.

Of the 3 huts which Mawson took with him in pre-fabricated form in 1911, the largest was donated by George Hudson and Son Ltd, timber merchants, of Sydney. This company is now part of the Boral family of companies. George's brother Alfred later established his own company which now trades as Hudson Timber and Hardware.



“In 1911, George Hudson & Son provided Sir Douglas Mawson with the specifications and timbers to construct a hut for his Antarctic Expedition. Mawson’s requirements were challenging...’the strength to resist hurricanes, simplicity of construction, portability and resistance to external cold were fundamental.’ George Hudson’s original design stood the test of time.”

HUDSON
TIMBER & HARDWARE

50 YEARS
1846-1996
EXPERIENCE COUNTS

HUDSON timber and hardware suppliers established in Australia since 1846, supplied the main hut for Sir Douglas Mawson at Cape Denison in 1911. Hudson, then a timber merchant at Redfern in Sydney, prefabricated the hut according to Mawson's specifications and colour coded it for ease of construction. The hut, having to withstand Antarctic conditions, was constructed using oregon beams and baltic pine cladding.

HUDSON Timber & Hardware today are established as a leading timber and building materials supplier with branches throughout New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland. Hudson still manufacturing quality house frames and roof trusses, provide a wide range of products and services to professional builders, contractors and to homeowners undertaking building and renovating projects. Hudson service has a comprehensive range of timber and building materials. Contact your local Hudson branch.

MAWSON'S HUT IS A HUDSON'S HUT

NSW BRANCHES
 Bourke (02) 9610 3144
 Breebra (02) 9938 2477
 Castle Hill (02) 9634 5344
 Coffs Harbour (066) 52 7266
 Eastwood (02) 9458 2655
 Gateshead (049) 43 6011
 Gosford (043) 23 2221
 Kirrawee (02) 9542 3300
 Leumeah (045) 28 9980
 Penrith (047) 21 4877
 Wagga Wagga (069) 23 4111

VICTORIA BRANCHES
 Cranbourne (03) 5996 7277
 Croydon Nth (03) 9726 4555
 Doncaster (03) 9846 7577
 Essendon (03) 9374 1444

QUEENSLAND BRANCHES
 Caboolture (07) 5498 6422
 Wynnum (07) 3395 1066
 Browns Plains (07) 3800 1219

The caption alongside the image of Sir Douglas Mawson reads: "Hudson timber and hardware suppliers, established in Australia since 1846, supplied the main hut for Sir Douglas Mawson at Cape Denison in 1911. Hudson, then a timber merchant at Redfern in Sydney, prefabricated the hut according to Mawson's specifications and colour coded it for ease of construction. The hut, having to withstand Antarctic conditions, was constructed using oregon beams and baltic pine cladding."

HISTORY OF A PERFIN USER - McCATHIE'S LIMITED John Mathews

The history of early Sydney retailers would not be complete without reference to the "lady shopkeepers". One of these was a determined but feminine Irishwoman, Mrs. Harriette Adelaide McCathie, who, amid great opposition from other traders, opened a small shop in King Street in 1887. Mrs McCathie was a widow with a young family to rear, and these strong needs drove her to compete with the larger stores. Harriette McCathie established herself as a reliable and efficient shopkeeper, acting as a saleswoman as well as supervising her staff. She built up a regular clientele by taking a personal interest in the customer, particularly those women buying underclothing.

In 1904, Harriette McCathie took another brave step. She left King Street, and on August 4 that year, opened in larger premises in Harris and Ackman's former auction rooms in Pitt Street. This site was right alongside Hordern Brothers and a stone's throw from Farmer's and Way's. The business was now a family affair, with mother and daughter selling, and son and son-in-law handling executive and administrative tasks.

Staff were personally chosen by Mrs McCathie who placed great emphasis on character and dedication. Conditions were severe insofar as employees were never idle and were expected to sell, rather than just serve. But rewards for good service were forthcoming. Late-night work was rewarded with "tea money" and every year the staff was treated to a Christmas dinner at Sargents, in nearby Market Street, and a bonus voucher enabled each member of the staff to choose an

article to its value from the store's varied stock. On the anniversary of the store's opening, every customer received a packet of first-class quality sweets. This was a real family drapery store and three generations eventually became customers there. McCathie's was to become known as the seller of some of the finest Swiss and French imported laces and embroideries in Sydney.

