

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

## No. 47 October 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

Producing the last Bulletin for 1999 reminds one to consider the outlook for next year, Y2K. Many organisations are considering at this time if they are Y2K compliant. Fortunately this is unlikely to be a significant concern for the PCNZA. However there are a few possibilities and one concern on the horizon for 2000.

- the 50th South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is likely to be issued in 2000
- the membership number 200 may be assigned to a new member in 2000
- possible Club meetings at the Olympic Stamp Exhibition in Sydney and at Christchurch 2000
- a GST will be introduced for Australia in 2000 which may have some effect on prices in the shorter term particularly at auctions or from major stamp dealers.

So far I have not heard any plans for a 2000 perfin but considering the sellout success of the A99 sheetlets this year maybe Australia Post will oblige.

All the best for 2000.

David Andersen

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### NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new member since the previous issue:

#184 Thomas Mörkeberg, Denmark

CLUB MEETING AT PALPEX (New Zealand) Richard Smolnicki

Six NZ members from the PCNZA had an informal meeting at PALPEX stamp exhibition on Saturday 2nd October. It provided a way to meet other perfin collectors and to have a general discussion regarding the hobby. Unfortunately there was no perfin exhibit at this show.

The next informal meeting can be scheduled at the next major stamp exhibition, Christchurch 2000. Can members please let me know whether they are interested, and if so a date and time can be arranged and circulated. ( Richard's address can be found on the front page of the bulletin.)

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HELP WANTED

The New South Wales perfins "JH" are of particular interest as they are of the same style as the Victorian Service Punctures. Unfortunately, they do not yet have an established user identity. Recently Colin Clark Hutchison forwarded an example of JH.1 on a small piece, with the following letters visible:

" ....ETS  
.....Made"

Does anyone have any envelope with lettering which would match this? The "...ETS" could be from STREETS. Any extra information could aid identification, and should be forwarded to the Secretary.

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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.

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WANTED SECURITY OVERPRINTS ON AUSTRALIAN STATE DUTIES

Bryan Magee (2 Macquarie Road, Toorak, Victoria 3142) would like to obtain copies of the following types: A.M.P./SOCIETY/PERTH, COLES &/GARRARD/PTY LTD (in red), DAVID JONES/PERTH LTD., The Direct Publicity Company and NESCA. In addition he would also like to obtain any types not listed in the series of articles on these overprints, the first of which appears in this bulletin.

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SELDOM SEEN

From recent auction on the Internet:  
And from some circuit books:

IH.18 on One Pound Robes (thin paper)  
PAC.1 on 1/- black Vic Centenary  
PAC.1 on 10/- Robes

THE FIRST PERFINs OF HARRIS, SCARFE & CO LTD. (John Mathews)

In the current auction is a cover front of this company with a horizontal pair of stamps on which are both dies of HS&CO.1 used in the Perth office. As this is the first example of such a pair I had seen, it prompted me to look closely at the two dies for any noticeable differences. Some which are clear enough to be used for identifying the respective dies are:

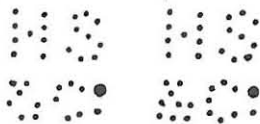
	<i>Left die</i>	<i>Right die</i>
6th pin of 'S'	Extends slightly to right of 1st pin	Almost under the 1st pin
Top 2 pins of ampersand	Point to top of 3rd pin of 'C'	Point to 2nd pin of 'C'
Top 3 pins of ampersand	Form equilateral triangle	Form skew triangle
3rd and 1st pins of 'C'	Point to middle of 'O'	Point to top of 'O'

In addition, 2 of the pins of the ampersand and one pin of the 'C' appear to have become broken rather early in the life of the perforator.

