

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

## No. 40 January 1998

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### EDITORIAL

There are quite a few requests for more information in this issue of the bulletin. If you can provide any information or comment please do so.

Many perfin collectors find unreported patterns or issues some of which are essential to working out what issues are available and their history. This is more often the case than when collecting 'normal' stamps as it is much more likely for a perfin collector to find such items. Fortunately there are quite a few collectors who regularly contribute information about items they find and we owe them a great deal of thanks for this. Unless this information is recorded in a public form such as a journal article (here or elsewhere) or in a book, it may be lost forever.

Understandably some collectors with very valuable collections want to limit the likelihood of their collection being stolen by remaining anonymous when reporting information or issues. Of course anonymity will be preserved if requested.

So please inundate my mail box with information about unreported official issues. I'm sure that John Mathews would love to hear about unreported Australian private perfins.

David Andersen

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### NEW MEMBER

We would like to welcome the following member who has joined since the last Bulletin:

#163 Jim Towsey, Shorncliffe, Queensland

## ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICE-BEARERS

In the previous issue of Bulletin was included a form for nomination of members for the various offices of our Club. Only one member bothered to return the completed form (and that nominating the "status quo"). While this is not unusual in any club, and is indirectly flattering for the present office-bearers, one feels that it is not healthy for any Club for this situation to persist for TOO long! So while we say "thank you" for your continuing confidence, perhaps this is a good time to give advance notice of some invited changes for two years' time??

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## CLUB MEETING AT "NATSTAMP 98", CANBERRA, MARCH 1998.

There will be a meeting of the Club on Saturday 14 March 1998 at Natstamp 98, the 10th National Philatelic Convention and Exhibition being run by the Philatelic Society of Canberra. The meeting is scheduled for 2pm to 3pm. Natstamp 98 is being held at the National Convention Centre in the heart of Canberra (yes, it does have one!) and there is plenty of free off-street parking opposite the Centre.

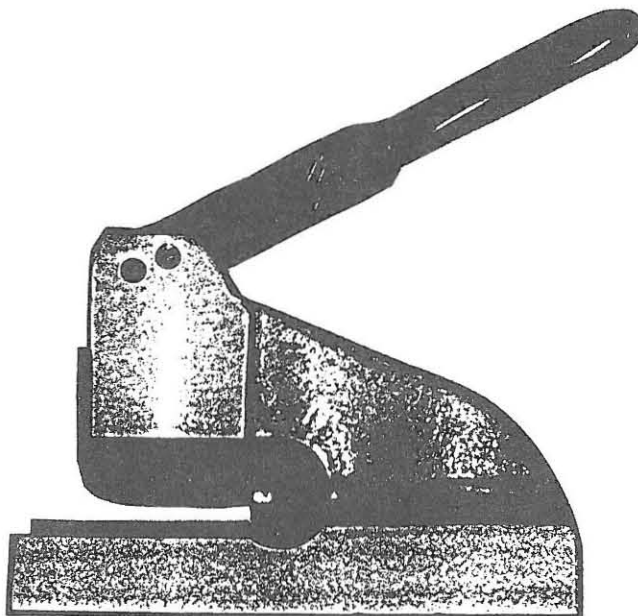
We would of course like to see as many perfin enthusiasts there as possible.

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## CLUB PERFORATOR

The Club perforator has been received from the manufacturer in England! Your Secretary has written to Australia Post seeking confirming approval to use it, enclosing samples on current stamp issues of various size to show that it meets the requirements contained in the Postal Guide. An answer may not be received in time for the stamps on this Bulletin's envelope to be perfined, and in that case look out for the next correspondence from your Secretary. The perforator will be ceremoniously "unveiled" at the Club meeting in March.



