

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

No. 41 April 1998

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EDITORIAL

Looking back at older perfin literature from the 1950's the principal type of article is ' how I collect or house perfins'. Numerous ingenious arrangements of envelopes or album pages were reported that met the needs of individual collectors. One of the methods used was to mount stamps face down on album pages with hinges. Frequently one comes across the legacy of this practice, British KGVI definitives that show hinge marks on the face where they were mounted. Unfortunately this practice damages the stamp by removing some of the printed surface.

Since the 1950's however there have been a number of new products like Hagner sheets and Hawid mounts which allow for much greater flexibility. I doubt that all that many of us continue to mount our perfins on standard album pages except for those entering exhibitions. How do you house/ display/ write up your collection. ? Do you have any good ideas about how to use some of these newer products to advantage when housing perfins ?

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICE-BEARERS

As foreshadowed in the last issue, there were no multiple nominations for office-bearers. Therefore, those nominated were elected unopposed. These people are thanked for their services in the past and for volunteering to stand for the next period.

The list is at the top of the Bulletin. It is of note that the office-bearers are evenly spread on each side of the Tasman Sea ("The Ditch" as seen from New Zealand), with the President, Assistant Treasurer and a Circuit Manager in New Zealand, and the Secretary, Treasurer, Bulletin Editor and a Circuit Manager in Australia.

NEW MEMBER

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

#164 Allan P. Berry, Thames, New Zealand

Allan is interested in NZ philatelic literature and perfin literature.

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

There was a very pleasing attendance at this Club meeting with a total attendance of 10 members and 1 visitor present. Of these, only 2 were from Canberra! Two had come across from New Zealand, one from West Australia, one from Melbourne, one from Dubbo, two from Newcastle, one from the Blue Mountains and one from Sydney. Apologies were received from four other members.

The Secretary advised that the Club had a paid-up membership of 124, showing that support from perfin enthusiasts was strong. He thanked the Editor for the continuing high standard of the Bulletin, and also thanked the other office-bearers for their good work to assist the Club.

The Treasurer presented an updated financial statement, showing the Club to be in a sound financial position.

Current office-bearers were re-elected unopposed, and additionally, Robert Samuel from New Zealand was elected to the previously-vacant office of President. We welcome Robert to this position most heartily - he has been a keen perfin collector and researcher for many years, and has exhibited them (and other philatelic subjects) with much success. He has also written books on New Zealand philately.

In general business, the Secretary "unveiled" the Club's new perforator which was inspected with much close scrutiny by those present. All agreed that it should not be used indiscriminantly such as to produce "oddities".

David Andersen said that he had been in contact with Ben Palmer who is co-ordinating a long term project to review the Australian States listing in Stanley Gibbons catalogues. Gibbons is interested in including a priced listing of official perfins in future catalogues and would be interested in information that could be provided by the PCNZA. Comment was made that this could add several pages to their catalogue! David will continue to liaise with them and keep the Club informed on developments. It was felt that we should regard the production of our own listing of these items as a higher priority though. Bill Harley and David have had some discussions on this idea, and other members have already indicated that they would be willing to contribute information for a specialised listing.

Several members brought items to the meeting and these were viewed with interest.

It is hoped that there can be a meeting at Australia 99 in Melbourne in March next year. Keep the weekend free --we hope to see a good roll-up.

MEMBERS AWARDS AT NATSTAMP98

Congratulations to members Harold Waite, Peter Wood and Robert Samuel for their displays at National level at NatStamp98 in Canberra on 14 - 16 March. Harold was awarded a Silver-Bronze for his display of "New Zealand Commercial Perfins". Peter displayed "Great Britain Perfins" which received a Silver award. Robert received a Gold award for his display of "The 1932 Provisionals of New Zealand".

CLUB PERFORATOR

By coincidence, final Australia Post approval to use the Club's perforator (NSW and ACT) was received by your Secretary on the same day that he was due to collect the January issue of the Bulletin from the printer! So, although the idea for a souvenir of the first use of the perforator had been under consideration for some time, its actual implementation took place within 24 hours. A total of 270 stamps were punched, one at a time, and licked prior to taking the Bulletins to the Post Office. Several glasses of water (!) were consumed before the last stamp was stuck on. The first day of use was 11 February 1998.