Like its Pitt Street neighbours, McCathie's was to feel the impact of the 1892 Depression, the death of Queen Victoria, and still later the restrictions of World War I. The firm also weathered the post Great War fervour which preceded the 1920s-1930s Depression.

In the 1950s, increased competition caused by trade restrictions eventually led to McCathie's being sold to their neighbours Hordern Brothers who in turn were taken over by Anthony Hordern's.

(This article based on material contained in "Shopkeepers and Shoppers", by Frances Pollon, pub. 1989 by The Retail Traders' Association of New South Wales, by kind permission of the publishers.)

GREAT BRITAIN CONNECTIONS FOR AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND PERFINS

John Mathews

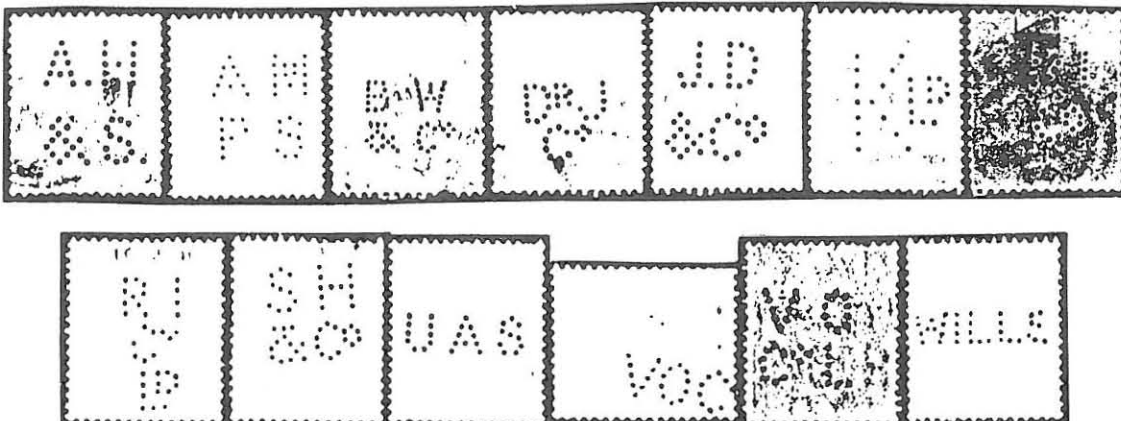
Many of the early companies in Australia and New Zealand were either branches of British companies, or else were set up in Australia or New Zealand and established "buying offices" in England. It is not surprising, therefore, that the perfins of many such companies are found on both Australian or New Zealand and British stamps.

The items illustrated are all from my modest collection of GB perfins. The perfins AH&S, RICO, RICOLD, SH&CO, VOC and WILLS are the same as those found on Australian or New Zealand stamps, and indicate several dies were made for the same pattern or may have been done before the perforator was sent out to the Antipodes.

In the case of AMPS, DRJCO, KLD and UAS, the Australian versions are based on the same style as the GB ones but may have been manufactured locally.

The Australian JD&CO perfin of John Dickenson & Co has markedly different sized letters, but the same layout, and may have been manufactured at a different time and/or by a different manufacturer to its GB counterpart.

I would be interested to hear of other patterns found on both GB and Australian/New Zealand stamps.



University of New South Wales Perfins

David Andersen

Probably because I studied at the University of New South Wales U/NSW perfins are of interest to me. I can still remember finding one of my first U/NSW perfins at the University of New South Wales Book Fair about 15 years ago.

Because of their similarity to the very common G/NSW perfins and the smaller numbers used, U/NSW perfins are often overlooked in accumulations of common G/NSW material. The most common items are probably on the 4c and 5c values of the 1966 definitive series. However it appears likely that there are quite a number of items unreported at this stage.

