SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN No. 46 July 1999

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EDITORS COMMENT

I have no doubt that the A99 perfin used on the Navigator minisheets could become quite controversial. Some people will feel that these should be included in 'Commercial Perfins of Australia' and others will certainly shy away from the speculation and commercialism involved in the marketing of this material. Regardless of the arguments for and against these items collectors always have the option of collecting this material or not.

It is possible that a few people purchasing the Navigator A99 minisheets may decide to expand their collection to include other exhibition perfins. There have been quite a range of perfins used at exhibitions worldwide that could form the basis of a collection. While most of these are comparatively inexpensive a number are somewhat more difficult to obtain such as the French EIPA30 perfin. One could expand somewhat to include 'philatelic perfins' in general. such as those used by perfin clubs (PS, PC/NZA, SEP/S), other philatelic organisations (PHILAS) and the many patterns used by individuals. Many of these 'philatelic perfins' are readily available and very inexpensive.

While some may avoid such material as being philatelically inspired, which it most certainly is, a quite interesting collection could be put together in time.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

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

#182 Martin Taylor, Leicestershire, UK

#183 Alan Craig, Hamilton, NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS

Please note that New Zealand members can make subscription payments to Richard Smolnicki. All others please send payments to Peter Wood. Their addresses are on the front page of the bulletin.

"A99" PERFIN AND THE CATALOGUE John Mathews

I have had several members write to me, or phone me, about the navigator sheetlets with the "A99" and associated stamp perforation pattern in positions which were not intended by Australia Post. As the perforating of these at the exhibition was mainly on a self-help basis, it is quite possible that many such "freaks" were produced, either accidentally or deliberately. David Maiden of Australia Post has already said in the philatelic press that these mis-perforated items have no status with Australia Post.

As the "A99" part of the pattern was designed to be in the surrounds of the sheetlet and not in any of the stamp images, I feel it will be appropriate NOT to include the "A99" pattern in any edition of "Commercial Perfins of Australia".

A99 PERFIN 'FOR THE RECORD' David Andersen

In the April Bulletin mention was made of the A99 'perfin' used on Navigator souvenir minisheets at the Australia 99 exhibition in Melbourne. In the last couple of months a significant amount of additional information has been published about these items and their likely market value. While this will not be new to Australian members others may find it of some interest.

Australia Post produced two minisheets each with three 45c stamps copying the design of three of the original Navigator stamps issued in the 1960's. These minisheets were available with the stamps perforated and also imperf. In addition 15,000 sets were set aside to be punctured at the Australia 99 exhibition on a special machine. In addition to the stamp perforations this machine punched the A99 perfin in the minisheet. David Maiden, the head of Australia Post Philatelic, is reported as stating that around 11,000 sets were purchased at the exhibition and the remaining 4,000 sets were available to mail order customers, all at a maximum of 2 per customer.

As such these would have been an interesting exhibition related item that would be of interest to many collectors including those interested in perfins. However interest in these items is somewhat greater due to two factors. The stamp perforations on one of the minisheets is different to that on the normal perforated minisheets and numbers of perforating varieties were produced.

The stamp perforations on the 'blue' minisheet with the 45c Tasman, 45c Cook and 45c Flinders stamps matched the normal perforated Navigator minisheets namely 14.5×14 . However the stamp perforations on the 'brown' minisheet with the 45c Dampier, 45c Bass and 45c Parker were 15.2×14.7 , quite a significant difference from 14.5×14 . Thus there are only 15,000 copies of the stamps on the brown minisheet (with the A99 perfin) with this perforation type.

It has been claimed that this makes these issues the scarcest Australian decimal stamps and similar types of hyperbole abound. Local prices for the pair of minisheets with the A99 perfin are at least A\$75 and can be significantly higher particularly on US internet sites. Regardless of what price level these items establish after the first run of speculation comes to an end it is certain that many collectors worldwide will want to add these perforation varieties to their collections. So much for the normal A99 perfin minisheets.

