

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

No. 45 April 1999

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EDITORS COMMENT

It is probably very safe to state that the usage of perfins in a country reflects the economic history of that country. The number, size and type of organisations will be important in how many perfins were used.

It is probably easiest to start by looking at the lower end of the scale first. Most small countries that were once colonies have a few perfin users, most usually those of large 'multinational' companies. For example most French colonies have the CL perfins of Credit Lyonnais. There were probably not too many other reasonably sized companies in many of these colonies. The more 'developed' colonies have a larger number of 'indigenous' perfins. Algeria for example has at least 40 different perfin users many of which were used by local companies. This pattern is repeated in the smaller British colonies.

In Europe the number of perfin users seems to roughly correspond to the size of the economy of the country. Germany as expected has the largest number of perfin users on continental Europe. Britain though has a very much larger number of perfin users. Part of this may be due to perfins being introduced here first. Another factor might be a large number of small to medium sized companies and organisations often dealing with the rest of the 'empire' and hence using a large amount of postage. However I suspect that the main reason is the way that companies could obtain their perfins. In Britain an organisation could either purchase their own perforator or purchase perfinned stamps from one of a number of companies. Often the same letters/pattern was used by a number of companies. This type of arrangement was probably most suitable for smaller organisations. In most of the other European countries we do not hear about this type of arrangement.

The Australian situation to some extent backs this idea up. The majority of Australian states perfins are from Victoria where we know that organisations could buy perfinned stamps rather than have to buy a perforator. Any comments?

NEW MEMBERS

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

- #178 George McGowan, Troy, NY, USA
 - #179 BNAPS, Perfin Study Group
 - #180 D. Coath, Research, Victoria
 - #181 Gavin Smith, Romsey, Victoria
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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for 1999/2000 are due in July 1999. As the Club finances are healthy there has been no need to increase subscriptions.

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).

New Zealand members may send payments (NZ\$11) to Richard Smolnicki, 278 Dowse Drive, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt, New Zealand. All other members please send payment to the Treasurer, Peter Wood, 9 Roslyn Street, Mt Martha, Victoria 3934 AUSTRALIA.

AUSTRALIA 99

It was very pleasing to have 18 members and 1 visitor attend the Club meeting at the Exhibition in Melbourne on Saturday 20 March 1999, particularly as this included several of our recent new members. In the absence of our President, the Secretary took the Chair. The Treasurer presented a Statement of accounts which showed the Club to be in a sound financial position. A motion was carried unanimously by those present that a sum of \$1000 should be added to our Term Deposit from the general account.

The Club had donated \$100 to the Exhibition committee for allocation to a prize and with this the committee had purchased "Lino Cut of Grevillea" by Vida Pearsey, a very handsome item. It was awarded to a UK exhibitor for his Social Philately exhibit "Aspects of Social History with Mails of the Victorian Goldfields 1851 - 1900".

The Secretary hopes that all members like the souvenir cover from Australia 99 - with the "bonus" of the outer cover also having a Club perfin cancelled with the Exhibition postmark. The ladies at the Australia Post stand were very helpful in this regard. Your Secretary gained much

curious attention while perforating the 150 stamps for the outer covers as he was in the rather long queue for the "A99" perfin (see separate item).

Kevin Bliss reported that in the previous week there had been a very successful Perfins night at the Essendon/Broadmeadows Philatelic Society, with a most interesting display by Peter Wood.

"A99" PERFIN

John Mathews



One of the special features of the Australia 99 Exhibition in Melbourne was a machine to perforate the imperforate Navigator souvenir mini-sheets, and it also incorporated the perforated pattern "A99" in the surrounds of the mini-sheets. Although about tenth person through the door on the Saturday morning, in the time that it took to purchase a couple of the sheets and the stamps for despatching the Club souvenir covers, your Secretary had a 40 minute wait in the line for the "A99" perfin. However this time was well spent - perforating the 150 stamps just purchased!