Since the last update to the U/NSW listing was published in the October 1993 issue of the Bulletin there have been a number of new items reported. The listing that follows includes all items so far reported.

If you have any items not reported please report them so that we can get a more complete listing.

Approval for the perforation of stamps with the initials U/NSW was given by the Postmaster Generals Department on 17th June 1962. The puncture was introduced as a security device and also to distinguish stamps used by the University from those used by New South Wales Government Departments. The 10 die puncturing machine was purchased for £80 and passed to the New South Wales Government Printer to operate.

As most of the mail emanating from the University was metered the punctured stamps were probably most often used from the smaller campuses, Manly Vale and Broken Hill. Use of this perfin appears to have ended some time in the mid 1970's, stamps punctured G/NSW also being used at times. It has also been reported that U/NSW issues were used for a short time in New South Wales State schools as G/NSW punctured issues were in short supply (ACCCNSW Bulletin August 1966 p.81).

Can anyone provide more information about the State school usage of the U/NSW perfins ? Presumably covers still exist ?

U/NSW		Positions					
		1	2	3	4	5	?
2/6	Aborigine no wmk	X					
1d	QEII purple 1959 series		X		X		
2d	" brown "	X					
3d	" green "	X					
5d	" blue "	X	X		X		
1/6	Christmas Bell			X			
2/-	Flannel flower	X					

U/NSW		Positions					
		1	2	3	4	5	?
6d	Anteater						X
1/-	Colombo (Non Helecon)	X					
5/-	Stockman						X
5d	QEII green 1963 series	X	X				
5d	QEII red "		X		X		
6d	Thornbill	X					
1c	QEII 1966 definitives	X	X	X			
4c	" "	X		X			
5c	" "	X	X		X		
5c	Thornbill "	X			X		
6c	QEII "	X		X			
7c	QEII "	X	X	X	X		
10c	Anemone Fish "	X			X		
20c	Galah "				X		
50c	Dampier "	X					
\$1	Flinders "					X	
20c	Wheat	X					
10c	National Development	X	X		X		
7c	Australia-Asia				X		
20c	Aboriginal Art			X	X		
10c	Water Pump		X		X		
1c	Shrimp				X		
3c	Crab	X	X		X		
7c	Gemstone	X					
10c	Gemstone		X				
7c	Anniversary of Independent Newspapers		X		X		

5/- BRIDGE AGAIN

Lorrell Trewern has provided some of the history of the 5/- Bridge illustrated in the last Bulletin.

" I actually owned this perfin and auctioned it off in the February 1994 West Brisbane Stamp Sales, due to the fact that I am only concentrating on VGs now.

I know this is the same stamp due to the cancel and you will also note that the bottom left hand corner and part of the bottom perfed row has what appears to be marks on them. On examining the rear, it seemed to be the original gum gone bad.

I purchased this stamp from a local Gold Coast stamp dealer in about 1984 for \$40, so it has appreciated well over the years and it brings back fond memories for me seeing the picture in your feature."

WANTED - ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN

Can you provide a short article about your favourite perfin subject ? Do you have an interesting item or cover ? What would you like to see articles about ? Please contact the Editor , by mail, phone, email or in person with your contributions or ideas.

One area that I would like to cover in a future article is the officials used in both Nauru and New Guinea. Australian Commonwealth issues perforated OS with and without the 'N.W. Pacific Islands' were used in Nauru for a short time and in New Guinea till around 1925. From the brief information that I could unearth 23 different stamps were used but I don't have details of these.

Can anyone provide information about these issues or provide the appropriate sources to consult?

NON-PERFIN PERFORATIONS

There are quite a few other uses for perforators apart from creating perfins. Some time ago John Mathews sent a corner of an envelope, illustrated below.

He wrote" This example caused an initial reaction"Victorian Service Puncture type B" until I read beyond the "perforation" on this return address from an envelope. Certainly the same resulting appearance, "holes" in rows and columns, but this design is no doubt based on the holes produced by a ticker-tape machine, such as would have been used in abundance around the world by this company.