CLUB MEETING AT AUPEX'97 IN AUCKLAND Barry Clarke

A meeting of Club members was held during the AUPEX '97 exhibition in Auckland, New Zealand, on 14 November 97 at the Sky City Convention Centre. Six members, ~~one~~<sup>one</sup> ex-member and one visitor attended the meeting. It was a good opportunity to get together, and Club matters were dealt with succinctly. The gathering stood for a minute's silence in respect for our long-standing member Jim Wurr who passed away in 1997. After the meeting, many proceeded to the top of the Skytower which offers spectacular views of the city.

(Our thanks to Barry for organising and chairing this meeting)

AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest from auctions/direct sales since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobilo, John Amiet, Bryan Magee and David Richards for passing on their keen spotting of perfin lots in these auctions.

	Est
a. 5/- Roo (3rd wmk) with parcel pmk, perfin "KL". (Status Auction 177, Oct 97)	\$50
b. 1917 advertising cover Sydney to Samoa with 1d red KGV perfin "WG" and identity of W. Gardner & Co Ltd, Sydney. Samoa boxed GRI censor marking. (Status Auction 177, Oct 97)	\$100
c. Perfin "SMC" on 1/2d green KGV tied to Aust. 1 1/2 KGV stationery window envelope by Sydney m/c NO-2-20 (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction 8, Nov 97)	NZ\$ 45
d. 1915 NZ 1/2d War Stamp strip of 3 perfin "R.G./N." (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction 8, Nov 97)	NZ\$ 30
e. "NZ" on GB KGVI 1/- (Stirling & Co Ltd Auction Oct 97)	NZ\$ 7-50
f. "N.Z.L." on GB KGV 1/2d (Stirling & Co Ltd Auction Oct 97)	NZ\$ 10
g. 1931 comm. cover of D&W Murray Ltd, Launceston, with 2d K-Smith perfin "DWMLTD" (Teepookana Stamps Postal Bid Sale Dec 97)	\$40
h. 1944 long adv. Env. Of Mutual Fire & General Ins. Co of Tasmania Ltd, Launceston, with 11/2d green Queen perfin "RICO".(Teepookana Stamps Postal Bid Sale Dec 97)	\$25
i. 1946 comm. cover of John Dickenson & Co, Sydney with 2 1/2d red KGVI perfin "JD&CO" (Teepookana Stamps Postal Bid Sale Dec 97)	\$ 20
j. Mostly private perfins for Australia and States and worldwide. Includes GB 1956 proving cover of Alliance Assurance Co Ltd. (300+) (MAT Stamp Auctions, UK, Dec 97)	£150
k. New Zealand "S&S W" perfin. (Mowbray Stamp Auction, Dec 97)	NZ\$ 35
l. New Zealand "DB/&CO" perfin (3 lines). (Mowbray Stamp Auction, Dec 97)	NZ\$ 40
m. New Zealand 6d Kiwi perf "HB". (D. Holmes Aupex97 sale, Nov 97)	NZ\$ 30
n. NZ 1927 Vacuum Oil Co Pty Ltd receipt with 2d KGV perf "VOCO", pen cancel and tied with date stamp (D. Holmes Aupex 97 sale, Nov 97)	NZ\$ 80
o. New Zealand 3/- Mt Egmont vert strip of 4 perf "MGM".(D. Holmes Aupex 97 sale, Nov 97)	NZ\$ 75
p. 2 perfin covers NSW 1d Shield perf "GR" 1907 (one with contents) + 10 p/cards (not perfin) (PHILAS Auction 68, Nov 97)	\$ 40
q. New Zealand "C&G" perfin on 1/2d 1900. Used (Stirling & Co, Dec 97)	NZ\$ 10
r. New Zealand "SSE" perfin on 1/2d SSF. Used. (Stirling & Co, Dec 97)	NZ\$ 10
s. 1927 1 1/2d Canberra perf "OS/NSW". MUH (West Brisbane Sale 108, Dec 97)	\$ 40
t. 1974-1982 "VG" perfins in sheets/panes/blocks/etc. MUH (3000+) (Status Auction 178, Jan 98)	\$300
u. NSW 1955 Revenue £1 vermilion with "NSWG" security underprint and perfin "EL". (Budget Stamp Sales Sale 39, Jan 98)	\$12-50
v. GB Revenues 1883 8 values 6d to 9/6 with perfin "MC" of Mayor's Court. (Budget Stamp Sales Sale 39, Jan 98)	\$ 75

