

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

No. 49 April 2000

The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia four times each year. 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 (includes airmail postage).

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
Assistant Treasurer : Richard Smolnicki, 278 Dowse Drive, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt New Zealand
(NZ payments)
Editor: David Andersen, 260 Hawkesbury Road, 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

EDITORS COMMENT

Unfortunately condition, or rather poor condition including creases and toning are a fairly significant problem for perfin collectors. The usage, physical characteristics of perfins and lack of popularity of perfins in the past contribute to this.

- * As most perfins are used for commercial / government purposes cancellations are often heavier and of poorer quality. Few perfins receive a nice clear light circular cancel on one corner of the stamp.
- * The holes making up the letters / designs of perfins weaken stamps facilitating creasing, tearing and missing bits. For example the large OS used on Australian stamps in 1913 was withdrawn from use as it weakened stamps to a high degree.
- * Sometimes as with Australian Federal officials poorer quality sheets of stamps were put aside for Government use. Off-centred stamps are more the rule than the exception though sometimes this practice has resulted in some major rarities only being encountered with OS perfins.
- * The perfins themselves often are not well centered on each stamp, due sometimes to the use of multiple die perforators used to puncture sheets of stamps of different sizes.
- * The punching breaks the paper fibres and seems to allow the easier colonisation by rust spores resulting in rust or toning around the holes themselves. This is more easily noted under magnification.
- * As an area neglected for so many years the material that was retained by collectors was often stored in poorer conditions than more expensive items.

These factors mean that quite a number of the perfins available are not in top quality condition. However considering the rarity and or lack of availability of so many perfins copies in less than perfect condition are still welcome. It is surprising that so many perfins survive in reasonable condition particularly those well over 100 years old.

Because of these factors good storage is so much more important with perfins than many other areas of stamp collecting. While the deterioration of a basic collection of stamps due to poor storage is a financial loss for the owner the deterioration of a more specialised collection such as perfins can remove scarce or unique material from future collectors and for that matter a countries postal heritage.

NEW MEMBERS

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

- #188 Clive Sellen, Magnetic Island, Queensland
- #189 Roger Campbell, Tewantin, Queensland

Also, Roger Upstill (Victoria) has re-joined after a break. Welcome back, Roger.

CLUB AUCTION

There is some material from new vendors in this auction, as well as more from the offering of Derek Pocock. Many nice covers are on offer and some better singles. Good bidding!

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICE BEARERS 2000

It was disappointing that only four nomination forms were returned. The nominees for each position were the present holders of these offices, who were therefore duly re-elected. The Club would like to thank them all for their past service and for agreeing to continue in those roles.

CLUB MEETING (NZ)

Richard Smolnicki has advised that he has arranged for a meeting time at Canpex 2000, to be held from 5th to 8th of October, 2000 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Christchurch, New Zealand. The club meeting will be held at 10 am on the Saturday 7 October. Members are advised to check at the main desk of the hotel for the room location. All members are welcome to attend, particularly any visitors from overseas. The format will be informal and it will be an opportunity to meet fellow collectors and discuss the hobby. Members are encouraged to bring along any items of interest.

CLUB MEETING (Canberra)

A meeting was held during the Canberra Philatelic Society's Exhibition at Dickson College, Canberra, on Saturday 18 March 2000. There were six members, two new members and one visitor at the meeting, and apologies from two members, with your Secretary in the chair. The Secretary gave a summary of the meeting held at Australia 99 in Melbourne in March 1999, and gave a progress report on the second edition of the catalogue.

The Treasurer reported on the continuing healthy financial status of the Club, and moved that a further \$1000 be transferred to Term Deposit to secure better rate of interest. The Treasurer also moved that the commission on sales through the auctions and circuit books be reduced from 10% to 5%, starting at the beginning of our next financial year (1 July 2000). Both these motions were carried unanimously by show of hands.

