

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

## No. 44 January 1999

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President: Robert Samuel, PO Box 394, Christchurch, New Zealand

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

Assistant Treasurer (NZ payments): Richard Smolnicki, 278 Dowse Drive, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt New Zealand

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### EDITORS COMMENT

In this bulletin are some requests for information by a number of people undertaking surveys on a diverse range of areas. These surveys are a good opportunity to contribute towards the knowledge base of all collectors much as many collectors in the past have contributed, so that we now have perfin catalogues for probably all countries of the world.

As most perfin collectors come across previously unreported items from time to time each collector can contribute to what is known about a particular aspect and the more people that contribute the more complete and useful the picture becomes.

David Andersen

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### NEW ASSISTANT TREASURER IN NEW ZEALAND

Richard Smolnicki has recently assumed the role of Assistant Treasurer in New Zealand from Barry Clarke. Our thanks to Richard for taking on this very helpful position. The vacancy was over-subscribed and our thanks also to Tony and Greg for offering their services. Barry had filled this position for some time (and also as NZ circuit manager for a while) and his good work for the Club is most appreciated. Barry has recently got married and we wish he and his wife every happiness.

Richard's address for payment of subs., etc., by NZ members is

Richard Smolnicki,  
278 Dowse Drive,  
Maungaraki, Lower Hutt, NZ

## NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following members who have joined since the last Bulletin:

- #175 Glen Picken, Cheltenham Victoria
- #176 Bob Evans, Roseworthy South Australia
- #177 Hendrik Pelgrin, Hackham South Australia
- #178 George McGowan, Troy NY, USA

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## AUSTRALIA 99 - A REMINDER

The Australia 99 World Exhibition will be held from 19 - 24 March 1999 in the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, located by the Yarra River.

The Club has been allocated Meeting Room 3 for one hour between 11 am and 12 noon on Saturday, 20 March 1999 and we look forward to seeing as many members as possible at that time. We have been advised that some display frames are available in the meeting rooms, so if anyone has material which they would like to show others, could they please advise the Secretary in advance how many sheets they would like to display in the frames. Sheets can also be passed around the table if desired.

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## THE CLUB'S SITE ON THE "WORLD WIDE WEB"

Member Joe Coulbourne in Virginia, USA, has kindly developed a home page for the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia in conjunction with those of other perfin clubs. It contains general information about our club of interest to collectors and already we have had enquiries from people who have read it. Joe has recently added our latest auction catalogue listing to the site! It has been emphasised that one has to be a club member to trade through our auctions, so that may provide further impetus for membership applications. Our thanks to Joe for his fine effort in this area. The URL for the web site is <http://members.aol.com/perfins/pcnza.htm>

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## SURVEY OF PRIVATE PERFINS ON THE STAMPS OF TASMANIA

Enclosed with this issue are some survey sheets for private perfins on the stamps of Tasmania.\* Similar sheets will follow for other States in future issues. This survey will give us the first listing of the distribution of these perfins by variation of issue, perf., and watermark, and should be of interest to all collectors of private perfins, particularly those with collections specialised to that extent.

It would be appreciated if these sheets could be completed and returned to the Secretary by the end of April 1999 if possible. Please note that there are spare spaces allowed for extra perfin patterns and issues, etc.

\* to Australian addressees only - Jhm.

## CLUB AUCTION NEWS

Auction 2/1998 has been another success with strong bidding especially for covers. If you have material which you would like to submit for the next auction, please forward it to John Mathews by the end of March.

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## GIO INVERTED OVERPRINT : AN UPDATE

Following the report of the discovery of the 6d predecimal New South Wales duty with inverted GIO overprint John Amiet unearthed a copy of the \$2 issue with an inverted overprint. This is only the second value reported with an inverted overprint, and the first decimal issue reported. Other values with inverted overprints may exist on some of the many hundreds of thousands of New South Wales duty issues affixed to insurance receipts issued by the Government Insurance Office in the 1960s.

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## ESSENDEN BROADMEADOWS PERFIN NIGHT

The Essenden Broadmeadows Philatelic Society is to hold a Perfins Theme Night on Thursday March 11th 1999 starting 7.30PM at St Johns Church, cnr Mt Alexander Rd and Bucklet St, Essendon.