- w. 3 1/2d WMK QEII SG 263 in a mint unhinged joined pair, a marginal copy at left (normal) together with a joined perforated example "G NSW" with corner selvedge. (Gabriele's Philatelic Service advertisement in Stamp News Jan 1998) \$8-50
- x. 1d red KGV Die 3 Private Perfin Vacuum Oil Co., good used (Australian Stamp & Coin Co advertisement in Stamp News Jan 1998) \$20

AUSTRALIAN KGV C OF A OFFICIALS REVISITED David Andersen

KGV officials are one area that many people mention that they collect and indeed there seem to be quite a few collectors that concentrate on this area. Reports of newly discovered items are likely to be of interest to quite a few.

Back in 1990 we surveyed the Australian KGV sideface issues with official perfins to get some idea of what exists and the scarcity of these issues. Since then a few items have surfaced all of which are probably quite rare. When another previously unreported item the 2d C of A with OS/NSW pattern inverted turned up recently this suggested that it is time to summarise what is known and encourage others to report unreported items.

A scarcity value has been assigned to each item reported based primarily on the 1990 survey.

- R = Rare  
 S = Scarce (hard to obtain)  
 C = Common (obtainable fairly easily)  
 VC = Very common

	OS/NSW Position 1	OS/NSW Position 3	OS(12 holes in S) Position 1	G/NSW Position 1	G/NSW Position 3
1/2d orange	R	-	-	C	-
1d green	C	-	S	VC	-
1 1/2d brown	-	-	-	S	-
2d red	C	R	C	VC	R
3d blue	R	-	R	VC	-
4d olive	-	-	S	VC	-
5d brown	R	-	R	VC	-
1/4 blue	-	-	-	R	-

	G/NSW Position 4	G/NSW Position 5	T	W/A Position 1	W/A Position 3
1/2d orange	-	-	S	S	-
1d green	-	R	VC	VC	R
1 1/2d brown	-	-	R	-	-
2d red	R	R	VC	VC	R
3d blue	-	-	VC	VC	-
4d olive	-	-	VC	VC	-
5d brown	-	-	S	VC	-
1/4 blue	-	-	R	-	-

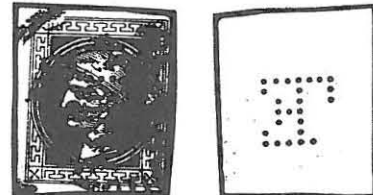
It is likely that some collectors will disagree with the ratings as a number of items previously regarded as rare or scarce have turned out to be more common than first thought. For example the 1d and 2d with the OS (12 holes in the S) pattern have been widely sold as rare items with the appropriate price tag and indeed still are sold as such. I would estimate over 40 of the 2d and at least half a dozen of the 1d have passed through my hands over the years. Others have reported similar numbers of the 2d in circulation.

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### WHAT IS IT ?

Recently the item on the right turned up in a lot of approvals. At a quick glance it looked interesting. Possibly a French pattern and imperf at that ! Could be interesting !



However when one looks at it properly it's obviously not a French postal issue as there is no denomination or country on the item. Can anyone help in identifying this item.

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### COMPLETENESS

A recent article in the December 1997 Perfin Society Bulletin "Perfin Prices and Rarity Value" by Dave Hill mentions a number of figures of interest.

Dave suggests that that for any country it is possible to obtain with modest expense and effort 30 to 40% of the patterns known. With a great deal of expense and effort 70% of patterns can be obtained. However he suggests that it is unlikely that a collector can obtain more than 90% of the patterns.