Derek Pocock moved that the Club donate a sum of between A\$50 and A\$75 for any National level exhibition for a prize to be awarded in a category at the discretion of the exhibition judges. The Club had donated a sum for Australia 99 and a very nice prize had been bought and awarded to the winner of the Social Philately class (see previous report). This motion was passed unanimously by show of hands. The Treasurer will action this item, beginning with Canpex 2000 in Canterbury, New Zealand in October this year.

John Mathews showed colour photographs submitted by Brian Fuller of the GAS.3 and TB.2 perforators in his possession, together with a diagram of the rectangular grid of holes in the plates of the TB.2 perforator showing which holes contained paper.

SECOND EDITION OF "COMMERCIAL PERFIN'S OF AUSTRALIA"

Final preparations are in hand for getting the master copy ready for the printer. It has been proposed that the Club be the publisher for this edition, mainly because of the cost factor, the contributions from so many club members, and the lack of involvement of one of the original authors with the update information. However, because the plan is to produce enough copies for the foreseen long term demand, the total production cost would amount to a large proportion of the Club's financial assets. Hence, as members, you are asked to indicate whether or not you approve of the expenditure of these funds on this project. Of course, it is anticipated that a good proportion of this money would be returned to the Club in the short term through initial sales of the book, and provide the Club with more than sufficient working capital.

Please complete the enclosed form (or reply in similar style by e-mail) to the Secretary as soon as possible.

GST AND THE CLUB

Several articles about the GST have appeared in the philatelic media lately, with many questions still unanswered at this stage as far as dealers and auction houses are concerned. Advice from our Treasurer is that the Club will not have to register as a "business" as our annual turnover is much less than the minimum sum. This means that we will not have to charge GST, but we will have to bear the addition of GST on what we purchase, such as stationery, printing, and some rates of postage. However, we will still be able to maintain the membership fees at the current rates.

THE FINAL WORD ON CLD.1 ? John Mathews

In the SPPB, April 1995, it was reported that John Amiet had shown two Victorian duty stamps with the large "CLD" puncture, and cachet cancels of the Prothonotary's Office. I have now found three of these stamps still affixed to pieces of a document of a legal nature with words such as "administratrix" and "plaintiff", and tied with the Prothonotary Office cachet. The letters "CLD" are punctured through both the stamps and document, leaving no doubt that the puncture was applied after the stamps were affixed to the document as a means of cancelling them. The size of one piece of document is such that it is clear that "CLD" were the only letters in the puncture.

CLUB PERFORATOR

After many requests for the Club to get its own perforator, not many people have yet asked to have stamps perforated with it. Members are reminded that Australia Post has given permission for Club members to use perforated stamps on their private mail. Members who already use perforated stamps to other members, such as on circuit books, would surely like to receive some themselves. In addition, using stamps perforated with "PC/NZA" would increase awareness of the Club in the wider community. Stamps may be submitted to the Secretary for perforating. The only restriction is that the stamps must have been available on general sale to the public after the date of first use of the perforator - February 1998.

AN UNEXPECTED PROVING ITEM John Mathews

The postcard shown below was offered in a Club circuit book with a notation that it looked like private/illegal use of the perfin (which the vendor had been unable to identify). Close inspection under a magnifier revealed the pattern MH&C.1. The addressee of the card is "Miss Alison Hallenstein" and the message is signed "Daddy". So the writer was no doubt one of the directors of the company Michaelis, Hallenstein & Co, who had been the suspected user of the perfin.