The guest speaker will be Peter Wood (our Treasurer). Peter will be providing a display which is of exhibition standard. In addition an Auction will be held which will be for perfin material only.

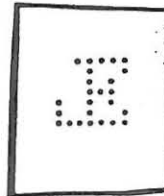
Visitors are most welcome. Enquiries : Kevin Bliss (03) 93068788

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## AUSTRIAN TE OR JE : AN UPDATE

In the January 1998 issue of the Bulletin an Austrian Newspaper stamp with what was later thought to be the initials TE was illustrated.



J-47

Gary Douglas writes: " The only difference between pattern J-47 (Austrian Perfin Catalogue by John Nussbickel) and the copy in the PCNZA is that the copy in the PCNZA has three holes in the hook of the J, whereas J-47 has two. One cannot necessarily assume that the pattern is TE, because the pattern shown in the PCNZA has two holes in the upper left part of the E, therefore throwing off the symmetry as there are three holes in the right part of the T, or the hook of the T."

On the basis of Gary's suggestion it appears that this pattern is JE rather than TE.

## FAKED OS PERFINS

David Andersen

A few months ago three faked large OS perfins turned up at a regular stamp/coin fair. These items were offered as forgeries for a low figure. However the dealer was not able to advise as to the source.

The issues involved were the 2 1/2d, 6d and 2/- brown Kangaroos 3rd watermark. The 6d has a legible postmark "OGEE SEP 21". This OS perfin only appeared on 1st watermark Kangaroos so they are obviously fake. The holes are also clearly much smaller than is normal on genuine copies.



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## DANZIG PERFINS HELP WANTED

Following completion of the very large German perfins catalogue " Katalog der Deutschen Firmenlochungen" Willem Smetsers is undertaking a survey of perfins used in Danzig.

Danzig is a harbour in the north of Poland and has used a range of stamps. Prior to 1920 Danzig was controlled by the German Reich, from 1920 to 1939 a Free City and in 1939 it was again occupied by Germany. Perfins have been found on the stamps of each of these periods:

- a) Deutsche Reich 1895-1920 (Eagle and Germania stamps)
- b) Free City Danzig 1920-1939 (Freie Stadt Danzig stamps)
- c) WWII 1939-1944 (Hindenburg and Hitler Heads stamps)

Those on German stamps can be identified by postmark, which needs to be full and clear as other German cities such as Leipzig end in 'zig'.

Some perfins reported in the past have not been seen again so we only know what the letters are and not the size of the letters, number of holes etc.

Please involve yourself in this research effort by reporting to Willem which perfins you have, and on which stamps (preferably by Michel, SG, Yvert or Scott catalogue numbers). If you are unable to provide the German perfin catalogue numbers a photocopy of the perfins and stamps (including a note about the stamp colour to enable identification) would be most helpful.

Willem can be contacted by mail at Kastanjestr. 39, 5922 CA Venlo, The Netherlands or by email [himalaya-nl@mail.geocities.com](mailto:himalaya-nl@mail.geocities.com)

INTRODUCTION OF THE TATTERSALLS' PERFORATORS (John Mathews)

A stampless cover has possibly thrown some light on the earliest date of use of perfin by George Adams (Tattersall's) in Hobart, Tasmania.

The cover was listed in an auction under the heading "Postal Markings", and may have missed the attention of many collectors of perfins, etc. This listing highlighted a "1d Postage Paid, Hobart, Tas." handstamp, but the envelope did not find the addressee in Wellington, New Zealand, and was returned to the sender with a Wellington handstamp, and "Unclaimed" and "Gone No Address" markings.

The sender was Tattersall's, as shown by the contents of the envelope - the familiar leaflets advertising Tattersall's "consultations" in various horse races in Adelaide, Broken Hill, Sydney and Melbourne from July to November 1899, including the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups of that year.

The original date of posting from Hobart was May 31, 1899. The earliest known dated Adams' perfin is July 5, 1899 (A.3). The envelope bears no clue to the sender's identity - not surprising considering the difficulties Tattersall's had with the postal authorities - so it was fortunate that the contents were still in the envelope.

This seems to narrow the date for the introduction of the Adams' perforator to June 1899. Does anyone have a similar envelope from that month, of an "A" perfin dated earlier than July 5, 1899?

Tattersall's are the only genuine successful Consultations in Australasia, are drawn under special supervision of a Representative of the Government, and in the presence of the Public and Members of the Press.