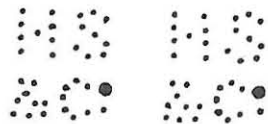
Furthermore, this pair of dies is quite distinct from the pair found on stamps used in the Adelaide office of the company. Identifying differences between the South Australian dies are:

	<i>Left die</i>	<i>Right die</i>
Top right pin of 'H'	Above lower pin	Slightly left of lower pin
Top 2 pins of ampersand of 'C'	Point to middle of 3rd pin	Point to top of 3rd pin
Middle 3 pins of ampersand	Almost straight line	Bend noticeably upwards
3rd and 1st pins of 'C'	Almost horizontal	Slope upwards
'vertical' 3 pins of 'C'	Definitely curved	Almost straight line
Pin under 'O'	Under left side of 'O'	Under right side of 'O'

Unfortunately, most of these differences refer to pins which were removed to form the patterns HS.3 and HS.4, thus making identification of the 4 dies difficult after this modification.



Dies of the Perth perforator



Dies of the Adelaide perforator

## CURRENT AUCTION

The first group of material from Derek Pocock's perfin collection is being offered in this auction - too much for one auction! Lots of covers and other interesting items.

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## WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF ... (John Mathews)

... for some perfin collectors, at least! How many of us have dreamed of stumbling across a horde of philatelic material tucked away in a forgotten corner of an old building, material which has not seen the light of day, nor the discerning eyes of collectors, for a generation or more? I have been advised recently of such an accumulation of Australian material on paper which appears to have remained unseen since it was put together about 80 years ago in Europe.

Earlier this year it appeared in an auction and was purchased by one of our European members. The material in total weighed about the same as your Secretary. After a massive task of soaking stamps off paper and sorting, the new owner has kindly forwarded a 14-page summary of the perfin material amongst it.

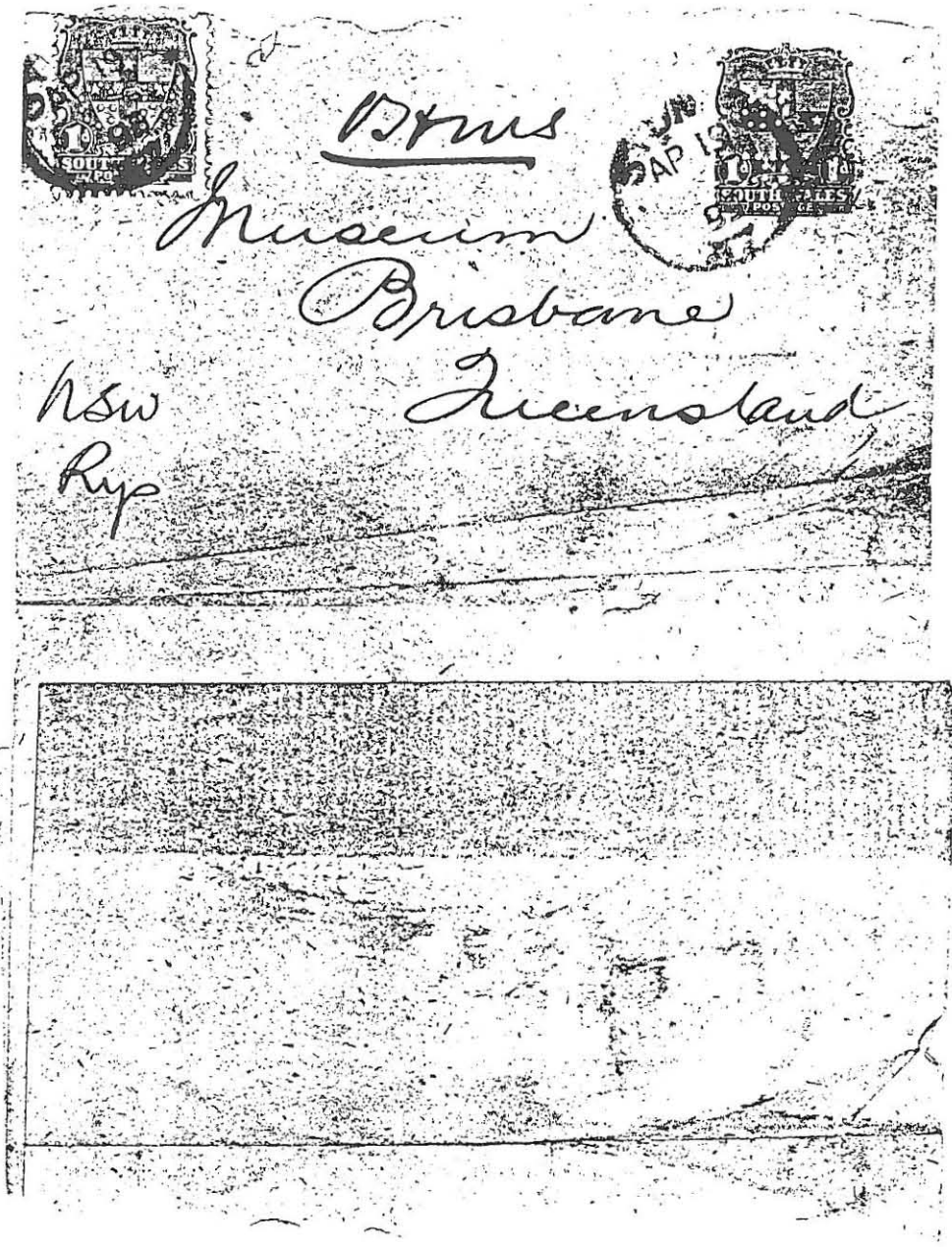
From the total of several thousand perfins (yes, several thousand!), the information included 49 new patterns of which 3 are completely new letter patterns, many extensions to dates of usage, and details of quantities of individual patterns which has resulted in the re-assessment of many rarity ratings. In addition, there were a further 30-plus patterns, not in the catalogue, which had also been reported by other members in recent years. The latest date on this perfin material is 1919.