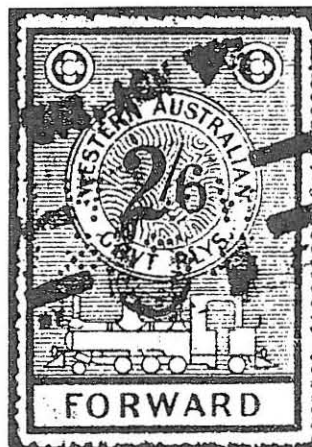
The machine had two punch heads, one for each mini-sheet and each had the "A99" pattern as well. It incorporated automatic feed, etc, and was operated by air pressure. The latter proved to be a problem right from the start and one of the perforating heads had to be coaxed with a rubber mallet to supplement the poor air pressure! At one stage there was some doubt that the machine would last long enough to achieve the limit of 15,000 sheets at the Exhibition, but at least that may have given the mail order customers a chance to get some. Otherwise the whole 15,000 could easily have been done at the Exhibition, even with a limit of two per customer at a time. It could be the shortest-lived perforator in history.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT

One of our members has "several thousand" German perfins for sale and is seeking expressions of interest in this material. No indication has been given at this stage of the level of duplication of patterns. Interested collectors are invited to inform the Secretary, including quantity sought, e.g. "the lot", 100 (500, etc) different patterns, etc.

SELDOM SEEN

The item illustrated came up at auction during February and is of interest because only a few perfins are known on railway parcel stamps. The stamp is the 2/6 purple on buff WA railway stamp of the first issue. The perfin is WS&CO.1 of William Sandover and Company, and there are almost two complete strikes of this pattern from the 4-head die. It is believed to have sold for well over the \$20 estimate.



WANTED

Material is needed for the NZ circuit books. Interests of the NZ circuit members are mainly in NZ and GB material. Please contact Ray Bennett, the NZ circuit manager, or the Secretary if you wish to sell suitable material.

EARLIEST AMERICAN PERFIN COVER

John Amiet has forwarded an article from the January 26, 1998, edition of "Linn's Stamp News" in which is illustrated the earliest known US cover with a perfin. The cover is dated May 26, 1908. The sender is B. F. Cummins Co. of Chicago who manufactured perforators, and the stamp has the pattern "BFC/CO". The addressee is Brand Bearing Co. of Chicago - does anyone know if they acquired and used a perforator?

NEW EDITION OF CANADIAN OFFICIALS CATALOGUE

Tony Nobilo has advised that a 10th edition of Wrigley's "The Catalogue and Guidebook of Canadian Official Stamps" is now available from:
J&M Publishing Co Ltd., 161 West 2nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1P3, CANADA

Cost is Can\$5, plus postage and packing.

NEW EDITION OF U.S. PERFINS CATALOGUE

John Amiet has sent an article from Linn's Stamp News of 26 October 1998 announcing the new revised "Catalogue of U.S. Perfins", edited by John M. Randall and published by the Perfins Club. The catalogue has 820 pages on stiff paper suitable for use as album pages. The catalogue is available in punched loose-leaf format with card covers from the Perfins Club Inc., Catalog Distribution Center, 301 S. Hine Ave., Waukesha, WI, USA 53188-4947. Price is US\$50 to members and US\$57.50 to non-members of the (US) Perfins Club.

COMMONWEALTH 'OS' HIGH VALUE USAGE

Alan Andrews wrote recently related to usage of £1 and £2 Kangaroo issues with the large Commonwealth 'OS' perfins issued in 1913. These issues are available in mint and CTO condition.

Are genuinely postally used copies in existence and who was using them? Alan's theory is that the most likely user would have been the Commonwealth Bank (established in 1913). They may have used such high values on registered post when sending significant sums of money through the post.

Can anyone confirm the existence of postally used copies or provide information about who used them and in what situations?

SOME NON-STAMP PERFORATORS

Perforations have been applied to many types of objects other than stamps. Joseph Sloper original perforating business included such things as cheque perforators, and perforators for railway tickets, and later were even extended to lampshades, and hat bands.

Arthur Taylor has submitted some interesting items with perforations. Firstly, there is a range of betting tickets for horse race meetings. The address of the "Horserace Totalisator Board" was at one time in London, EC4, the same general area as Sloper's city office. The style of numerals on the perforator was similar to, but probably not uniquely so, that of Sloper's.