DRAWN ON THE MORNING OF THE DAY OF RACE.

TATTERSALL'S

MONSTER CASH PRIZE CONSULTATION

SPECIAL CONSULTATION

ON THE

GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE RACE.

Run at FLEMINGTON, VICTORIA, JULY 8, 1899.

DRAWN ON THE MORNING OF THE DAY OF RACE.

Tattersall's, Hobart, Tasmania.

25,000

SUBSCRIBERS.

Stamps will not be received in Payment for Tickets.

	AT 5/- EACH		AT 5/- EACH.
FIRST HORSE .. ..	£2,000	10 Cash Prizes at £50 each	£500
SECOND HORSE .. ..	750	20 " " "	400
THIRD HORSE .. ..	500	50 " " "	500
STARTERS (Divide) ..	500	10 " " "	500
NON-STARTERS (Divide)	600	5 " " "	500
	100		
	LESS TEN PER CENT.		

180 EXTRA CASH PRIZES 180

Every £1 invested will have a chance of 20 separate Prizes.

Please allot me..... shares in your MONSTER SPECIAL CASH PRIZE CONSULTATION on the GRAND NATIONAL HURDLE RACE, 25,000 at 5 - each.

Name M

Address .....

PLEASE TURN OVER.]

Tattersall's, Hobart, Tasmania.

Registered Address "TATTERSALL'S" care GEORGE ADAMS, Hobart, Tasmania.

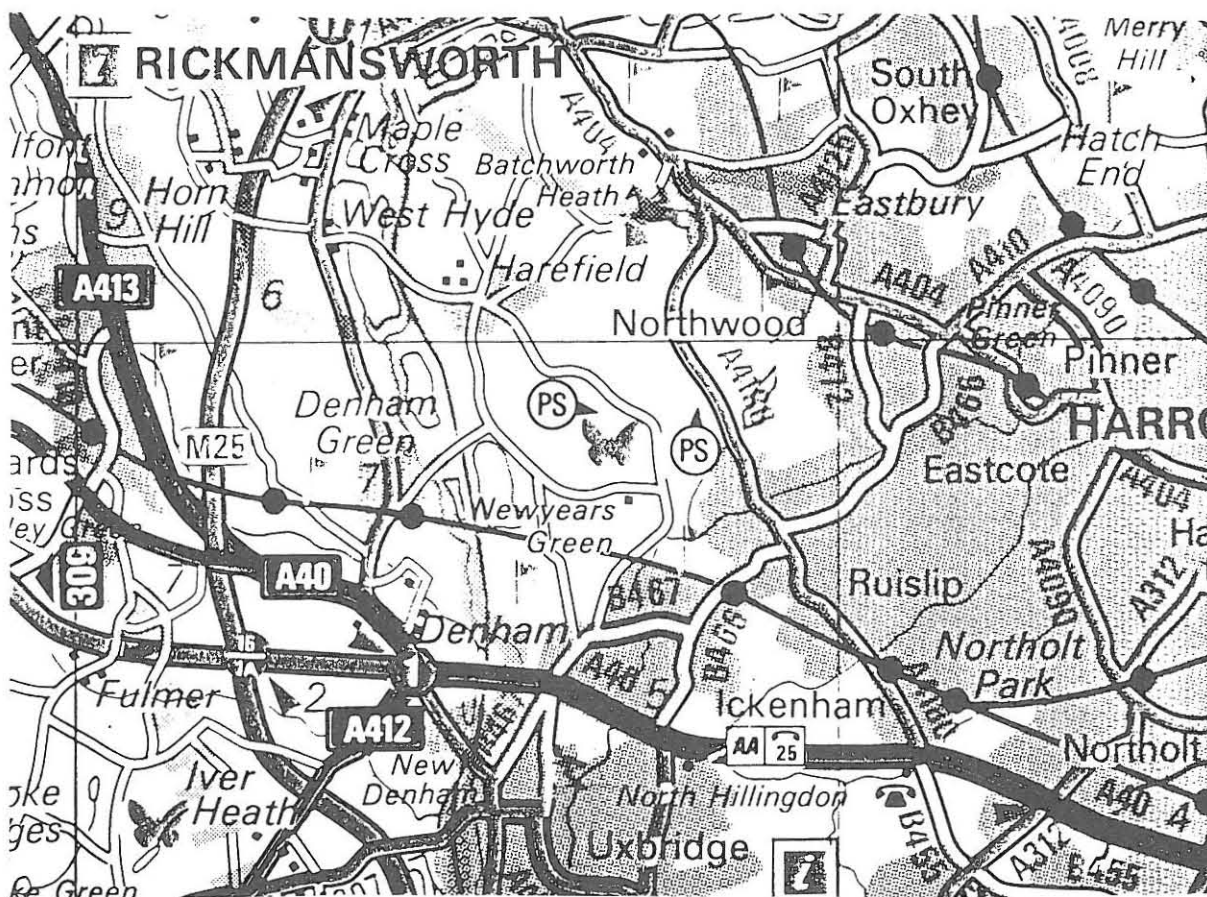
## GB STAMPS PERFORATED "COFA" - THE AUSTRALIAN MILITARY HOSPITAL (John Mathews)