Do these figures hold for Australia ? Send your comments to the Editor.



EVERY LITTLE SHRED OF EVIDENCE IS IMPORTANT John Mathews

Another of those outstanding "mysteries" of user identity for perfins with distinctive letter combinations has been solved from a mere shred of information.

The perfin in question is RKY.1, a combination which should seemingly be easy to associate with a company name. Initially, this pattern had a New South Wales duty stamp usage reported with it, but no actual date of usage was known. More recently, a date of 1966 had been reported, so I had gone to the National Library to look through the 1966 Sydney telephone directory (thankfully now available on open access on microfiche). A search through the entries beginning with the letters "R" and "Y" proved unsuccessful. These letters had been searched as being the likely candidates for the "surname" of the company name.

Now another copy of this pattern has turned up in a circuit book! To the naked eye, there appears to be no markings on the stamp, but under a magnifier there can be discerned some very faint lettering in purple ink. Across the top of the cachet, where the company name would be placed, the only visible marks look like "& Y". This is a good start, and points to a name like R...., K.... & Y...., thus eliminating "Y" as being the starting letter for a directory entry. But the gem of information came in the form of the middle and bottom of the cachet which read, respectively, "... & SHARE BR..." and "O'CONNELL STR...". A check of the Pink Pages of the 1965 Sydney telephone directory under the category of "Brokers, Stock & Share" revealed a listing for "King, Ralph W., & Yuill, 33 Bligh Street". A follow-up check of the white pages gave the address as 20 O'Connell Street, leaving little doubt that this was indeed the correct user identity.

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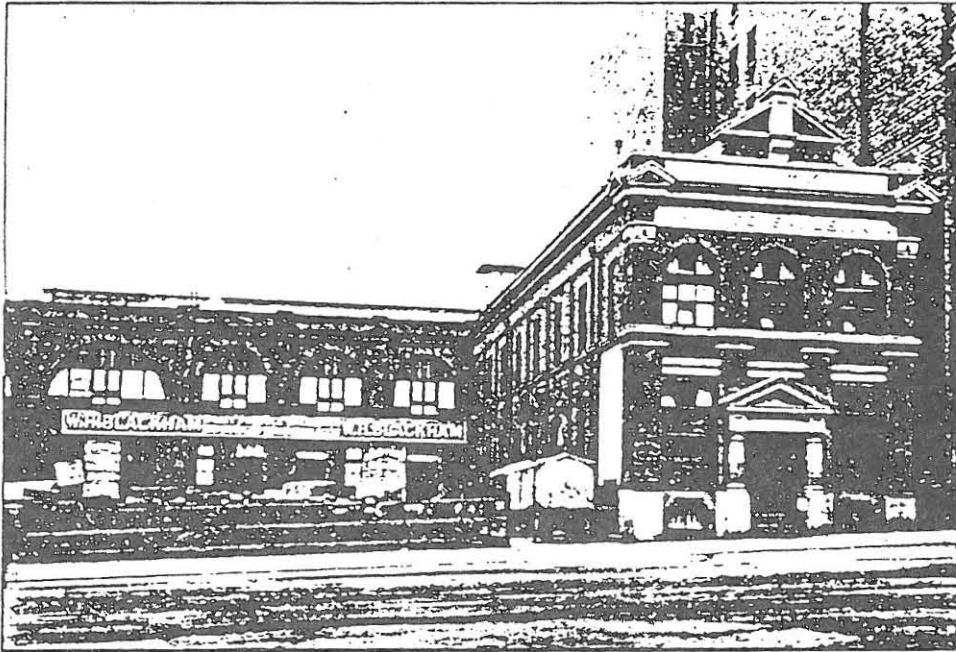
W. H. BLACKHAM - Dairy Produce Salesman, Export and General Commission Agent  
John Mathews

William Henry Blackham joined the firm of William Adamson & Co, stock and station agents, of Melbourne, at an early age and eventually rose to the position of manager of that firm. Later, that business was purchased by Messrs. Chas. W. Gray & Co. who engaged Mr. Blackham as manager, a position he held for a further 14 years.