The perforator was made in November 1997 by Chainstream Ltd., of Carshalton, Surrey, UK, and measures 16 cm long by 6 cm wide by 16 cm high. Their model designation is "FD3". Apart from the style of the handle, and the body being of modern alloy rather than cast iron, it appears to be a very close cousin of the lever model perforators made by Joseph Sloper up to 130 years ago, and other early manufacturers.

The main regular Club use of the perforator will no doubt be associated with the posting of the Bulletin, ensuring that financial members will receive a fair share of the perfin.

Use of the perfin is covered by Regulation G1.2.5. of the Postal Guide (latest edition October 1997). Permission has been received from the head office of Australia Post in Melbourne for use of the Club perforator throughout Australia, both for Club mail and also for mail of individual members.

As one of the main motives for the Club having its own perforator is to publicise the hobby in general and the Club in particular, it had been agreed at an earlier Club meeting that members should be able to submit stamps to be perforated for subsequent use on their own mail. A copy of the Australia Post letter of permission will be sent to each member in Australia who forwards stamps for perforating, so that it may be shown to your local Post Office when submitting mail items (e.g. when you get them hand cancelled).

Conditions to be observed in association with this use are :

a. stamps to be perforated must have been on general sale from Australia on or after the first day

of use of the perforator (to be kind to future researchers!).

b. one stamp from each group of 20, or part thereof, to be retained by the Club (some will be used for return postage).

Because of the design of the perforator, stamps will be perforated as singles, or in single horizontal rows. A stamp will not be perforated if such perforation would contravene any criterion of the relevant postal authority. The perfin will appear upright on the stamp, unless that would result in such contravention of a postal regulation in which case the perfin will appear sideways with the top of the pattern to the right of the stamp. Requests for "abnormal" perforating, e.g. diagonally, double strikes, reversed, etc., will be respectfully declined. We must not deliberately perpetrate things we deplore when done by other sources!

Permission to use the perforator has also been received from New Zealand Post. Other overseas members wishing to submit stamps of their country for perforating would need to enclose a letter of approval, as necessary, from their country's postal authority and a copy of any criteria associated with such perforating. This, of course, would only be required for the first such batch, and a list of approving countries will be published in the Bulletin.

Members are also invited to submit ideas for souvenir items the Club could produce for publicity or "tasteful" revenue-raising purposes. For example, if anyone is entering a perfin display in an exhibition, a souvenir cover might be produced to bring it to people's attention. A Club "milestone" (one hesitates to use the metric equivalent - "kilometre-kilogram"?!) coming up in the near future will be the 50th edition of the Bulletin, currently due for October 2000 - about the same time as another well-publicised event in Sydney.

Perhaps, members would be interested in First Day Covers of relevant stamp issues with perfined stamps - this would depend on someone being able to get them cancelled on the correct day.

So, please forward any ideas along similar lines, keeping in mind the time required to organise any particular proposal.

PCNZA WEB SITE

One of our American members has kindly included details of the PCNZA on a Web site for Perfin collecting. The address is <http://members.aol.com/perfins> and our page within this is <http://members.aol.com/perfins/pcnza.htm> .

STAMP SHOW 97 WITHOUT PERFINS

The Western Australian Philatelic Council has used their W(swan)A perfin to create souvenirs at a number of Western Australian Stamp Shows over the past few years. These included Swanpex 90, Gold Centenary Stamp Show 1993, Swanpex 95 and Swanpex 96. They did not continue this practice at Stamp Show 97.

WHAT IS IT?

The pattern illustrated has been submitted by John Amiet in the hope that someone may have seen something similar and be able to identify it.

The stamp is a Queensland 2d red KEVII Duty Stamp which unfortunately has no cancelling markings to give a clue to its user or usage.

The pattern appears to consist of either two concentric circles, or a large "C" with an "o" inside it, depending on what other holes may have fallen outside the edge of the stamp.

Because the pattern is partially off the stamp, and the stamp is a duty stamp, the "perfin" may be for cancelling rather than for security.



COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

It was pleasing to get so much response from members to the "What is it?" article in the last issue and also comment on the new perforator.

Most correspondents pointed out that the figure on the stamp was "Mercury" rather than "Ceres", and hence that the stamp was an Austrian newspaper stamp, not French! Emil Pirchan indicated that the pattern TE was not listed in the Austrian catalogue but that as he also had a copy he had contacted the editor and this pattern would be listed in a future edition..

Thanks to those who expressed favourable comment about the new perfin pattern, the "first day of use" cover and the souvenir item. An appropriate return address label has been produced so that covers will be more obvious "proving covers".

FOR SALE

A non-member has written to say he has a collection of "VG" perfins for sale. At this stage I have not got a list of what it contains, but I am told it is quite comprehensive. If anyone is interested in the possible purchase of this collection, could they please write to the Secretary and I will find out more details.

BEST SOURCES OF PERFINS

While many dealers have a few perfins available the best source of perfins is the Club circuit books. Rare or unreported private Australian issues are often available as are scarcer state official issues. World perfins are now very popular. More circuit books are always needed and unlike circuit books in many clubs the sale rate is high. If you currently don't take advantage of the Club circuit book system and you live in Australia or New Zealand why not contact the appropriate Circuit Manager. It is unlikely you will be disappointed.

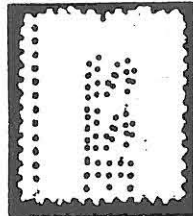
NEW ZEALAND MIXED AND DOUBLE PERFORATIONS - AND PERFINS Robert Samuel

One of the more interesting features of the pre-1907 perforated New Zealand stamps, particularly those perforated with line machines, is the existence of a large number of double and "mixed" perforation varieties. In New Zealand stamp paper was invariably in short supply and had to be imported from Great Britain. To avoid wastage the Government Printer did not destroy sheets which had been poorly perforated; if a row of perforation was out of position the offending row was patched from the back of the sheet, and another row of perforation added in the correct position. When this was done with a machine of a different gauge the result was a variety known to collectors as "mixed perforations".

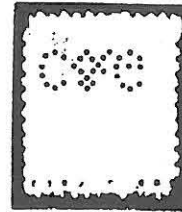
Double and mixed perforation varieties occur with varying degrees of scarcity, but perfins associated with these varieties are seldom seen. Mr W.G. Register, of Christchurch, has an example of the NZF (New Zealand Farmers) perfin on a 1d Second Sideface, with double perforations gauging 11. My own collection contains a Second Sideface 4d Perf 11, with double perforations at right, and with the SSE (Sargood, Son & Ewen) perfin doubled - a double perforation and double perfin on the same stamp! A recent discovery is of the 1d Second Sideface with the very scarce variety, mixed perms 10 and 12½, and perforated with the C&G (Cuff & Graham perfin). These two latter items are illustrated below:



SSE perfin on 4d Second Sideface,
double perms 11, and with double
perfin



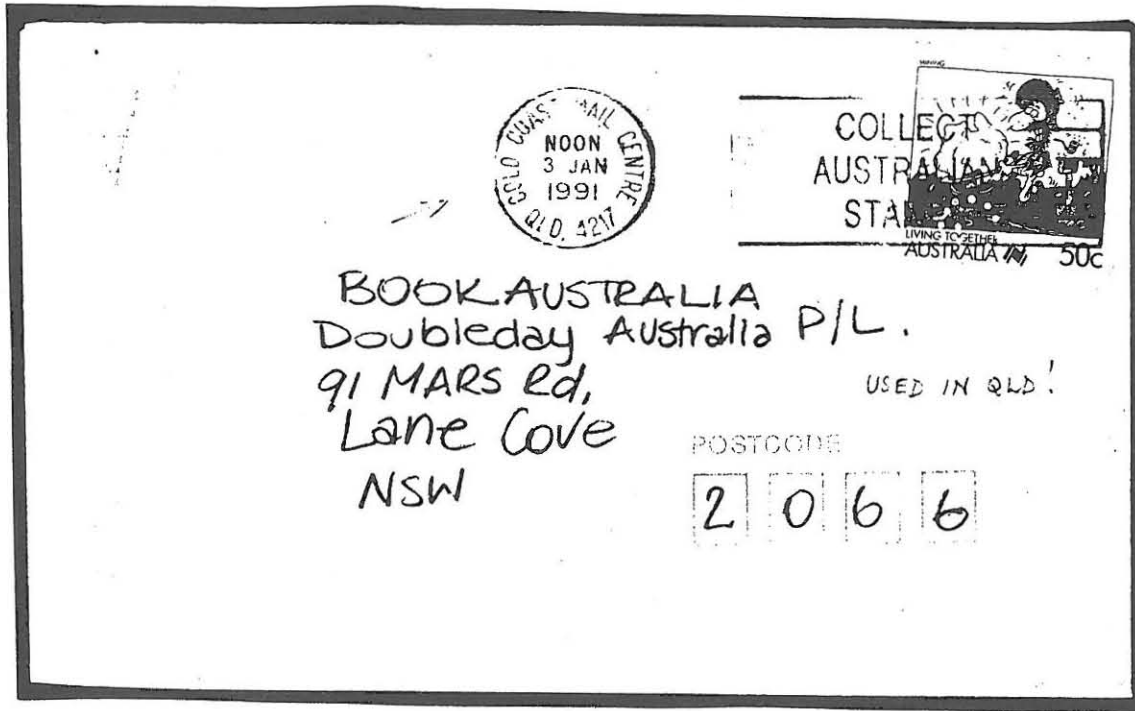
C&G on 1d Second Sideface
mixed perms 10 & 12½