Most collectors of Australian and GB perfins will be familiar with the GB stamps perforated "CofA" and much has already been written about them. The first die was in a horizontal "CofA" format with an earliest date of usage reported as being 10 February 1911 on a 21/2d blue KEVII definitive (Houston 1966). A second die, two-headed with format "C/of/A" appears to have been introduced about 1916 (Andersen 1987) with an example reported on a 1d red KGV issue (Andersen 1992).

Most of the usage of these perforators was by the staff at Australia House in London, but it has been reported that there was other usage by Australian military groups in UK, such as Australian wounded soldiers convalescing in hospital in WW1 and a Naval contingent in the 1930s (e.g. Houston 1966 citing an article in "The Australian Philatelist" of 5 July 1916).

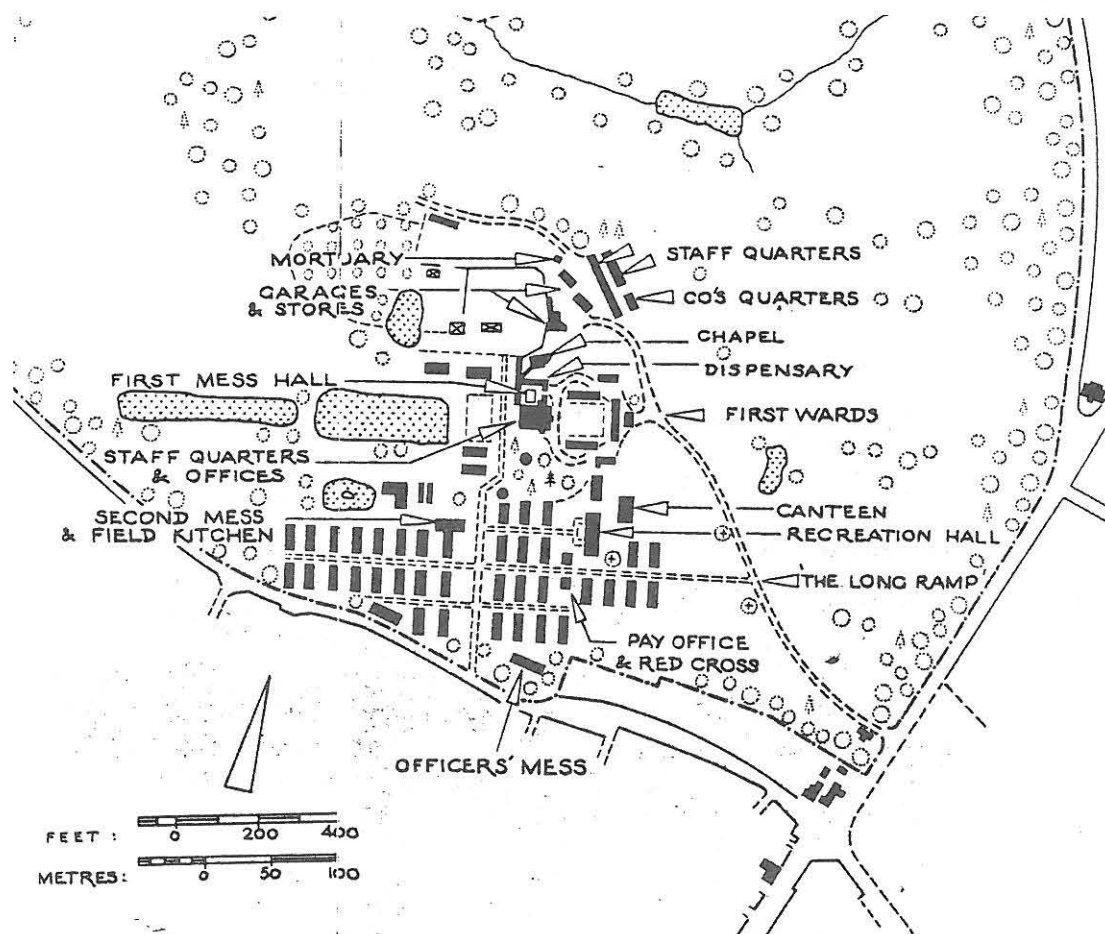
The second die appears to have had irregular use prior to 1937, having been put into storage in Australia House in 1918 (Andersen 1987, 1991).