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## PERFORATED POSTAL STATIONERY

Ray Bennett has let us know about a perforated item of postal stationery which was recently sold through one of his local auction houses. Although it has previously been reported that the New South Wales Government Railways had used perforated postal stationery, no details had been known, other than its use in 1907 and with pattern GR.2. This recently auctioned item is a plain wrapper with pre-printed 1d Shield image in which has been perforated the pattern GR.1. The letters "OHMS" have been added in manuscript, indicating that this was probably an isolated need to use such a wrapper by the railways department. There is an additional 1d Shield adhesive stamp, also perforated GR.1, affixed to pay the postage to an interstate address. It was used in 1899.




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"P.W" PERFIN (John Mathews)

Recently, one of these perfin appeared in a public auction under the heading "State Government Officials", described as being "very scarce" and with an estimate of \$25.

The origin of the myth about the user of this perfin being the New South Wales Public Works Department is not known, but it was probably based on the similarity to the "PWD" perfin used by the West Australian Public Works Department. The "Public Works" identity was shown in

Robson Lowe's catalogues in the early 1960s, and perhaps even earlier, and repeated in the mid-1980s in an article in a philatelic magazine. One of the co-authors of that article admitted to me that they had not checked the correctness of the information from such an acknowledged philatelic source as Robson Lowe.

David Andersen, in his 1987 publication "Australian Official Perfins", expresses strong doubt about "P.W" being an official puncture.

An early item in my own collection was a NSW stamp with a rubber stamped overprint / cancel reading "PERMEWAN" and a manuscript 1895 date. The identity "Permewan, Wright & Co Ltd" was given for PW.1 in "Commercial Perfins of Australia" in 1992. Recently, John Amiet showed me a NSW stamp fiscally used in 1905 with "P.W" perfin and a manuscript cancel "P W & Co L..". The perfin is also known on stamps with a wide range of postmarks from city, suburban and country areas of Victoria as well as New South Wales.

A couple of years ago, another "P.W" perfin was offered in an auction as "Public Works" and this prompted me to write a short article which appeared in a philatelic magazine (the only one in Australia at the time), presenting the evidence for Permewan, Wright & Co Ltd and against Public Works. Obviously, in view of the latest auction item, this article was missed by some collectors.