A range of perforating varieties are starting to appear on the market. These were probably produced on the first day of the exhibition either by collectors or Australia Post/Sprintpack staff. There has been some controversy about whether these items were produced by Sprintpack staff on hand at the exhibition therefore making these mis-perforated varieties official issues. Certainly there was no intention by Australia Post to produce such items and when it was noticed that such irregular items were being produced the 'security' was improved.

Included in the range of items produced are sheets perforated upside down, sheets perforated from the gum side, sheets perforated with the wrong die and combinations thereof. Some of the normal perforated minisheets without the A99 perfin were apparently put through the perforating machine upside down so you could have the normal and 'A99' perforations/perfin on the one sheet. A large array of possibilities.

In addition to the intentional varieties were those produced by the problems with the machine itself. Double, triple, diagonal and partly perforated sheets are reported. Quite a few of the minisheets encountered have some creasing due to problems with the perforation process.

Prices for some of the intentional varieties are quite significant. The following description was taken from a Michael Eastick Postal Bid Sale

'Australia 99 Navigator minisheets, the standard issue perforated sheets but in this case they have the A99 perforations (only able to be hand perforated at the show) applied INVERTED, extremely scarce and a true modern rarity Reserve A\$600.'

Demand for these minisheets will probably be primarily from 'non perfin' collectors.

WANTED

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

SELDOM SEEN

A couple of items seen in circuit books recently: EFLD.1 on 1/- black Victoria Centenary. VOCO.10 on 1/- black Victoria Centenary. GDCOA.1 on 9d purple NSW Sesqui-centenary.

"CANCELLED" PUNCTURE

A Victorian Stamp Duty stamp (5/-) has been seen with the "CANCELLED" puncture, diagonally as is usual. This item also has a manuscript date of October 1909, and a partial cachet showing "LAND OFF....". These punctures rarely are complete within the stamp edges and are believed to have been applied after the stamp was affixed to a document. Are there any other examples showing other Departmental users?

A PERFIN WITH MILITARY SERVICE ?

David Richards has submitted two items, found among a collection of postmarks, which show an interesting situation. Both items have a 1d purple-brown Queen (the present Queen Mother) (ASC 221 / SG 203) perfinned with K.3, which is recorded used in the Brisbane office of Kodak Ltd. from 1929 to 1953.

However, the postmarks, which are complete and clear circular strikes, are respectively "FIELD P.O. / 18 JY 45 / 0139" and "AUST F.P.O. / 25JY45 / 167".

David says that the "Field P.O. 0139" handstamp was used at the A.P.O. Jacquinot Bay, New Britain, where there was an airstrip and postal facilities for up to 6 liberty ships. This postmarker was also used by RAAF, RNZAF, and RAN personnel.

The "Aust F.P.O. 167" handstamp was used by 11 Brigade who were resting after heavy fighting on Soraken Peninsula, Bougainville.

The dates of these strikes are only a week apart, and New Britain is about 200 miles from Bougainville. So how did these perfins come to be used in those locations? Any theories submitted to the Secretary or Editor will be most welcome.

. AUSTRALIA 99 AWARDS

Congratulations to the following members who gained awards at Australia 99 for their (non-perfin) displays:

Robert Samuel (Gold)

Dave Elsmore (Large Vermeil)

Richard Peck (Vermeil)

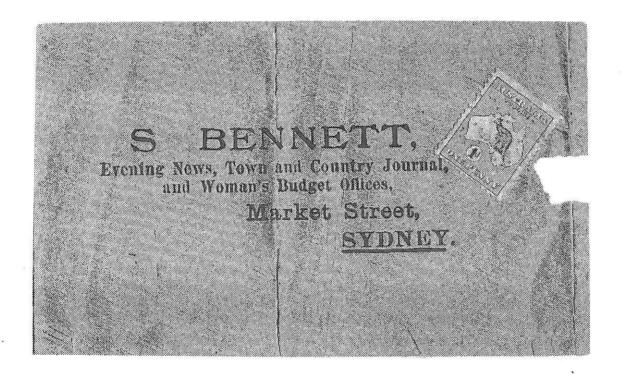
Dingle Smith (Large Silver)

Ken Moore (Silver)

and apologies to any others whose awards are not known.