Recently, I found a copy of a GB KGV 1d red with the second die "C/of/A" perfin which had a postmark "HAREFIE., 6 MY 16". A check of a map of the area around London revealed that Harefield was a rural village (in 1916) to the west of London, near Rickmansworth. Today it is just inside the M25 London Orbital motorway. The Library Development Officer at the Harefield Hospital has confirmed that the hospital was indeed an Australian hospital in World War I, and has kindly provided me with a copy of the appropriate part of its history (from Shepherd, 1990) upon which the following is based.



Nations of the Commonwealth sent troops to support Britain when World War I broke out and each looked to make their own arrangements for handling the ensuing casualties. At that time, Charles Billyard-Leakes was an ex-patriot from New South Wales and he offered his large stone house and 250 acres of Harefield Park to the Ministry of Defence in Melbourne "for the period of the war and six months after". This offer was accepted in December 1914.

Ethel Gray was a nurse in Melbourne who had volunteered for service abroad. It was she who was asked to go to England specifically to set up the Australian Convalescent Depot at Harefield Park. She and five other nurses arrived in London at the end of March 1915. The Billyard-Leakes family had moved out into alternative accommodation, leaving their house as they used it. Miss Gray arranged to have the furniture put into storage and more appropriate furniture replace it. Also the sumptuous carpets were lifted and the floor boards stained. Huts were built to accommodate the soldiers along with a Mess Hall. Later, other buildings were added as necessary. By Sunday 16 May 1915, 80 beds were ready to receive the casualties. Three days later, the Captain of the Medical Corps arrived to take charge, and he was accompanied by five wardsmen and orderlies. The first 8 patients arrived on 2 June. The large number of casualties suffered at Gallipoli meant that a rapid expansion of the Hospital was necessary as it was the only Australian depot available. By 22 June, there were 170 patients and two weeks later the number had increased to 362. The first operation was performed there on 9 July 1915.



1918: No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital

In July 1915, among a number of buildings completed was a Post Office. The men got four pence per week pocket money plus an allowance of stamps.

By October 1916, Harefield Park had an average of 960 patients and was renamed the "First Australian Auxiliary Hospital". Many famous entertainers came to provide concerts, included singer Peter Dawson.

The soldiers also had a variety of mascots. Before setting out for France in October 1916, the men of the Third Division AIF presented one of the volunteer workers with a wallaby, but it was not confined and frequently turned up in the village. However on its last escapade it went too far, to the hills to the west of West Hyde, where a farmer (not knowing what it was) shot it.

Matron Gray left Harefield in December 1916 and was posted to France where she stayed until March 1919. She was invested CBE at Buckingham Palace in 1919 and returned to Australia in January 1920.

In January 1919, 691 soldiers were discharged from the Hospital, and the Hospital itself closed on 15 January 1920.

#### References.

Andersen D, Australian Official Perfins, 1987, page 16.

Andersen D., South Pacific Perfin Bulletin, Oct 1991, page 7.

Andersen D., South Pacific Perfin Bulletin, Jan 1992, page 8.

Houston G. T., Philately from Australia, June 1966, page 32.

Shepherd Mary P., "Heart of Harefield - the Story of the Hospital", Quiller Press, 1990.