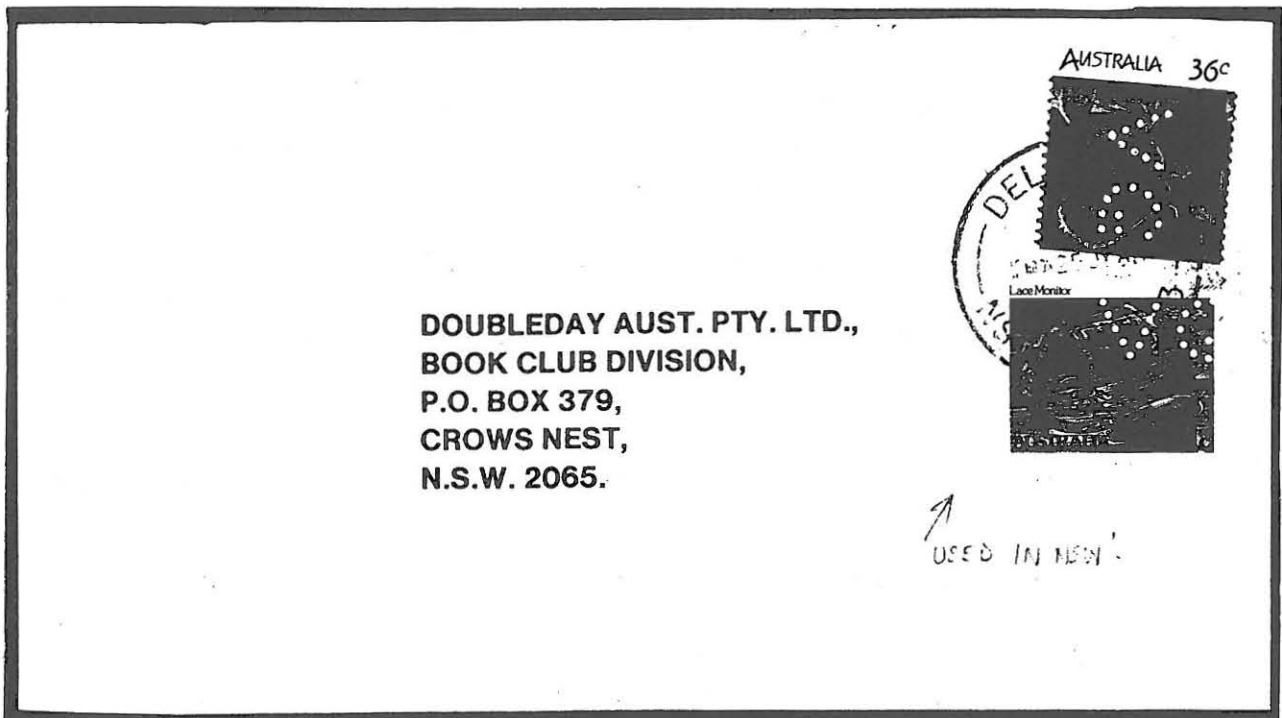
VG PERFINS USED IN QUEENSLAND AND NEW SOUTH WALES

John Amiet sent a couple of interesting covers which came from an accumulation of envelopes addressed to Doubleday Australia. These covers are illustrated below, both show interesting use of VG perfins. As these envelopes were sent to Doubleday it seems likely that they were from Victorian school teachers ordering material for teaching purposes.

The first cover was postmarked on the Gold Coast, Queensland, on 3rd January 1991. Possibly a Victorian teacher on holidays in Queensland during the summer break ordering some books for the following school year. Obviously a person displaying much forethought as they had remembered to take a stamp from work for this purpose. However the value used, 50c, was higher than required.



The second cover was postmarked Delegate, NSW 25th July 1988. Another Victorian teacher on holidays?



RALPH W. KING & YUILL, STOCK & SHARE BROKERS (John Mathews)

The firm of Ralph W. King and Yuill was formed in 1942 when William Keith Yuill severed his partnership in the stockbroking firm of Martyn and Brownhill and entered into partnership with Ralph W. King. This firm incorporated Martyn and Brownhill whose goodwill had been transferred to the new firm.

Thomas Hammond Martyn was born in London in 1859, and at the age of 13 years was taken out of school by his father to work in the family importing business in Bodmin, Cornwall. In 1884, Thomas came to Australia with an introduction to the manager of the Sydney department store, Farmers Ltd., from whom he accepted a job behind the counter. Before long, he moved to Goulburn where he married Alice Furner and in 1887 they moved back to Sydney.

Thomas wanted to be a barrister, and embarked on legal studies but then became interested in mining and investment. He joined the Sydney Stock Exchange in 1889. Later he was a director of tin companies operating in Malaya and Siam (Thailand). He was in the Federated Malay States to inspect mining properties when he died in 1924.

Thomas Martyn was on the Sydney Stock Exchange Committee in 1892 and 1893. In 1911, he took V.A. Brownhill into partnership and they traded as T.H. Martyn & Co. until 1923 and then as Martyn and Brownhill.

William Keith Yuill was born in South Australia in 1889, and was first employed in electrical and accounting work in Adelaide until he moved in 1912 to Sydney where his uncle lived. In 1925 he applied to join the Sydney Stock Exchange as a sole trader. In 1932 he got into financial difficulties and was helped by V.A. Brownhill who was chairman of the Stock Exchange Committee at that time. Keith Yuill became a partner in the firm of Martyn and Brownhill.

When V.A. Brownhill died in 1942, Yuill entered into partnership with Ralph W. King, and the firm of Martyn and Brownhill became incorporated into Ralph W. King and Yuill. Keith Yuill retired from the partnership in 1969 and became a consultant to the firm.

(This article is based on material contained in "Sydney Stockbrokers : biographies of Members of the Sydney Stock Exchange 1871 - 1987", by Stephen Salsbury and Kay Sweeney, 1992, which was submitted by PCNZA member Martyn Greive who is a grandson of Thomas H. Martyn)

WHAT ABOUT POSITION ?

Warren Travell one of the famous early American perfin collectors wrote in Perfins v.4 no.1 June 1948 "It is also to be noted that in general the perfins of other countries not only have complete, well centred patterns but they are almost always "right side up with care", whereas here we find every possible mis-arrangement, such as inverts, obverts, sideways up, sideways down, double

punching etc. In the writer's opinion, it is a waste of time and energy to attempt distinguishing between these minor variations in placement of pattern and, while such mal-arrangements are not to be regarded as defects, they may be tolerated."

Despite the sentiments expressed above and repeated by quite a few other perfin collectors since then quite a few of us do have an interest in 'position' or "placement of pattern", particularly in relation to official perfins. This interest in 'position' has given us a much larger number of items to collect and may provide information about the puncturing methods used. There are numerous scarce 'positions' for some issues. However not everyone understands what we mean by Position 7 or Position F.