SB.5 ON COVER - A REVISED IDENTITY?

John Fordham has shown a cover which throws considerable doubt on the previously reported identity of the user of SB.5. The stamp has not been cancelled and is not tied to the coverunfortunate in that it is inconclusive as to when the stamp was affixed. However, this circumstance suggests that the stamped envelope was intended as a "reply-paid" envelope, and this is further suggested by the fold in the envelope as if it had been enclosed in another envelope of the same size. Also the address is pre-printed which is consistent with it being intended for a reply to the original sender.



If this is the case, then it would seem that "SB" stands for "S. Bennett" !! Mr Bennett's address in Market Street, Sydney, is just around the corner from the premises of Sargood Brothers who were in York Street, so any postmarks on these perfins would not help resolve the identity. Does anyone have a proving item for SB.5 showing Sargood Brothers as the user?

But the story of "S. Bennett" has a twist to it. A check of the Sands & MacDougall's Sydney Directories from 1905 (when SB.5 was first used) to 1919 reveals that the "Evening News", etc, was published by Christopher Bennett of 49 Market Street "for the trustees of the Will of the late Samuel Bennett"! In the directory for 1927 (the last known usage of SB.5), the proprietor of these publications is listed as "S. Bennett Ltd." in Castlereagh Street and Elizabeth Street, Sydney.

In hindsight, it is observed that the period of usage of SB.5 (1908 - 1927) overlaps with that of SB.1 in New South Wales (1906 - 1936), so these two perfins may have indeed been used by two different firms. (Comment: John Mathews still has only found 11 3/4 of the 12 patterns of the SB.5 perforator - please check for a "B" with several millimetres of white space to the right, most likely on a NSW State stamp.)

NEW AUSTRALIAN PERFIN IDENTITY COMES FROM USA

In the May 1999 edition of the US Perfins Club Bulletin, Joe Coulbourne (also a member of PCNZA) reports a 2 October 1940 "California Clipper" cover from Sydney to the USA with censor seal, and with 6 stamps of the small zoological series (2 x 1/- lyrebird, 4 x 6d Kookaburra) perfinned M.7. Not only does this extend the previous known range of usage of this perfin, but the cover also had the identity of the user, previously unknown.

The user is overprinted as Mitsui & Co. Limited on a cover of Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd, 23-25 Macquarie Place, Sydney, NSW (PO Box 1478 DD, GPO Sydney). From Sands & MacDougall's Sydney Directories, Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd were importers of silk, cotton, jute, timber and chemicals, and exporters of wheat, wool, coal, metal, and agricultural and pastoral products. They were also listed under that name in the Sydney telephone directory up to the May 1940 edition. In the November 1940 edition, the company name (at the same address) is listed as Mitsui & Co Ltd. They were last listed in the May 1942 edition and did not appear in the February 1943 edition.

CATALOGUES AVAILABLE

In the June 1999 edition of the GB Perfin Society Bulletin, Willem Smetzers of The Netherlands (also a member of PCNZA) advises that the following catalogues are available from Perfin Club Nederland, P.O. Box 3052, 5003 DB Tilburg, The Netherlands:

Catalogue	Price
	(Netherlands currency)
General catalogue of The Netherlands [1](1991)	40.00 + 15.00 postage
General catalogue of Italy [1](1995)	25.00 + 10.00 postage
Perfins of Greece & Crete (1997) - in English	20.00 + 6.00 postage
General catalogue of Belgium [1]	35.00 + 20.00 postage
Levant, Constantinople, Turkey (foreign offices) (1997) -	
in English	20.00 + 6.00 postage
Perfins of Czechoslovakia, incl. Additions (Maxa)	25.00 + 10.00 postage
Perfins of Slovakia (1997) [1]	20.00 + 6.00 postage
Perfins of Romania, L. Eros (1996)	15.00 + 6.00 postage
General catalogue of Switzerland [1]	46.50 + 10.00 postage

[1] Introduction in English available.