He severed his connection with them on the 17th September 1903 in order to make a start in the same line of business on his own behalf. He was very well known and respected throughout the country districts, and obtained much support from the butter and cheese factories and dairymen. So strong was this support that on 27th October 1903, he purchased the Melbourne local dairy products business of Chas. W. Gray & Co., and his firm became the largest of its kind in the Commonwealth of Australia.

The 3-storey building had frontages to King Street and Flinders Lane. In order to secure coolness, the roof was constructed on double lines, One roof having rafters above it with another roof, the space of one foot or so between them affording an excellent means of maintaining a constant supply of cool air. The refrigerator had a capacity of cooling or freezing 2,000 cases of butter per day, and there was storage capacity for 250 tons of produce. Special storage rooms were constructed for cheese, eggs, meat, bacon and poultry.

The various stamp perforation patterns of Chas. W. Gray & Co., all of the "Victorian Service Puncture" style, are known with usage dates in the period from 1895 to 1903. W. H. Blackham may have had a say in that firm having their stamps perforated, for his own company later purchased their own customised perforator WHB.1 which is known used after 1913.



W. H. Blackham's Premises, King Street, Melbourne.

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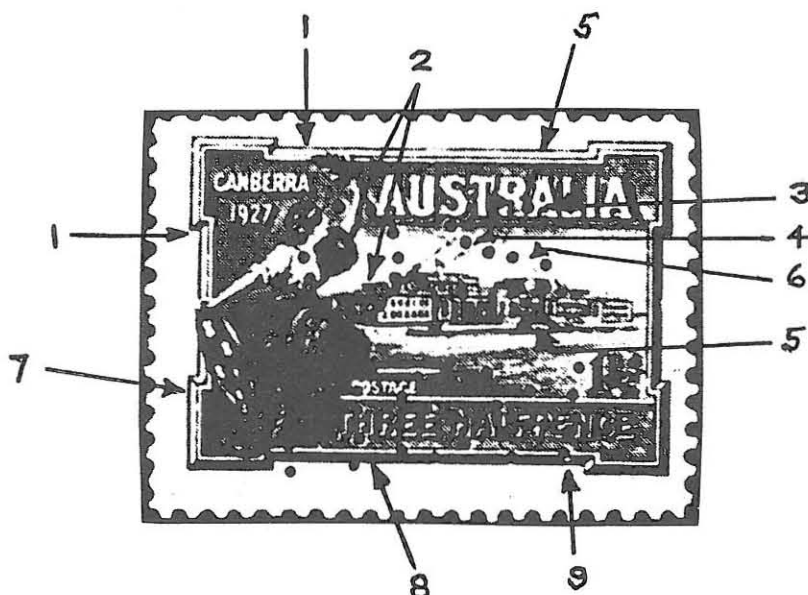
#### "OS/NSW" PUNCTURE ON 1927 11/2d "CANBERRA" ISSUE (John Mathews)

In the Auction Watch item in this issue, there is listed a 1927 11/2d Canberra issue (MUH) with perfin "OS/NSW". The item is shown enlarged. There are several aspects in which this puncture seems to differ (as far as a photocopy allows) from examples in my own small collection of KGV Heads which do not show any appreciable variation. In particular, on the Canberra issue,

1. The top left corner of the "O" seems "square".
2. There seems to be a vertical "gap" down the centre of the "O".
3. The first pin in the "S" (starting from the top right pin) is above the third pin.
4. The fifth pin of the "S" appears higher than normal.
5. Pins 1, 7 and 10 of the "S" do not form their usual straight line.
6. There is a large gap between pins 7 and 8 of the "S", resulting in a "square" corner.
7. The higher of the two pins in the diagonal of the "N" is higher than the second pin from the top of the left leg.
8. The third pin from the top of the right leg of the "N" seems to be displaced to the right.
9. The spacing between the bottom pins of the legs of the "W" seems too wide (this may not be obvious from the enlargement shown).