When I received my copy of this recent auction catalogue, I sent an e-mail message to the auction house pointing out the error in the description, and suggesting that it would be appropriate to withdraw the lot and to advise the vendor the reason for doing so. They acknowledged my message but without commenting on its contents.

Now I hear that this item sold for \$40!

The perfin is, in fact, rated "very common" and would normally be traded for up to 50 cents.

CAVEAT EMPTOR!

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MARCUS CLARK & CO. LTD. ("The Firm that Kept Faith")

The founder of this company, Henry Marcus Clark, was born in Alma Vale, Great Crosby, near Liverpool, England, in 1859. He was one of many who came from that nation of shopkeepers to expand the world of retailing in the early years of white settlement in Australia.

He began his early retail life as an apprenticed assistant at the age of 16 at a store known as Bon Marche in Liverpool. The apprenticeship fee paid by his father was fifty pounds, for which he was trained without pay for 12 months. When young Henry Marcus was 20, he decided to join his uncle, Frederick Leslie Clark, who had earlier migrated to Victoria. After weeks of searching for an opportunity which brought only disappointment and frustration, the young Clark went north, joining a drover friend who was taking a mob of sheep to Dubbo in New South Wales. After safe delivery of the sheep, the two young men turned their eyes to the goldfields near Parkes. The year was 1882. They had no luck there and so headed east to finish up at Hill End.

Here Henry Marcus worked for a time in a local store, and when this job came to an end, he set out again and eventually arrived in Parramatta, whose Aboriginal name is said to mean "where the eels lie down". This town in the 1880s had a busy and developing shopping centre between the railway line and the Parramatta River. Here Marcus got a job with the firm of Murray Brothers, but soon moved on to Newtown, nearer to the city of Sydney, where he became employed by John Kingsley, a draper, of King Street. In 1883, the newly-married Henry bought this drapery business.

Over the next few years, both the business and the family increased. The business employed a number of travellers who were to popularise Henry's plan of selling merchandise on "time-payment". Other stores were opened in Oxford Street, near Bondi Junction, and in Brown Street, Newtown. When business slowed in the 1893 Depression, Henry developed an even more comprehensive "pay as you use" plan and sent travellers out to country areas armed with samples. The idea was an instant success with the out-of-town customers, and the business flourished once more. By 1895, other stores had been opened in North Sydney and Newcastle. In 1896, he felt confident enough to open a store in Sydney itself, the Bon Marche company in George Street. In 1902, the firm was changed to a limited liability company and this raised capital to expand the Newcastle and Sydney operations.

In 1905, Marcus Clark decided on the site of a second store in Railway Square, on the corner of Pitt and George Streets. This building is now heritage listed. In 1819, a toll house had been built in Railway Square, just opposite this site and the area became a focus for people entering and leaving the city of Sydney, providing much passing trade. The building was eight storeys high, and with a basement, built using one million bricks in Italian Renaissance style. It was one of the first buildings in Sydney with a fire sprinkler system installed, and had fire-proof lift doors and escape ladders which stretched from roof to basement. At the time of opening this building, the firm's staff had grown to 600. Bulk stores were built in many country areas and in Sydney so that stock was always conveniently located to the chain of stores.

In 1913, Henry Marcus Clark died and his eldest son, Reginald Marcus, at the age of 29, took over the firm. He was later knighted. In 1928, a new store was opened on the western side of Railway Square, and in the same year, the company took over the established firms of Craig, Williamson Pty Ltd in Melbourne and Miller Anderson Ltd in Adelaide. In the late 1930s the firm is believed to have been the user of the perfin MCS.1. The firm suffered the usual downturns in the 1930s Depression and the Second World War, but then started to recover. However, eventually the burden of bad debts caused the closure of its mail-order scheme, and the reliance on in-store customers caused a major drop in profit. Several stores were forced to close and eventually, in 1966, Marcus Clark & Co Ltd was taken over by Waltons Limited.