Also announced in this GB Bulletin is an Egyptian Perfin Catalogue at 8 pounds Sterling, plus postage and packaging. It is available from Mr Robin Bertram, FRPS, 11 Bishop's Way, Buckden, Huntingdon, CAMBS, ENGLAND PE18 9TZ.

SWALLOW & ARIELL LTD (S&A.1 and S&A.2). John Mathews

Thomas Swallow, the founder of this firm, was born in Reading, Berkshire, UK in 1828. At the age of 20 years he joined the gold rush to California. He spent four years in America but did not make his fortune. Then there was news of a gold rush in Victoria.

He married in 1852 and brought his new Scottish wife to Australia on board the steamship 'City of Norfolk'. According to the ships manifest, Thomas Swallow's luggage consisted of '6 boxes and two flywheels" He also brought a number of colt revolvers which he subsequently disposed of at a profit. They arrived in Hobson's Bay (part of Port Phillip Bay adjacent to the mouth of the Yarra River, Melbourne) on September 1853.

He bought a horse and dray at Sandridge (now Port Melbourne) and he and his wife set off for the gold diggings at Ballarat. Their first child Eliza, was born there in a tent in 1854. After one year, they came back to Melbourne. Thomas Swallow was now 26 years of age.

Remembering the poor shipboard rations on his own voyage he decided to make ship's biscuits.. He had possibly been apprenticed to the famous Huntly and Palmer biscuit factory in Reading at an early age. In 1859 he took a partner into his firm, Thomas Harris Ariell of Geelong.

One of the early company travellers recalled in his memoirs:

"Before the railways were opened up, the goods all went up country by team, generally bullock teams. You would see the drays and wagons backed in, the bullocks lying down, chewing the cud, all along Elizabeth, Swanston and Flinders Streets...." This person also made deliveries on horseback to all the sailing ships at Sandridge and Williamstown piers. During the 1863 flood of the Yarra River, Swallow and Ariell shipped their biscuits by boat to Melbourne.

In 1860, Swallow and Ariell biscuits were taken on the ill-fated Burke & Wills expedition to cross Australia from south to north. It was later reported that "after a lapse of 12 months, they were perfectly good still, and yet 5 cwt [560 pounds or about 250 kg.] was lying unused at Menindie [one of the store depots used on the expedition]".

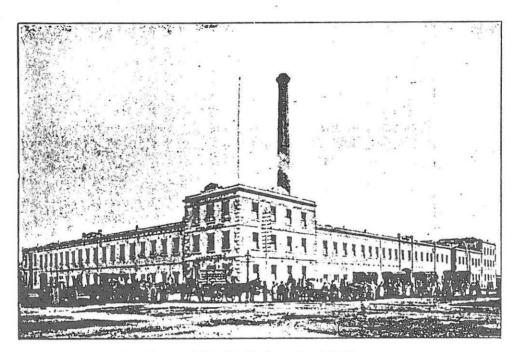
Thomas Swallow bought land in the Shepparton District (Northern Victoria) to cultivate dried fruits for his biscuits and cakes. Thomas Ariell died at the age of 43 years on 8 July 1875. The flags on the Sandbridge business and on several ships at piers were flown at half mast.

By 1877 Swallow and Ariell were making 150 types of products. Thomas Swallow's son-in-law, Frederick Thomas Derham joined the firm in 1879, the year after he married Swallow's second daughter Frances. (Frederick Derham also became a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria for the seat of Port Melbourne in 1883, and was appointed the Postmaster-General for Victoria in 1888).