Does any member know if a different device was used to puncture this commemorative issue (and perhaps others)? If anyone has "plated" the "OS/NSW" perforator head, is there any significant

variation in the different dies which might explain the above? In particular, if anyone has another copy of the 1927 Parliament House commemorative issue with this perfin, does it match the one illustrated?



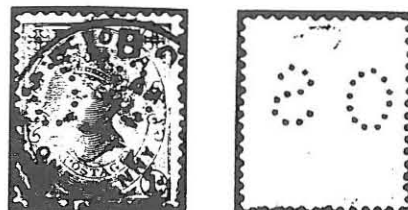
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#### STATE ISSUES WITH COMMONWEALTH 'OS'

David Andersen

Recently I purchased a few envelopes of State perfinns from a local 'charity' source. As expected a number of private types particularly from Victoria made it worthwhile. However it was an official item that turned out to be the most interesting.

The Victorian item illustrated at the right appears to bear the small "Commonwealth" OS used from late 1913 on Australian issues. The Melbourne postmark unfortunately does not bear a legible postmark date.



The automatic reaction must be, "obviously a fake ". But is it ? Have other such items been reported previously ?

In the July 1989 issue of the Bulletin is a report from Willem Smetsers of a Tasmanian 1899-1912 2d violet pictorial with what appears to be this same perfin. Then in the January 1990 issue is a report from Ken Moore of a South Australian 1d red crown/SA watermark issue with this perfin. Ken indicated that the postmark appeared to be Adelaide 1902.

What is going on here ? Was the perforator actually produced well before 1913 and only occasionally used ? Are all of the items fakes/forgeries ? Were these items actually perforated after 1913, maybe old stocks of stamps found and sent to Melbourne to puncture "OS" returned to the state of origin and then used for postage (they were valid or postage until 1966) ?

Further information is required to sort out what is going on here. Please send your comments, additional reports to the editor.



## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OS PERFIN

While looking for information on the previous article the following piece in The Shilling Violet March 1991 was noticed " Official Stamps :The OS Punctures". Four different OS patterns are reported but not illustrated.

The larger stamps were reported with two patterns 14/13 holes and 12/13 holes.

The 14/13 pattern is readily obtainable but I have not seen the other pattern nor seen an illustration of it. The 12/13 pattern is reported on the following three issues:

1904-11 Thick Postage Wmk Crown/SA close	SG284	6d
"	SG 288	1/-
1906-12 Thick Postage Wmk Crown/A perf 12	SG299a	4d

Can anyone provide an illustration of this pattern or any other information ? Are these issues scarce ?

The smaller stamps are reported with two patterns, the first 12/12 holes and the second 10/11 holes. It is suggested that the 12/12 pattern was done in Adelaide with the 10/11 pattern being applied in Melbourne.

Again one of these patterns is readily obtained, the 10/11 holes. The 12/12 holes pattern sounds like it might be the "Melbourne OS" but again no copies or illustration has been sighted.

This pattern is reported on the following issues:

1898-1906 Wmk Crown /SA close perf 13	SG262A	1/2d
"	SG265A	2d
" perf 12 x 11.5	SG264/4B	1d
"	SG266B	2 1/2d
1905-11 Wmk Crown/A perf 12 x 11.5	SG294	1d

Can anyone provide an illustration of this pattern or any other information ? Are these issues scarce ?

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## KODAK NUMERAL PUNCTURES (John Mathews)

I had thought that perfin collectors were aware of the nature and origin of the Kodak numeral punctures, but my attention has been drawn to a couple of lots in a recent auction in Victoria which has revised my thinking. The lots are listed under "PAPUA NEW GUINEA", and are described respectively as

"PRIVATE PERFIN 4219 punctured on reverse of ....."  
and "PRIVATE PERFIN 9 over 3923 punctured on reverse of .....",  
with the comment "believed from Kodak, Port Moresby".