There are two classification systems used to classify perfins by position.

a) Numerical - Positions 1 to 8

This classification is explained in Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials and is the same as that used in Australian Official Perfins. However two different methods are suggested to determine the pattern.

In Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials it is suggested that " The simple method of sorting positions is to keep all of the perforated insignia constant, then separate the perfins according to how the front of the stamp is facing. There are eight possible positions for the perforated insignia. The normal position, or Position 1, is the most common position found for the majority of perfin types.

Position 1 has the stamp front up as normally mounted, with the perforated insignia located as it would normally be read.

Position 2 has the perforated insignia remaining the same, and the stamp has been rotated clockwise 90 degrees.

Position 3 represents another 90 degrees rotation, so that the stamp is upside down from its normal mounting.

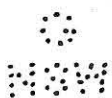
Position 4 is a further continuance of the rotation.

Position 5 has the stamp the same as for Position 1, except that the stamp is front away from the viewer.

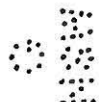
The further **three positions** represent respective 90 degree clockwise rotations of the stamp with the perforated insignia continuing to stay constant."

In Australian Official Perfins the approach suggested was to view the stamp from the front with the design upright and then observe the arrangement of the pattern.. These positions are shown below:

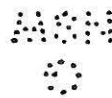
Position 1
(upright)



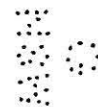
Position 2
(reading up)



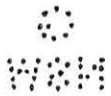
Position 3
(inverted)



Position 4
(reading down)



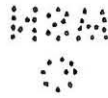
Position 5
(reversed
upright)



Position 6
(reversed
reading up)



Position 7
(reversed
inverted)



Position 8
(reversed
reading down)



However regardless of which method is used both of these classifications systems come up with the same result.

b) Alphabetical - Positions A to H

John Elford came up with a different classification system when he wrote Victorian Government Punctures in 1979. Again the stamps are to be viewed upright frontally.

The best clue to John's methodology comes from his statement " The 4 positions come about by the sheet being folded twice before puncturing. This is evidenced by the existence of blocks of 4 where when the block is folded all holes meet."

It appears that John intended this classification system to draw together positions that could be encountered together. Positions A to D being those with vertical letters and Positions E to H those with horizontal letters.

To make it easier to compare with the numerical scheme the illustrations below show G/NSW issues rather than the more usual VG example.

Position A



Position B



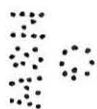
Position C



Position D



Position E



Position F



Position G



Position H



Neither of these classification systems can cope with those patterns found on a diagonal. As the primary use of these systems is for use with Official perfins, such as VG or G/NSW which are rarely found with a diagonal orientation this probably doesn't matter all that much. However if collectors of private perfins start to take a very close interest in 'position' a scheme would need to be devised to deal with diagonals.

AUCTION WATCH

Brian Fuller has sent a "Prices Realised" for the February '98 sale of Teepookana Stamps. Of interest are the following:

1/4d KGV single wmk perf "T" (est \$100).	Sold for...\$165.
1/4d KGV sm mult wmk p13.5 perf "T" (est \$100).	Sold for...\$145.
Proving cover for PL&BM.1 (est \$ 50)	Sold for...\$66.
Proving cover for RICO (Launceston) (est \$25).	Sold for...\$46.
17 copies of MCKSMCK.1 (est \$35).	Sold for...\$66.