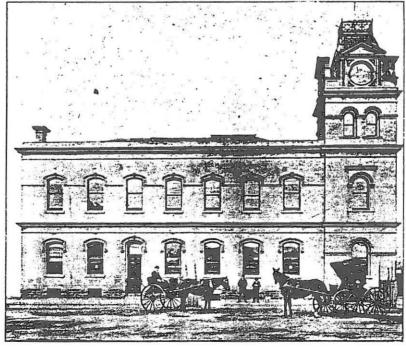
In 1880 the first telephone exchange opened in Melbourne. Subscriptions were £ 16 per year and there was no charge for calls. The telephone list for that year had 47 entries, of which Swallow and Ariell were call number 21.

By August 1883 Swallow had established his own "Hambledon Sugar Cane Plantation" to make

his business totally independent. Thomas Swallow and his wife retired to Cairns, Queensland on 12 June 1890, but he died on 26 June, a few days after his arrival. At the turn of the century, the firm employed 1606 people. Later milestones in the company's history were the replacement of steam power by electricity in 1911, and the replacement of solid fuel ovens by gas-fired ovens in 1924.



Swallow and Ariell's Factory, Port Melbourne.



Swallow and Ariell's Head Office Port Melbourne.

MEMORIES OF SARGOOD, GARDINER LTD. (Bryan Magee)

My career with the Melbourne firm of Sargood, Gardiner Ltd. began in January 1951, when at the tender age of thirteen I began my working career as mail boy, on a wage of six pounds thirteen shillings and sixpence per fortnight....

On clocking on at 9 a.m., my first duty was to obtain two tramways vouchers from the office, these vouchers being red in colour and printed on light card in perforated sheets of approximately 20. When handed to the tram conductor, they were exchanged for the normal one penny tram ticket. Armed with my vouchers, and carrying the world's largest Gladstone Bag, I boarded the Collins Street tram to the General Post Office on the corner of Elizabeth Street and Bourke Street, cleared the Company's mail box, called at the Registered Mail counter, and retraced my steps with, by now, the world's heaviest Gladstone Bag.

Once the mail was delivered to the office, my mail boy duties were temporarily suspended, and I was seconded to duties in the interstate dispatch section. At about 2.30 p.m., I would report to the mail boy's area, a large counter backed by A to Z mail slots. All mail was delivered to the GPO in alphabetical order by suburb. One of my tasks was to perforate all the stamps for the mail with the Company's perforator. Unfortunately, I only have vague memories of what the perforator looked like, not good enough for a sketch. I can remember that it was of fairly robust construction, probably cast iron, that it had a spoon-shaped operating lever, and as far as I can recall was a single head type.

It was my practice to fold a sheet of stamps lengthwise, concertina fashion, and I can remember using both hands and leaning all my (light) weight on the lever to complete the perforation so at least six, and probably eight, stamps were done at the same time.

Once perforated, the stamps were separated into vertical strips and a bundle of letters were taken from their pigeon-hole and placed on the counter. The strip of stamps was run over a wet sponge and affixed to the covers by holding the wet strip in the right hand, placing the top stamp on the next cover, holding it down with the left index finger and tearing it off.

At this time, Sargoods were the largest of the big three warehouses in Melbourne, together with D & W Murray Ltd. and Paterson, Laing and Bruce Pty Ltd., both situated close by in Flinders Lane. The business operated from a five-storey building at 61 Flinders Lane, and if my memory is correct, the basement was occupied by stores and inwards and outwards goods section, and the mezzanine floor (known as the entry room) held the City/Country/Interstate dispatch areas, staff canteen and an eight-girl typistes' pool responsible for typing up each day's invoices. On the ground floor were senior management offices, Manchester, furnishing and Haberdashery departments. Shirts, pyjamas and men's clothing were on the first floor and men's underwear, hats, ties, scarves and accessories on the second. The third floor was all millinery, while laces and ladies underwear was on the fourth. On the fifth floor were men's and ladies' footwear plus two production areas - men's clothing (sports coats and trousers) and ladies' millinery. (Bryan, are you sure you did not serve a time as a lift driver?? - jhm) All the men's clothing, shirts, pyjamas, etc., were produced under the "Top Dog" brand.