(Some material for the above article was taken from "Shopkeepers and Shoppers", by Frances Pollon, published in 1989 by The Retail Traders' Association of NSW, and has been used by kind permission of the publishers.)

## OVERPRINTS ON AUSTRALIAN STATE STAMP DUTY ISSUES PART 1

This article is the first in a series to bring together information about security overprints on stamp duty issues and is based on a compilation put together by Bryan Magee.

These overprints were used for the same purpose as perfins, that being to discourage theft, and many of the companies that used these overprints also used perfins on either postage or revenue stamps. For example the Government Insurance Office of New South Wales used G/NSW perfins to the early 60s and the GIO overprint thereafter. Other examples include David Jones, Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and the AMP Society. As such the usage of perfins and overprints for security purposes are closely related and many perfin collectors also collect the overprints

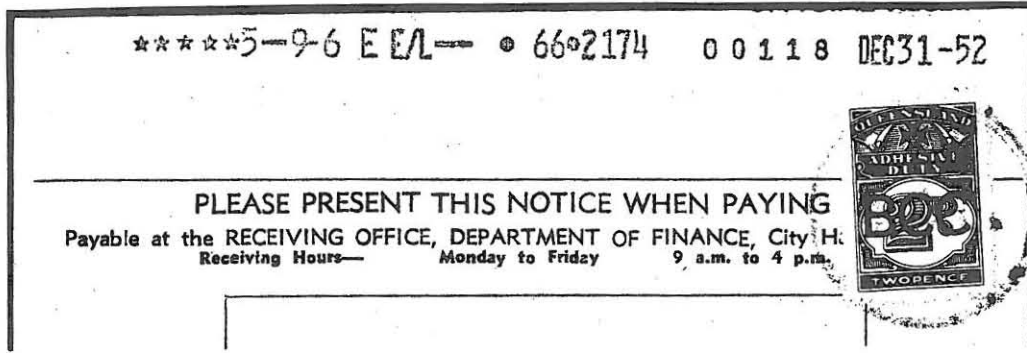
Most overprints were used between the 1930's and 1960's mainly on the lower face value stamp duty issues of the appropriate value for use on receipts. A few of the larger insurance companies such as the Government Insurance Office, Australian Mutual Provident Society and C.G.A Fire and Accident Insurance Co. overprinted higher values for use with insurance policies. Some of these overprints would have been produced in large numbers for these various purposes and most households in Australia would have come into contact with them on insurance policies, electricity and water bills.

Usage was however not limited to the period mentioned above. An early Victorian example with a date of 31-9-82 used by the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency is illustrated below on the left. The earlier types often are more attractive and informative than some of the more recent issues, some examples being included below:



It can be quite difficult at times to distinguish between overprints and cancels as they can be very similar. An example used by the Brisbane City Council shows the overprint BCC in purple and the cancellation B.C.C. (in a circle) in green. While it is quite easy to distinguish between cancellations and overprints when the overprint has been clearly printed on the stamp duty issue, usually in black, other overprints look as though they could have been produced using a rubber stamp as with most cancels. In such cases it is important to have the overprints on the original receipt or policy renewal document.





In the table below the description includes the colour of the overprint, the height in mm and the issues that the overprint has been reported on. Unless otherwise indicated the stamp duty issues the overprints are found on are the normal stamp/adhesive duties for the State recorded in the second column. Predecimal issues except where indicated are found on the series of issues available from the 1930's to 1960's, usually the common small size types.

Please contact Bryan Magee (2 Macquarie Road, Toorak Victoria 3142) with information about issues not listed here. He will collate the information received.