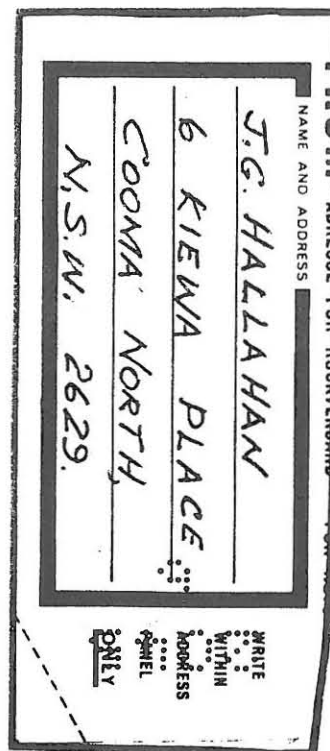
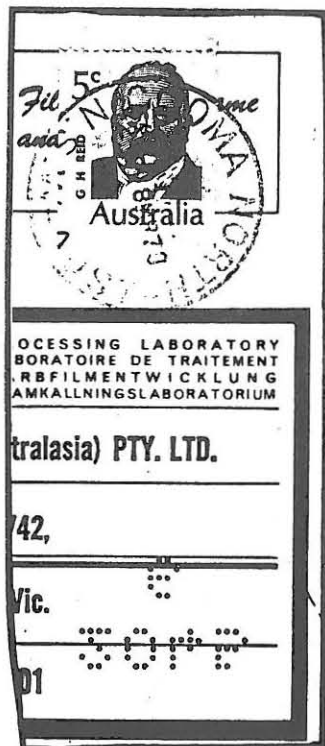
The following is aimed at those too young to remember the circumstances!

During the 1960s, the popular format for tourist photography was as colour transparency slides (I have several hundred in a case, plus a projector - ah! those slide evenings!!). Kodak had the monopoly on the developing process, to the point where the cost of processing was included in the purchase price of the film. Included with the film was a cloth bag (later replaced by one of stout paper) with a draw string, and attached to the bag was a "fabric" label pre-addressed to Kodak's processing plant in Melbourne, Victoria. On the reverse side of this label was a space for the customer's name and address, and the label was cut off and inserted into the box of slides so that the return address was visible to the postman.

If the tourist was overseas, he/she could of course get the film developed locally, but in this case the pre-paid developing cost was not recognised and had to be paid again. So films were invariably returned to the country of purchase for developing. I recall sending several films back from the UK - with GB stamps on the label, of course!

At the processing laboratory, the label and the end of the roll of film were each punctured with the same number so that the slides could be associated with the right customer. Again I recall the end of the film with puncture being included in the box of slides.

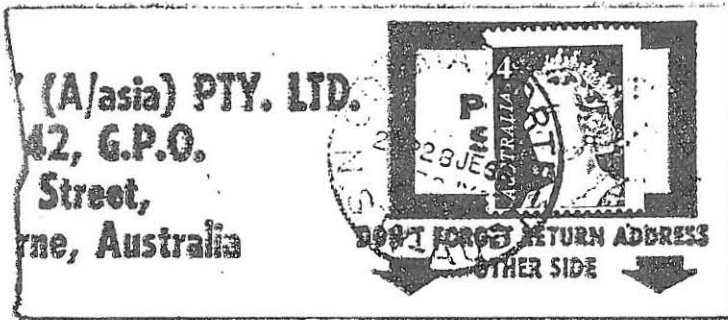
The illustrations show various formats of labels, both sides, and from these it can be seen that it was pure chance whether the stamp received a full puncture, partial puncture or no puncture depending on where it was placed on the label! On the stamps, the puncture appears reversed because the label was always punctured from the customer's address side, with the stamp underneath. Also, if the stamp was affixed in the upright position, the puncture would appear sideways.