A system of three spiral chutes ran from the fifth floor to the mezzanine, this being a very simple

but efficient way of sending goods from any area to the dispatch section. For example, if in my latter days as a junior salesman in the footwear department, an order for six pairs of shoes was received from Perth, I would tie these together with string and drop them in the interstate dispatch chute, whence they would go to one of four packers to be suitably packed before a goods lift would take them to "outwards goods". Finally a company truck would take them to goods rail.

Sargoods were a very staid, even old-fashioned, company. All but the most junior were referred to as "Mr." and the typistes were always "Mrs" or "Miss". The company was also very loyal to the "old hands". I well remember two old gents well into their seventies who started at 10 a.m. and left at 3 p.m. to miss the peak-hour rush, and no thought of forced retirement.

The business was Australia-wide, with City, Suburban and Country travelling sales-people in Victoria, and representatives in Brisbane, Adelaide, Hobart and Perth. The Sydney office controlled their own team of travellers.

It is now some forty years since I left Sargoods and one of the memories which has stuck in my mind is the Indian hawkers, who came to the city 2 or 3 times a year on buying trips. They were brown-skinned, mostly jovial men in turbans, who fascinated a young Magee. They came from all over country Victoria, but I can only remember two names - Fati Ali and Lal Khan. Lal Khan would not be served by anyone else but myself. This infuriated my boss and made Lal my friend for life.

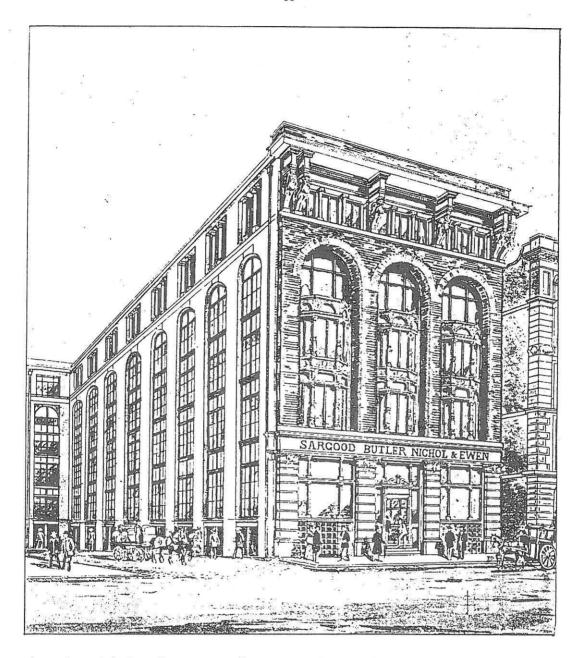
Note added by John Mathews

The perforator which Bryan used would have been SG.1. Was it because Bryan perforated "six and probably eight" at a time that this perforator was retired from duty in 1953?

Frederick James Sargood opened his first warehouse in Flinders Street, Melbourne, in 1851. The first branch of Sargood and Company was established the following year in the tent town of Bendigo in central Victoria where gold had recently been discovered.

By 1881, the company had expanded and was known as Sargood, Butler and Nichol when they started to perforate their stamps (SBN.1). This is the earliest known use of a stamp perforator in Victoria. In 1896 or 1897, the company appointed another partner (Ewen) and became Sargood, Butler, Nichol and Ewen (SBN&E.1 and SBN&E.2 in Melbourne and SBNE.1 in Sydney). In New Zealand the company was known as Sargood Son and Ewen and perforated their stamps with "SS&E". In 1902, the Australian company had establishments in London, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Kalgoorlie, Ballarat and Newcastle, while the New Zealand company had branches in Dunedin, Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Invercargill, Napier, Wanganui and New Plymouth.

In 1907, the company became Sargood Brothers and used the perforators SB.3 and SB.4 in Melbourne and SB.1, and SB.2 in Sydney. In 1927 the company merged with William Gardiner & Co.Ltd of Sydney to become Sargood, Gardiner Ltd. The merged company used perforator SG.2 and later SG.1 in Melbourne and SG.3 in Sydney. The latter looks as if it was made from the perforator SB.1, the "S" being distinctly identical in each pattern.