OVERPRINT	STATE	DESCRIPTION	USER
AGL	NSW	Black , 4 mm on 3d mauve and 3c orange. Also known inverted on 3d mauve	Australian Gas Light Co. , Sydney
AGL	NSW	Light mauve, 4 mm on 2d orange	Australian Gas Light Co., Sydney
ALLIANCE Assur Co. Ltd	NSW	Black, 2 mm on 3/- green with backprint.	Alliance Assurance Co., Sydney
Amalgamated Retailers Limited	NSW	Black, ? on 3d mauve	Amalgamated Retailers Limited
Amalgamated Retailers Limited	NSW	Red, 3 mm on 3d mauve .	Amalgamated Retailers Limited
A.M.P. Society	NSW	Black, 1.5 mm on 2d orange, 3d mauve	Australian Mutual Provident Society, Sydney
A.M.P. Society	NSW	Black, 2.5 mm on 2d blue and 2d orange	Australian Mutual Provident Society, Sydney
A.M.P. Society	NSW	Black, 3 mm on 2d orange	Australian Mutual Provident Society, Sydney

A.M.P. SOCIETY PERTH	WA	Black, 2 mm (3 mm between Society and Perth) on 3c grey	Australian Mutual Provident Society
A.M.P. SOCIETY PERTH	WA	Black, 2 mm (6 mm between Society and Perth) on 1d red and 3d grey	Australian Mutual Provident Society
A.M.P. SOCIETY PERTH	WA	Black, 2 mm (9 mm between A.M.P. SOCIETY and PERTH) on 1d 'long' Swan	Australian Mutual Provident Society
AMPS	QLD	Black, 3 mm on 25c adhesive duty	Australian Mutual Provident Society
M A P S	VIC	Black, 7 mm on 2d brown	Australian Mutual Provident Society
AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY	NSW	Blue, 1 mm on 2d mauve QV	Australian Mutual Provident Society
BCC	QLD	Black, 6.5 mm on 2c red	Brisbane City Council
BCC	QLD	Purple, 6 mm on 6c blue	Brisbane City Council
BCC	QLD	Purple, 5 mm on 2d red	Brisbane City Council
BCC	QLD	Green, 6.5 mm on 2d red	Brisbane City Council
BCC	QLD	Green, 5 mm on 2d red	Brisbane City Council
Bon Marche Ltd Hay Street Perth	WA	Black, 2 mm on 1d red long swan (4mm between lines)	Bon Marche Ltd, Perth
C.C.C	?	reported but details unknown	?
CHARLES MOORE & CO. (W.A.) PTY. LTD.	WA	Black, 2 mm on 1d	Charles Moore & Co.



COLES & GARRARD PTY LTD	VIC	Black, 2 mm on 3d green and 3c brown	Coles & Garrard Pty (now OPSM)
COLES & GARRARD PTY LTD	VIC	Red , 2 mm on 3d green	Coles & Garrard Pty (now OPSM)
C.G.A	NSW	Red, 5.5 mm (sideways) on 8c purple	C.G.A. Fire and Accident Insurance Co.
C.G.A	NSW	Purple, 2.5 mm (diagonal) on £1 red	C.G.A. Fire and Accident Insurance Co.,
CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION	NSW	Black, 2 mm on \$3 and \$6 (listed by Osborn Craig and Orchard in the Revenue Stamps of New South Wales)	Corporate Affairs Commission, Sydney
DAVID JONES	QLD	Black, 2.5 mm on 2c red adhesive duty	David Jones Ltd, Brisbane
DAVID JONES LTD.	NSW	Black(very light printing), 2.5 mm on 3d mauve	David Jones Ltd, Sydney
DAVID JONES LTD.	NSW	Black, 1.5 mm on 3c orange	David Jones Ltd., Sydney
DAVID JONES LTD.	NSW	Purple, 3 mm on 3d mauve	David Jones Ltd., Sydney