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#### THE "OK" PERFORATOR OF HARROLD BROS. (John Mathews)

In the July 1994 edition of this Bulletin (page 10), it was reported that a strike of Australian perfin pattern OK.2 was found in the Sloper workbooks with an approximate date of manufacture of September 1884. It was conjectured that this device was used in the London office of Harrold Bros. at 29 Great St. Helens from then until 1890 when it was shipped to South Australia for the Adelaide office of that company. Proof of this user identity in UK has now been provided by a member of the GB Perfin Society in a recent update listing of user identities. He reports "Leonard Harrold of 29 Gt. St. Helens, London, applied to become a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society on 23 November 1887. The perfin was used on the application form."

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#### THE McPHIE & CO PERFORATOR (John Mathews)

Through a fellow family history researcher, I have received some details of the MCP.1 perforator used by McPhie & Co. of Toowoomba provided by a retired member of that family company (he is still desperately trying to locate the perforator itself!). He writes "You could perforate a number of stamps at a time if you put them through together but I remember jamming it a few times with perhaps 15 to 20 stamps in at once." This revelation easily explains why this pattern is known with broken pins and not necessarily being squarely positioned on the stamp!



## SELDOM SEEN - ADDITIONS

VOCO.6 on 1/4 KGV CofA wmk.

D&JF on KGV 1d red die III - see Auction Watch

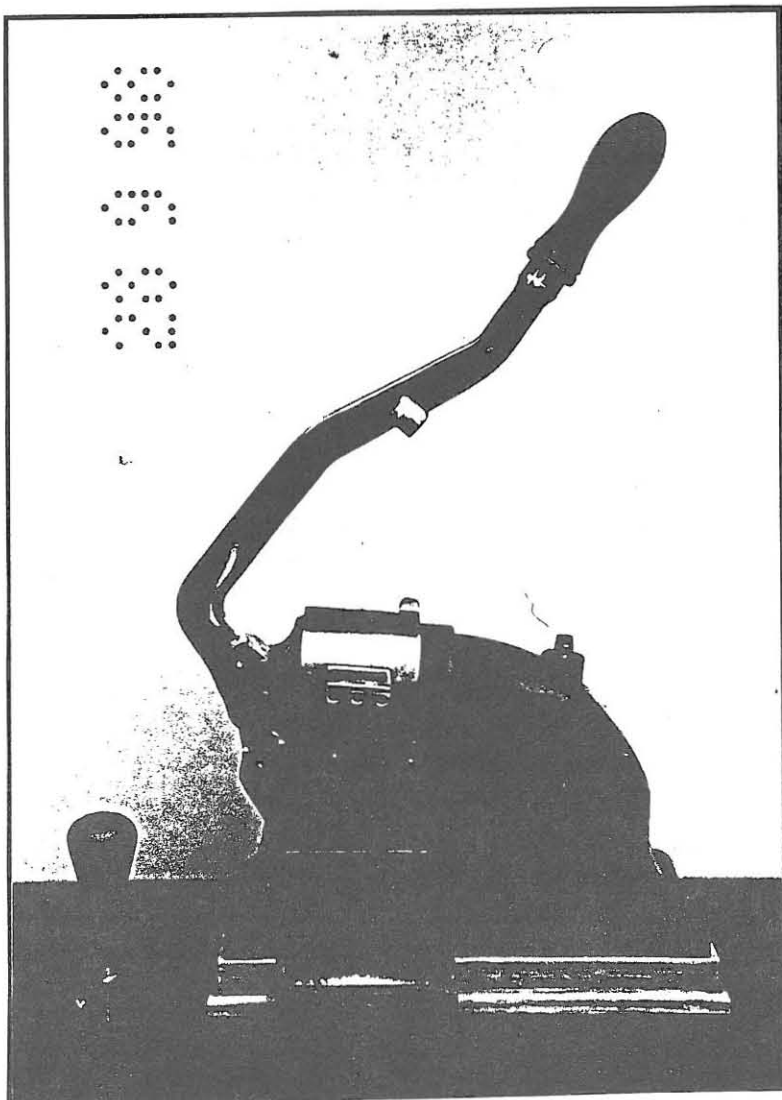
VOCO on KGV 1d red die III - see Auction Watch