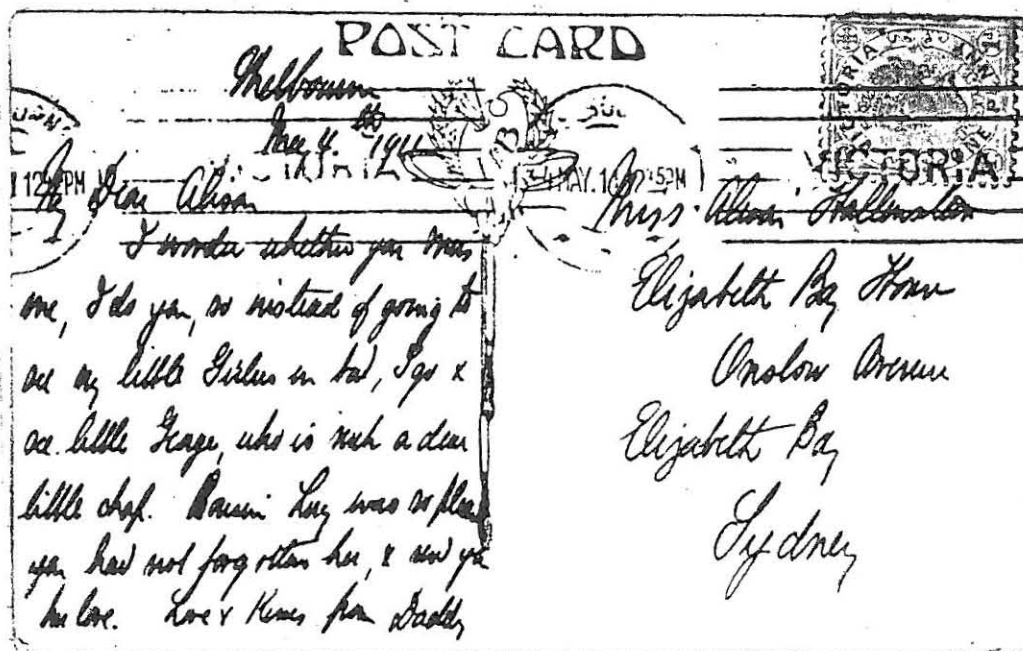
Unfortunately, it has not been possible to locate birth or other records for Alison (this family seems not to have been very diligent in registering births, or names on electoral rolls), but a George Hallenstein was born to Reuben and Lucie Hallenstein in 1907 - 4 years before the card was written. "Little" George is mentioned in the message on the card. Reuben was the son of Isaac Hallenstein, while Lucie's parents were Moritz and Rachel (nee Gotthelf) Michaelis.

My curiosity was aroused as to why Miss Alison was at the address in Sydney. In the 1911 Sydney Directory, the occupants of "Elizabeth Bay House" were shown as Moritz Gotthelf, J.P., and G. Michaelis. The Electoral Rolls of that period listed residents there as Moritz and Sara Gotthelf, and George Isaac Michaelis and his wife Lillian Estelle Michaelis. Lillian Estelle Michaelis was the daughter of Moritz and Sara Gotthelf. George Isaac Michaelis was the brother of Lucie Hallenstein. So it seems that Miss Alison was visiting her uncle George and his family.

Further, the Birth, Death & Marriage records for New South Wales showed that three of Lillian's (Gotthelf) sisters married three sons of Michaelis Hallenstein (Isaac's brother) in Sydney between 1896 and 1901! (The three brothers were thus cousins of Reuben Hallenstein; Lillian was a sister-in-law of Reuben's wife, Lucie).

"Gotthelf" is a name known to perfin collectors as part of the firm Feldheim, Gotthelf Ltd. Thus the families of Hallenstein, Michaelis and Gotthelf formed quite an intertwined dynasty in Australian commerce a hundred years ago.

(See also the article about the company of Michaelis, Hallenstein & Co.)