The other item is of an Australian Government perforator used by the Department of Health as the authorisation on National Health Service prescription forms. The pattern of the perforator consists of the Department's logo (a stylised map of Australia with the letter "h" in the centre, and with the letters "D.O.H" underneath.

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HORSE RACE TOTALISATOR BOARD
RACECOURSE DIVISION, TOTE HOUSE
74 UPPER RICHMOND ROAD, LONDON
SW15 2SU

PLACE-PO

SERIAL No. K 732650

ENTER YOUR SELECTIONS

15

5

8

18

SELECT A PLACED HORSE IN EACH OF THE SIX RACES

ISSUED SUBJECT TO TOTALISATOR RULES GOVERNING THIS POOL

C
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E

KEEP THIS COPY

ALWAYS RETAIN THIS TICKET UNTIL DIVIDEND IS DECLARED. VALID DAY OF ISSUE ONLY.

50p

DAILY DOUBLE

50p

8

IF THE HORSE No. PERFORATED BELOW IS THE WINNER, EXCHANGE THIS TICKET PRIOR TO THE ADVERTISED TIME OF THE NEXT APPOINTED RACE

CODE	RACE	HORSE
W	OURD	3-05

50p

Forecast

50p 15

ISSUED SUBJECT TO RULES OF THE HORSE RACE TOTALISATOR BOARD

CODE	RACE	COMBINATION
50p	WOURD 3	05 04

TOTE HOUSE 3-12 NEW BRIDGE ST., LONDON EC4P 4JE

tote

F 076984 50p

ISSUED SUBJECT TO TOTALISATOR RULES GOVERNING THIS POOL

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ALWAYS RETAIN THIS TICKET UNTIL DIVIDEND IS DECLARED. VALID DAY OF ISSUE ONLY.

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INSURANCE GROUPS - SHARED PERFORATORS John Mathews

Many members will have seen items associated with insurance companies where the perfin does not obviously "agree" with an identity on, say, the cancelling cachet of the company. For example, in the recent Club auction, there were a couple of covers with the return address of The Australian Alliance Assurance Company Limited, Melbourne, and a stamp bearing the perfin LL.2 of the London and Lancashire Insurance Company.

Now, in a circuit book, John Amiet offers an interesting item in the form of an insurance renewal certificate for the "Royal Exchange - Atlas Group", Sydney. The name of the issuing company is typed in as Atlas Assurance Co. Ltd., and the duty stamp has the oval cachet of that company dated 6 OCT 1964. But the duty stamp has the perfin REA.1. Among the individual companies listed in the Group on the receipt are Royal Exchange Assurance, Atlas Assurance Co. Ltd., The State Assurance Co. Ltd., and British Equitable Assurance Co. Ltd.

The State Assurance Co. Ltd. had their own perforator, SAC.1, at least briefly in 1966.

In addition, the pattern REA.2 appears to be a modification of BEA.1 of British Equitable Assurance Co. Ltd. I consider the modification in this direction because the "B" was well formed, whereas the "R" is of a slightly unusual shape. Members may have some dated copies of these which could confirm this. This modification may have been done when British Equitable joined the Group and the powers that be in Royal Exchange decided the Group should have a perforator and took advantage of the closeness of the letter combinations.

FINNISH PERFINS

In the February 1998 edition of "The Finnish Philatelist", there is an article on Finnish perfins. It reports that out of a total of nearly 8000 Finnish perfins surveyed, there were only 9 patterns with numbers of each ranging from 0.2 percent to 41 percent of the total number seen. These were "J.G.W." (0.2), "TKT" (1.0), "V" (1.0), "V.E." (2.9), "N" (6.8), "FORD" (7.5), "F&CO" (7.5), "K.B." (7.8), "S." (24.0) and "ASEA" (41.0). Usage ranged from the 1890s to the 1940s.

A SLOPER DATE PERFORATOR

Colin Clark Hutchison, from Scotland, has sent photocopies of a Baggage Insurance Certificate of Thomas Cook and Sons with two perfins, one of the company name "COOK'S / TOURS" and the other a date perforator typical of the many produced by Joseph Sloper and Co. The latter is through the portion of the certificate on which a New South Wales 8d Duty Stamp is affixed, resulting in some of the holes being through the stamp. Some members may have loose stamps with part of such a pattern. The date perforator pattern is for Cook's Sydney, Australia, office and is dated 9 September 1933.