REUTERS

Level 30, 60 Margaret Street,
Sydney, NSW, 2000
Telephone (02) 373 1500 Facsimile (02) 373 1693

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE, THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME...(John Mathews)

In the July 1992 edition (page 2) of this Bulletin, it was reported that an item submitted by a member had enabled the perfin PRT.1 to be attributed to Pentland, Roberts and Thompson, solicitors, of Melbourne. Now a different item with this perfin, submitted by another member, highlights some social history associated with the whole subject of the sudden interest in perforating stamps in Victoria in the early 1890s.

This latter item (shown) is a Victorian 5 pound Duty Stamp which has the PRT.1 perfin close to the top edge, as with other known examples. The penscript cancel reads:

“EL&F As Ld
H.W.S.
22/7/91”



From directories of that time, there is no doubt that the company was the “Essendon Land & Finance Association Limited” whose secretary was H. W. Sinclair, with an office in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne (reference 1).

In the 1880s and early 1890s in Melbourne, there was widespread speculation in land at a time when financial legislation was rather loose. Huge sums of money were borrowed to buy land in anticipation of where the Government would decide to extend the suburban development. Most of this speculation was done by financiers, real estate agents and even by politicians themselves. Friendships with politicians were keenly courted by those speculating.

To raise more capital for speculating, shares in speculative development companies were offered to the public who were mesmerised by the spiralling prices being realised for land. Many of these companies went into bankruptcy, paying out only a few pence in the pound to the hapless investors. The company owners had invariably disposed of their own shares earlier. Company names such as “The Eighth Temporary Building Society” should have been ominous in the eyes of the public!

A certain James Mirams had more than 1,000 acres of land on Keilor Road, Essendon, and in July 1888 he formed a company called the Essendon Land & Tramway Co. Ltd., with authorised capital of one million pounds. He was the self-appointed secretary of the company. Altogether on the board were 4 Members of the Legislative Assembly (lower house of State parliament) and 2 Members of the Legislative Council (upper house), along with Frank Stuart of Lincoln, Stuart & Co and other prominent merchants. Despite public advertisements saying that no shares would be held by the promoters, it was later shown that 200,000 pounds of subscribed money was paid by the company to Mirams for his otherwise useless land.

In early 1890, a new company called the Essendon Land and Finance Association Limited was formed to purchase the assets of the first company. This piece of legalised trickery, much in use at the time, enabled the original promoters to escape their liability for calls on the

shares when suspicious investors wanted to get their capital back. In 1891, H. W. Sinclair was secretary of this company.

The six Members of Parliament involved included W. H. Roberts, MLC, who in 1888 had applied for his legal practice to perforate their stamps as a safeguard against petty pilfering! (reference 2, page 73)

Another company, called the English and Australian Mortgage Bank Ltd., collapsed in 1892 owing one million pounds. Its auditors included H. W. Sinclair, FSAA, who made a secret composition in 1894 and paid 2 pence in the pound to the liquidators of the company (reference 2, pages 158, 232). A secret composition, under Victorian law at that time, enabled such arrangement with creditors, allowing the company and its directors to be completely discharged from insolvency without the knowledge of anyone except the creditors.

References:

1. Sands & MacDougall's Melbourne Directory, 1892.
2. "The Land Boomers", by Michael Cannon, Melbourne University Press, 1967 (paperback edition)

PERFILEX 97 COVERS

Anyone interested in obtaining these souvenir covers (described in the previous Bulletin) is invited to contact the Secretary.

Financial Statement for PCNZA's NZ account for 12 months to 30 June 1997.

Receipts	NZ\$	Expenditure	NZ\$
At bank 1/7/96	641.90	Transfer to Australian a/c	585.87
Subscriptions	177.10	Auction vendors	25.75
Auction Sales	203.50		
Bank interest	16.37		
Donation	0.30	At bank 30/6/97	427.55
	-----		-----
	1039.70		1039.70

Our thanks to Barry Clarke for his good work as assistant treasurer.

We would like to extend to all our members a joyous and safe Christmas, and our best wishes for enjoyable collecting in 1997!!