## 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. CGRM.1 of C G Roeszler on 2d mauve QV of Victoria. Heavy cancel . (Jimbo Direct Sale, Jul 99)	\$15
b. SPCO perfin on 1d red of Victoria, similar to SPCO.1, but larger 'C'. (Jimbo Direct Sale, Aug 99)	\$15
c. SU perfin, not listed in G&M catalogue, on 2d Qld revenues, 2 diff posns. (Jimbo Bid Sale, Jul 99)	\$30
d. NZ "AWF" perfin on 2d 1900 (Stirling & Co Postal Sale, Jul 99)	NZ \$10

e.	Aust. "NZ/IC" on 1d Queensland, fiscal use (Stirling & Co. Sale, Jul 99)	NZ \$10
f.	NZ "C&G" perfin on 1/2d Mt Cook p.14 (Stirling & Co Sale, Aug 99)	NZ \$10
g.	"NZ" on 2/6 brown KGV OHMS Dominion of New Zealand envelope to "Prime Minister, Wellington, NZ". File clip rust mark at left. (Stirling & Co Sale, Aug 99)	NZ\$100
h.	"S&S/W" on 1/2d 1900 (Stirling & Co Sale, Aug 99)	NZ \$ 45
i.	Circa 1908 NZ postcard with 1/2d Mt Cook perf "W&T/W" tied by Wellington m/c. Commercial message. (David Holmes (NZ) Sale, Jul 99)	NZ\$250
j.	"M&CLTD" on NZ 2d KGV fiscal. (David Holmes Sale, Jul 99)	NZ \$50
k.	Victorian Producers' Co-op window env.. with 1d KGV perf "VP/C" (Premier Phil. Auctions Sale, Jul 99)	\$20
l.	1896 reg'd cover to Germany with 1/2d, 2d pair and 3d pair all perf ODC.2 (Premier Phil. Auctions Sale, Jul 99)	\$150
m.	GB cover to AMP Adelaide office with "AMP" perfin (Premier Phil. Auctions Sale, Jul 99)	\$20
n.	Circa 1905 1d QV postal card perf "T" unused (Tasmanian Stamp Auctions, Aug 99)	\$150
o.	NZ "M&CLTD" perfin on 2d KGV (Donald F Ion (NZ) Auction, Oct 99)	NZ \$20
p.	NZ "BGEC" perfin on 1d Dominion (Donald F Ion (NZ) Auction, Oct 99)	NZ \$15
q.	"AH&S" perfin on 9d NSW Sesqui (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction, Oct 99)	NZ \$10
r.	Specialised collection of State and Commonwealth Government perfins (1000+) plus private perfins (250+) (Status Auction, Oct 99)	\$ 200
s.	PTPO envelope of Vacuum Oil Co, Melbourne, with embossed stamp and additional 5d stamp perf "VOCO" affixed, to Germany, used 1912. (Charles Leski Auction Sep 99)	Sold for \$130
t.	1919 cover of McPherson's Pty Ltd, Melbourne, with two KGV stamps perforated "McP" to USA with "Late Fee/Spencer St" cds. (Charles Leski Auction Sep 99)	Sold for \$85
u.	NZ "GNB LD" on 1d Universal (NZ Stamp Auctions, Oct 99)	NZ \$ 70
v.	NZ "S&CO LTD" on 1d Universal pair. (NZ Stamp Auctions, Oct 99)	NZ \$ 40
w.	NZ "DB / &CO" large letters (NZ Stamp Auctions, Oct 99)	NZ \$ 40
x.	NZ "RG / N" perfin. (Mowbray (NZ) Auction, Oct 99)	NZ \$ 15

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Peter Wood apologises for having made an error in the financial statement included with the July Bulletin, and has forwarded the following revised statement.

	Receipts		Expenditure
Bank balance 1.7.98	3603.95	Prep & despatch of Bulletin	1225.25
Subs	1329.07	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	Post & stationery	151.71
Auction 2/98	1564.55	Miscellaneous	1272.20
Misc. transfer from NZ a/c	500.00	Souvenir Cover	109.35
Souvenir cover	112.00		
Interest term dep.	218.50	Bank balance 30.6.99	5246.34
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Total	18260.18	Total	18260.18
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