CUMMINS PERFORATOR COMPANY

As part of his recent move back to Queensland, John Amiet had a "clean-out" and forwarded come 30-year-old cuttings from stamp magazines to the Secretary for the Club library. Many of the articles centred on identities of perfins and histories of user companies. A 1969 article gave a detailed description of the Cummins Perforator Company of Chicago and its popular "No. 52" model perforator.

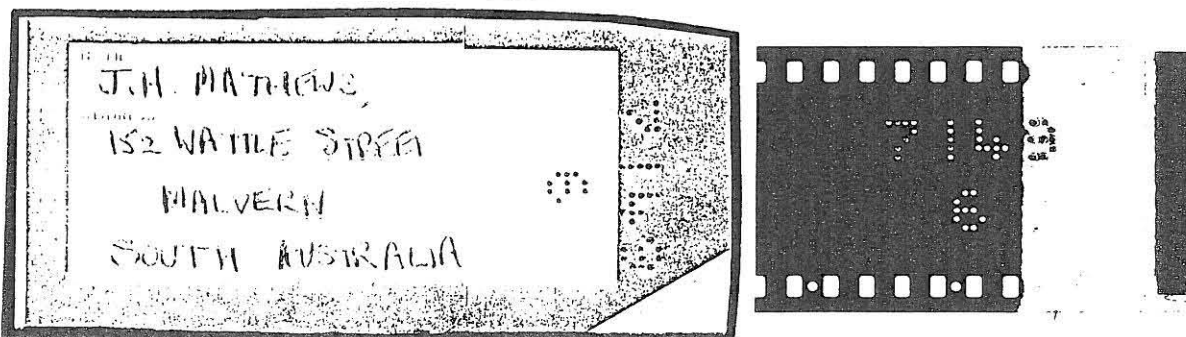
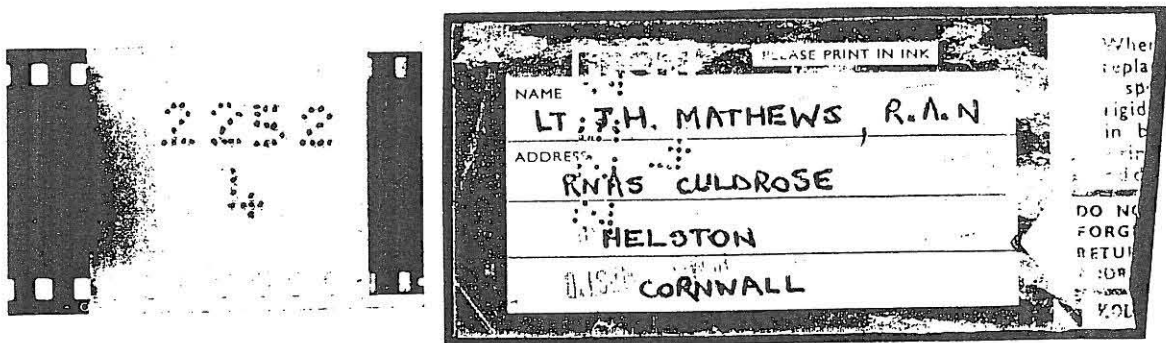
This hand-operated model had 5 perforating dies, taking a half-sheet of the then current issue stamps, these being fed in from the side along a tray so that a half-row of 5 were perforated with one action.