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. 1944 Sargood Gardiner cover with "SG" Perfin (Camberwell Stamps Sale 7, Feb 98)	\$15
b. NZ "C&G" on 1/2d Mt Cook (Stirling & Co, Feb 98)	NZ\$10
c. "NZ" on GB 2/6 brown KGV on OHMS envelope from the New Zealand High Commissioner in London to "Prime Minister", Wellington (Stirling & Co, Feb 98)	NZ\$100
d. NZ "S&S/W" s/w & rev. on 1/2d 1900 (Stirling & Co, Feb 98)	NZ\$45
e. Various US proving covers (Jim Mehrer's Sale 29, Mar 98)	US\$15-20
f. Approx 350 world perfins (Auckland City Stamps Sale, Mar 98)	NZ\$100
g. NZ "BGE" on 1d Dominion (.....ditto.....)	NZ\$35
h. NZ "Fine Paid" perfin on 1922 9d green KGV (Donald Ion Sale, Feb 98)	NZ\$10
i. 18 "NZ" perfins on GTB stamps (Donald Ion Sale Feb 98)	NZ\$25
j. Bag with receipts and documents, with perfined NSW Duty Stamps, vals to £5 (75+) (West Brisbane Sale Mar 98)	Sold for \$170
k. Private perfins in bag, mostly KGV heads & Duties, some covers & docs., some States (100s) (West Brisbane Sale Mar 98)	Sold for \$200
l. NZ £4000 Gold high value Arms Fiscal FU with "Duty Paid" perfin. (Mowbray Auction 256, Mar 98)	NZ\$400
m. NZ "S&S" perfin on 1d Universal . (Mowbray Auction 256, Mar 98)	NZ\$30
n. France. 1936 Airmail 50f "Banknote" FU with "DMC" perfin. (Ashford Stamps, NZ, Auction 9, Mar 98)	NZ\$300
o. NZ £1000 Rose long type fiscal "Duty Paid" perfin. (Ashford Stamps, NZ, Auction 9, Mar 98)	NZ\$100
p. Small stockbook of private perfins from Roos/KGV to modern. (approx 600) (Stanley Gibbons Aust Sale Apr 98)	\$100
q. NZ "JB&CO Ltd" perfin on 2d KGV, on piece (Stirling & Co Direct Sale No 9, Apr 98)	NZ\$25
r. Mostly European colln of 46v. Noted GB 10d QV "BNZ". (Stirling & Co Direct Sale No 9, Apr 98)	NZ\$60
s. NZ 1927 receipt with 2d KGV perf "VOCO" tied. (David Holmes Sale 11, Apr 98)	NZ\$75
t. Stockbook of perfins incl GB (430), Australia (160) & world. Total 700+. (David Holmes Sale 11, Apr 98)	NZ\$175

Of particular interest to collectors of New South Wales officials is a lot sold in a Robin Linke auction earlier this year.

ca1968 Jet aerogramme orange on Blue (A31) punctured G/NSW from the Australian Museum, Sydney to the USA. Estimates at \$75. Sold for \$210.

NON-PERFIN PERFORATORS #1 David Andersen

Stamps are not the only items which are perforated for security purposes. Cheques and the such like are often cancelled with a perforator and no doubt most of us have seen New York Stock Exchange transfer certificates with New York Stock Exchange stamps where the document has been perforated in the area the stamps were applied, puncturing the stamps also. Such perfins often supply a companies initials and in larger size the date. The machines used must have been considerably more complex than the ones we are familiar with for perforating stamps as the date puncture would have been changed daily.

At work we have a perforator, a little bigger than the new Club machine and a good deal heavier, but otherwise similar. It is used not for postage stamps but for microfilm. We regularly receive microfilm of newspapers such as the Straits Times or the Sydney Morning Herald. When the reels are accessioned they are punctured at the beginning of the film to show that they belong to the University of Sydney Library. Marking film in other ways is not as effective or easy to read.

This machine was produced by Pernuma which is a company I'd not heard of. Unfortunately I have no other information about it s purchase.

UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY LIBRARY

OS/NSW COMMONWEALTH/NSW HYBRID

In 1944 Rostron discovered 5 copies of an unusual OS/NSW perfin. The puncture consists of the OS from the normal 'Commonwealth machine' and the NSW from the 'NSW machine'. The issues found were two 5d KGV with single wmk., one 1/2d green KGV single wmk., one 1/2d green KGV large multi wmk., and one 1 1/2d black brown large multi wmk. An additional copy with a different spacing of the lines was found at a later stage. When we surveyed KGV issues in 1990 two additional issues were reported, KGV 1 1/2d brown single wmk and 1d green no wmk.

It would be interesting to determine more about this puncture, including how many copies exist. At present only about 10 copies a reported to exist. If you have any copies of this perfin please send the Editor a photocopy of it/them back and front if possible.