Sargood, Butler, Nichol, and Ewen's Melbourne warehouse, circa 1902. (from "The Cyclopedia of Victoria")

AUCTION WATCH

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

Est.

a. GAS.2 of Metropolitan Gas Co. on 1d green QV duty stamp on 1888 receipt of the company. (Jimbo's Direct Sale, Jun 99) 20

Tas 2d Pictorial perf 'A' on 1903 cover to Brisbane, and re-directed to Perth.
 (Tasmanian Stamp Auctions Sale, Apr 99) Sold for 105

	1041 and 11 UV for Victory and one occur of Liverna I I and an and Clabe Inc	
C		
	Co. in Brisbane with LLG perfin (Tasmanian Stamp Auctions Sale, Feb.	15
d	"Royal 100" perfin on RSPNZ Cent'ry m/s (Stirling & Co Auction, Mar 99)) NZ 60
e	1902 "W&T/LD" perfin on NZ 8d SSF (J. Mowbray Auction, Jun 99)	NZ 50
f	"BGEC" perfin on NZ 2d KEVII. (J. Mowbray Auction, Apr 99)	NZ 35
g	NSW Duty stamps, 18 values inc 30/-, 5, 10, 30 and 50 pounds all perf "EL	11
-	(Status International Auction, Apr 99)	Sold for 150+
h	Air mail cover Fremantle to Carnarvon, with 1d & 2d KGV perf "DJF"	
	(Robin Linke Auction, Apr 99)	Sold for 53
i	WA perfin covers - 2 x Intl. Harvester Co, 1 x D&J Fowler.	
	(Robin Linke Auction, Apr 99)	Sold for 62
j	"NZF" on NZ 1d 1st s/face with "Beecham's" adv. on reverse.	
-	(Stampland, Napier, sale, Jul 99)	NZ 10
k	"VOCO" on NZ 1929 Health (Stampland, Napier, sale, Jul 99)	NZ 10
1	"W&T/LD" on NZ 8d 1898 Pictorial (Stampland, Napier, sale, Jul 99)	NZ 10
n	. World accum. Of 560 perfins, mainly pre-1920 (NZ Stamp Auctions sale Ju	199) NZ 220
n		Section 1997 Section 1997
	(Launceston Phil. Soc sale Jun 99)	Sold for 15
	The state of the s	

AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNT as at 30 June 1999 (Australian currency)

Receipts		Expenditure	
Balance brought fwd 1.7.98	3603.95	Prep & despatch Bulletins	1225.25
Subs. [1]	1319.07	Bank & Govt charges	64.28
Bank interest	6.16	Exchange Branch	8681.50
Bulletin Sales	15.00	Auction 1/98	34.90
Exchange Branch	10520.65	Auction 2/98	1474.65
Auction 1/98	390.30	Postage & Stationery	151.71
Auction 2/98	1564.55	Miscellaneous [2]	1044.20
Misc. transfer from NZ a/c	500.00	Souvenir Cover	109.35
Souvenir Cover	112.00		
Interest Term Deposit	218.50		
Miscellaneous	182.00	Bank balance 30.6.1999	5646.34
Total	18432.18	Total	18432.18

Notes: [1] includes \$727.10 paid in advance or credit held.

[2] includes \$1000 transferred to Term Deposit.

P. A. WOOD Hon. Treasurer

NEW ZEALAND ACCOUNT as at 30 June 1999 (NZ currency)

Receipts		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Bank balance at 1.7.1998	334.90	Sales	107.65
Exchange circuit	299.03	Transfer to Australian a/c	608.05
Subscriptions	245.00	V EM	
Auction payments	145.20	# A	
Interest	3.22	Bank balance at 30.6.1999	311.65
Total	1027.35	Total	1027.35

Richard Smolnicki Hon. A/Treasurer