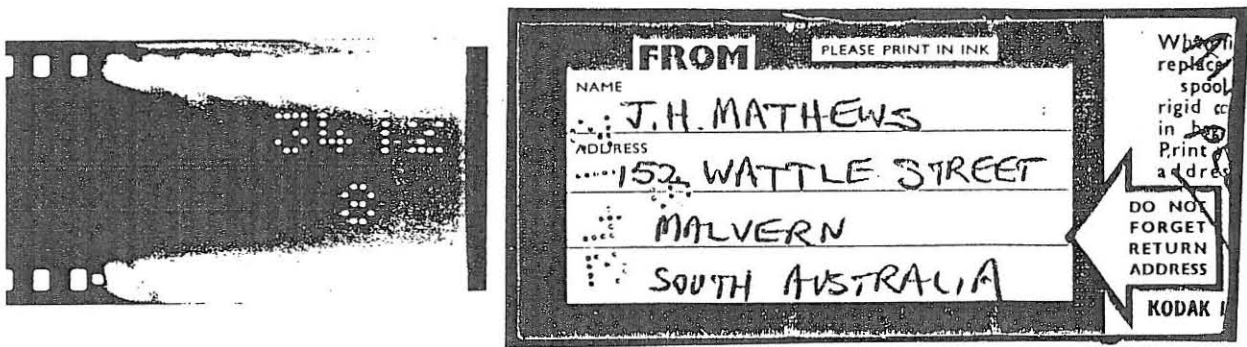
The capacity of this machine was such that it was recommended that for 2-letter patterns up to 4 thicknesses could be done at one time, 3 sheets for 3-letter combinations and 2 sheets for 4-letter patterns. Overloading the machine was stated to cause broken pins and consequently missing holes. Failure to keep dies clean could result in ragged holes or blind holes.

It was observed that the meter franking machines had made inroads into the use of perforating machines for stamps, but that other types of machines were still in demand for cancelling cheques and similar documents such as the share transfer receipts.

THINGS YOU FIND WHEN YOU ARE NOT LOOKING FOR THEM! John Mathews

When I wrote the article about the Kodak numeral punctures a few issues ago, I looked everywhere in my "filing" system (so I thought) for the ends of the films from which my slides of 34 years ago were produced, but to no avail. They were not with the boxes of slides themselves. Now while doing some enforced tidying up of my boxes of memorabilia, I have found them together with the address tags with the matching numbers! They are reproduced below for the benefit of the curious who may not have seen such items before.





HOUSING PERFIN #5 David Fortune

I use the small cellophane envelopes that you can buy cheaply from telephone card dealers, normally used to store single telephone cards. A light card, guillotined to fit into the envelope is inserted. Different coloured cards are used for different countries.

I display one perfin, face down to show the design and put other copies, if obtained face up in the same envelope.

At the top of the card I have some form of title(left) and the catalogue number (right). My intention is to also write other details, such as a description of the pattern (no. of holes, height) on the front of the card and details of the firm on the back.

One great advantage of this system when the cards are in order in a wooden box is their accessibility. Any firm can be quickly accessed. New cards can be slotted in without reshuffling.

Double strikes etc could be put on a different coloured card.



OS ON KGV OVERPRINTS David Andersen

According to the Australian Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue the 2d on 1 1/2d KGV small multi wmk issue perforated 'OS' were used by State not (Federal) Government Departments. No mention is made of the 5d on 4 1/2d issue perf 'OS'. Unfortunately no further details are provided.

Doubt about the status of the 2d on 1 1/2d issues was expressed in the column "Our Commonwealth Corner" in the Australian Stamp Monthly September 1943 p.259.

"Recently we were shown some stamps which had been purchased by the well-known dealers, Arnold Wheeler & Co. of Melbourne.

These stamps were part of a large parcel purchased by the firm. The purchasers were struck by the extraordinary number of stamps which were double perforated, and it was found that stamps from the 1 1/2d Mullett steel plates which had been surcharged (two pence) were also perforated O.S. Such an item does not exist except as a forgery."

The following month the forgery status was changed.

"Last month we wrote in regard to forgeries, that stamps from the Mullett steel plates three halfpence surcharged two pence were forgeries".

Sydney's well-known C of A specialist, Mr C Ashworth-Spratt, has upset this by sending us a portion of the envelope, on which is affixed two genuine specimens of this stamp. The envelope was an official one, and from the Office of the Registrar of Births".

It has usually been assumed that this note indicates usage by the NSW Registrar of Births but this may be incorrect.

In the PCNZA 1990 KGV survey 5 copies of the 2d on 1 1/2d and 1 copy of the 5d on 4 1/2d with the 'OS' perfin were reported, one of which had a Melbourne postmark.