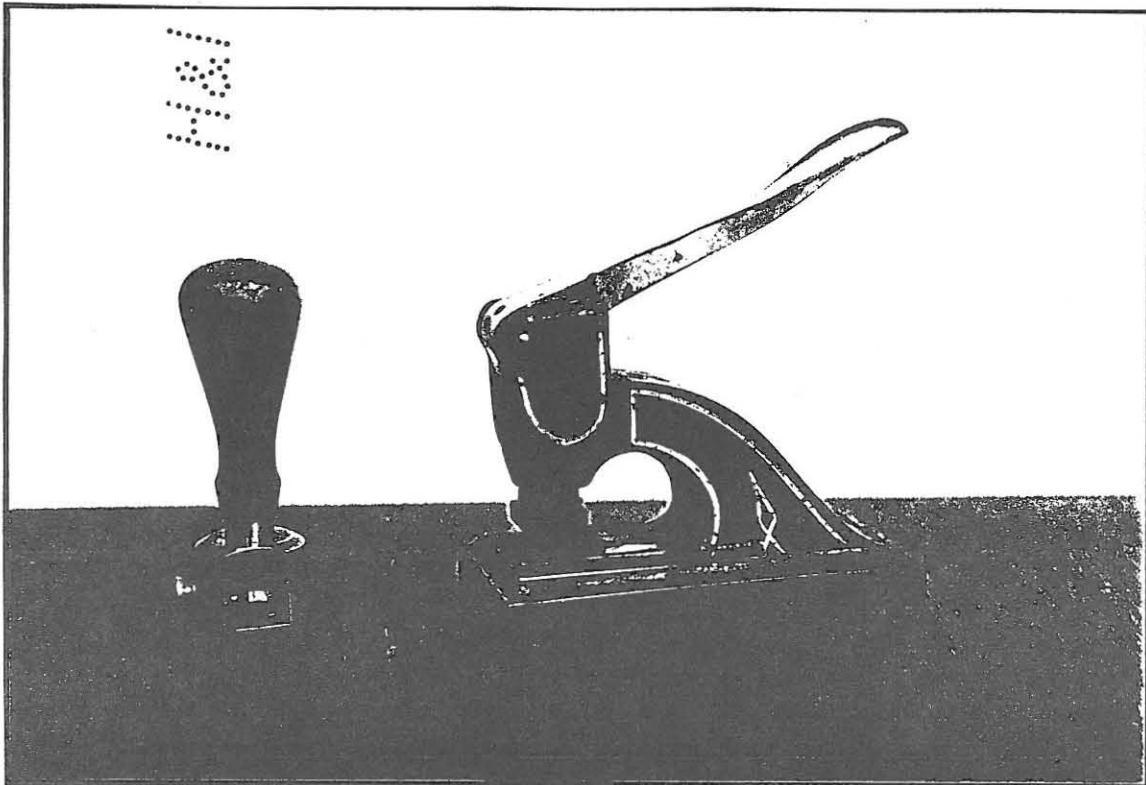
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## SOME PERFORATORS OF INTEREST (John Mathews)

Through a mutual philatelic acquaintance, I have recently received two fine photographs of perforators from Toke Norby in Denmark. One of these is a stamp perforator which produces the pattern "H&I" of the Danish company Harts & Jons of Copenhagen. It is of very similar style to that of the Royal Insurance Company's Adelaide office and also a model in the advertisement for the Excelsior Supply Company (both illustrated in "Commercial Perfins of Australia").

The other perforator is designed to perforate dates into documents, the numerals being set by levers in a barrel in the body of the perforator. Toke tells me that this machine was in poor condition when he got it, but the photograph shows that he has restored it beautifully. A brass plate on the side of this machine reads "J. SLOPER & CO. LTD., LONDON E.C.4 / GENERALAGENT FUR SVERIGE / ERIK DAHLBERG / STOCKHOLM"





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## NEWFOUNDLAND PERFIN SURVEY

Barry Senior is undertaking a survey of Newfoundland perfins and has provided the following background information:

On March 26, 1995 an article was published in *The BNA Perforator* (v.16 no.1) which presented the results of a survey begun some 10 years earlier. This survey, completed by Russ Deveau, listed all known perfin patterns on stamps of Newfoundland. These were listed by pattern, issue and position of the perfin. Two additional updates boosted the number of known issues/perfins to over 500. Until recently this information was taken for granted and no questions were raised as to its accuracy.