So, in conclusion,

- a. Kodak numeral punctures were not aimed at the stamp,
- b. they do not serve a security purpose and hence are not in the same category as perfins,
- c. there is no implied association between the country issuing the stamp and the location of the Kodak processing laboratory where the puncture was applied.

P.S. The overseas purchaser of these lots is believed to have paid more than \$30 each for them.



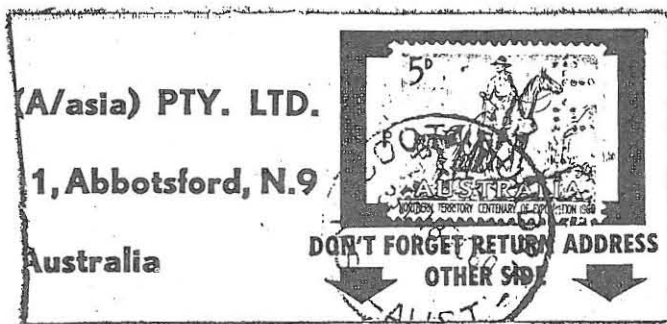
FROM PLEASE PRINT IN INK

NAME J. G. HALLAHAN

ADDRESS 35 WANGIE ST.  
EAST COOMA. STATE N. S. W.

PTY. LTD.

DON'T FORGET RETURN ADDRESS



FROM PLEASE PRINT IN INK

NAME MRS. F. I FINKLE

ADDRESS FLAT 10, 95 SUTTON ST  
COOTAMUNDRA STATE N. S. W.

Y. LTD.

ET  
IN  
ESS

USAGE OF "A" PATTERNS OF GEORGE ADAMS (TATTERSALLS) John Mathews

Several more dated copies of this family of perfin have been seen or reported since the last article on them in the Bulletin, including first reports of A.2 for the month of May 1900, and of A.7 for the month of December 1906 (courtesy of Bill Harley). Updated usage of these dies is:

A.2 11 May 1900 to 6 Nov 1906, known every month except Feb, May, Jul, Aug and Nov in 1902;

A.7 29 Oct 1906 to 26 Apr 1907 and every month in between;

A.8 9 May 1907 to 8 Jun 1909, known every month except Jun 1908, Jan and Mar 1909.

AUCTION 2/1997 - RESULTS

As expected, bidding in this auction was strong, with the covers again proving very popular.

1	16.00	30	3.00	64	5.00	93	12.00	116	1.25
2	6.50	32	5.00	65	8.00	94	20.00	117	1.00
3	37.00	37	1.00	66	2.20	95	12.00	118	5.00*
4	37.00	38	18.00	67	4.40	96	26.00	119	5.00*
5	19.00	39	12.00	71	5.00	97	20.00	120	12.00
6	5.00	40	9.00*	75	11.00	98	20.00*	122	5.50
7	12.00	42	32.00	78	7.00	100	14.00	123	8.50
8	7.00*	43	42.00	79	5.50	101	15.00	124	4.50
9	7.50	44	21.00	81	8.50	102	10.00	125	4.00*
10	9.00	45	38.00	82	8.70	103	9.50	126	13.00
11	7.50	46	7.00	83	14.00	104	9.50	127	12.50
12	7.50	53	55.00	84	15.00	105	13.00	131	11.00
13	4.00	54	26.00	85	12.00	106	14.00	132	1.50
14	38.00	55	11.00	86	7.00	107	14.00	133	2.00
21	4.00	56	9.00	88	11.00	110	11.00	136	9.50
22	16.00	57	8.50	89	19.00	111	8.00	137	5.00
26	16.00	58	6.50	90	37.00	112	3.75	140	6.50
27	3.00	59	4.50	91	19.00	113	12.00	141	6.50
28	10.00	63	6.00	92	15.00	115	8.00	142	4.25
29	1.50								

\* indicates tied bids - earlier bid received wins.