Further research has been a little hampered by the lack of available copies. However copies were recently advertised in a price list in the April 99 issue of Australasian Stamps at the following prices:

2d on 1 1/2d	MUH \$150	MLH \$70	Used \$35
5d on 4 1/2d		MLH\$300	Used \$100

Are both of the issues available both mint and used as suggested by this listing? Does anyone have copies with readable postmarks to help work out who used these items? or when they were used?

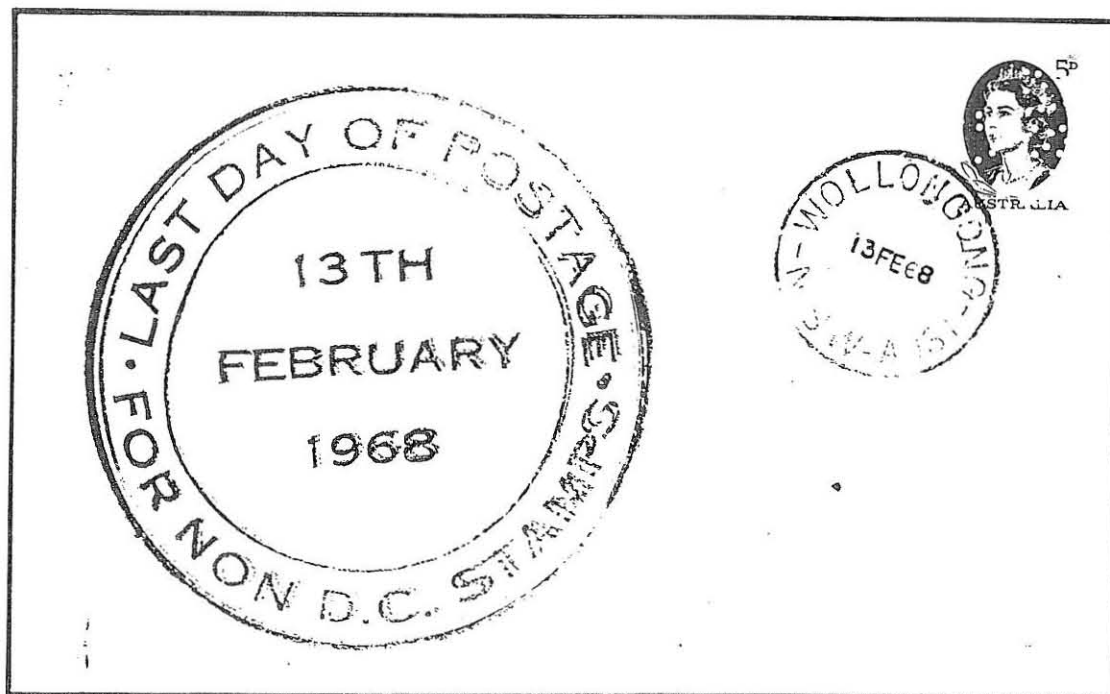
AUCTION WATCH

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

	Est.
a. "SU" perfin, unlisted in "CPA", on 2d Queensland revenue (Jimbo's Direct Sale, Dec 98)	\$15
b. 33 used Roos with range of private perfins sold for (Tasmanian Stamp Auctions Sale, Feb 99)	\$17
c. 1d Roo perf "PG/M", used sold for (Tasmanian Stamp Auctions Sale, Feb 99)	\$ 7
d. "BNZ" on 1883 GB QV 10/-, both shades of ultramarine and pale ultramarine (Stirling & Co Auction, Mar 99)	NZ \$200
e. 1892 1/2d grey QV perf "GSB". MUH (Status International Auction, Apr 99)	\$70

LAST DAY USE FOR PREDECIMAL STAMPS

The cover below was prepared for philatelic purposes. Was the originator a keen perfin collector as they used a 5d red QEII issue with the G/NSW perfin?



CORRECTION- DANZIG PERFINS HELP WANTED (SPPB no.44)

Willem Smetsers email address was listed incorrectly.

The correct email address is: himalaya-nl@geocities.com. Willem will be very pleased to hear from members with additional information about Danzig perfins.

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION COVER

The cover below shows an interesting usage by the New Zealand High Commission of the 'NZ' perfin on British stamps. The cover is postmarked London 18 SEP 1944.