However anyone collecting Newfoundland stamps will understand the problem of identifying some of the issues, which were issued in different perforations, new dies or watermarked vs unwatermarked papers. Unfortunately some of the original information was erroneous and after 10 years it is not possible to contact some of the original correspondents to seek clarification.

Accordingly Barry is undertaking a new survey of all known perfins on the stamps of Newfoundland (including on documents and covers). He is asking collectors with Newfoundland perfins to send him a list of their holdings with the stamps identified by perfin pattern, stamp



## PERFINS OF AFRICA

The Perfins Club (United States) published a few years ago a catalogue of African perfins in their Bulletin. Brian Dennis has taken over responsibility for revising this information. He would welcome contact from members who may have information or advice on this subject. In particular he would like anybody with African perfins on a cover/proving piece to contact him.

Email [bdennis@gem.co.za](mailto:bdennis@gem.co.za), or Fax 27-21-855 3945 or 'snail mail' Brian Dennis, 28 Pyracantha St., Heldervue, Somerset West 7130 SOUTH AFRICA

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## AUCTION WATCH

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

	Est.
a. GB QV 1/2d newspaper wrapper piece with "H&C" and KGV 1d env. Cutout with A&N/CSL". (Stirling & Co. Sale Dec 98)	NZ \$ 15
b. Mutual Life Citizen Assurance Co Ltd private o'print on 2d 1935 Pictorial (Stampland, Napier, sale Dec 98)	NZ \$ 40
c. D&JF.1 on SA 2/- carmine QV sideface (Teepookana Stamps sale Dec 98)	\$ 5
d. DS&CO.1 on Tas 2d QV sideface (Teepookana Stamps sale Dec 98)	\$ 25
e. 3c blue Tas Tiger stamp duty - 2 copies with "AMPS"(blue) and "FitzGerald's Stores" (black) o'prints (Teepookana Stamps sale Dec 98)	\$ 20
f. NZ "BGEC" on 2d KEVII (Mowbray auction, Dec 98)	NZ \$ 35
g. Reg. OHMS covers with perfins x 2, both Perth, WA, Titles Office - With 5d KGV to Fremantle with var. pmks and cachets; 1929 with 11/2d & 3d KGV to NSW. (West Brisbane sale Dec 98)	\$ 40
h. "Semi-Govt." perfins for many users incl. MCC, SCC, PCC, BCC, MBW on Roos and KGV, UNSW, TB, etc. (few 100) (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98) Est \$125, but sold for	\$ 340
i. "OS/NSW" on KGV collection single wmk to 1/4, etc (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98)	Sold for \$750
j. "OS/NSW" on 10/- 3rd wmk Roo (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98)	Sold for \$250
k. "OS/NSW" on £1 3rd wmk bi-colour Roo (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98)	Sold for \$900
l. "OS/NSW" on £1 3rd wmk grey Roo (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98)	Sold for \$220
m. "VG" on £1 CofA wmk Roo (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98)	Sold for \$220
n. "VG" on £2 CofA wmk Roo (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98)	Sold for \$400
o. QE 2d and 31/2d both perf "VG" + 2/- Flower with "O.H.M.S./V.G." h/s All tied to part-cover by "Licola" cds. Provisional Regist. Label (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98)	Sold for \$ 75
p. "W/A" coll. incl. Roos 2 1/2 d 2nd wmk (MUH), CofA 5/-, 10/-, £1, etc. (Macray Watson auction, Nov 98)	Sold for \$500
q. D&J Fowler perfin on KGV 1d red die III (Australian Stamp & Coin Co. sale Jan 99)	\$ 25
r. Vacuum Oil Co perfin on KGV 1d red die III (Australian Stamp & Coin Co. sale Jan 99)	\$ 25
s. GB Police Courts revenues, 4 vals. Perfinned. (David Holmes (NZ) sale Jan 99)	NZ \$ 30
t. NZ 4d yellow KEVII perf "BGEC" (David Holmes (NZ) sale Jan 99)	NZ \$ 35
u. NZ "SSE" on 1d blue fiscal (David Holmes (NZ) sale Jan 99)	NZ \$ 20
v. NZ 1934 Health ("Crusader") perf "VOCO"(David Holmes (NZ) sale Jan 99)	NZ \$ 25
w. 1941 NZ OHMS long env. with GB 1/-(x2) & 2/6 KGV perf "NZ" (David Holmes (NZ) sale Jan 99)	NZ \$ 75