SELDOM SEEN

The following items were seen on the Internet eBay auction:

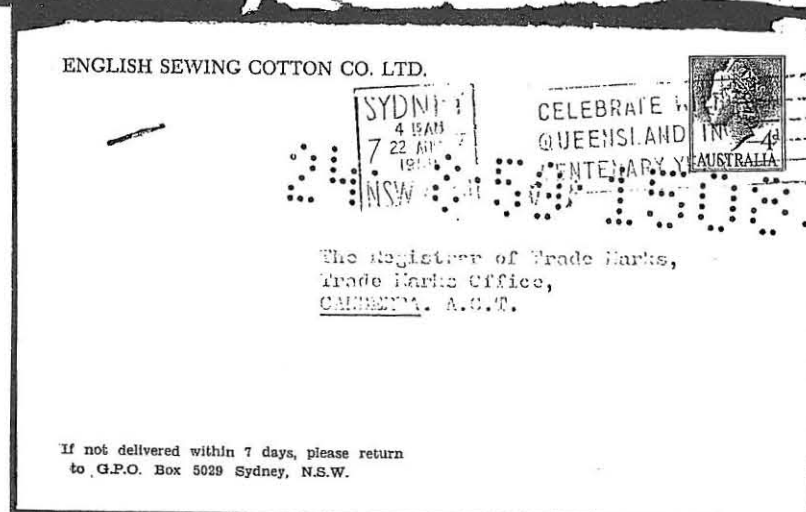
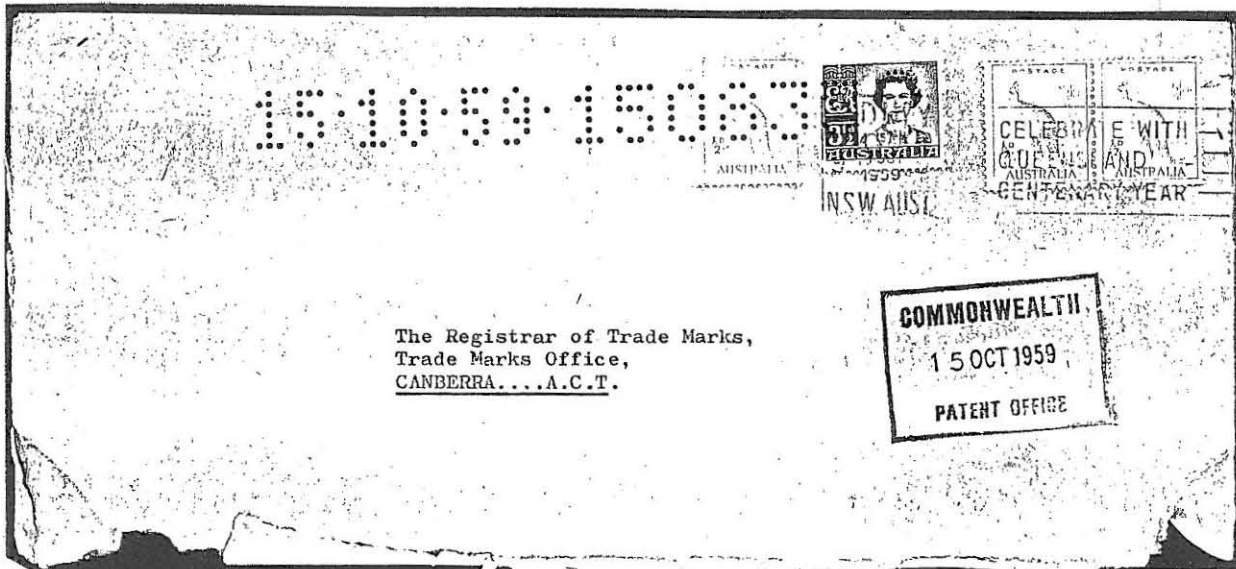
- * IH.18 on 10/- Robes
- * BC.1 on 30 pounds NSW Duty Stamp (yes, 30 pounds !!)

ANOTHER "NON-PERFIN" PUNCTURE ON POSTAGE STAMPS

Derek Brennan has submitted two covers which illustrate how loose stamps with puncture holes may be deceptive.

Both envelopes are addressed to the Registrar of Trade Marks in Canberra and are postmarked in 1959. They each have a large puncture consisting of a date and a serial number, and in both cases part of the punctured numerals go through the stamps.

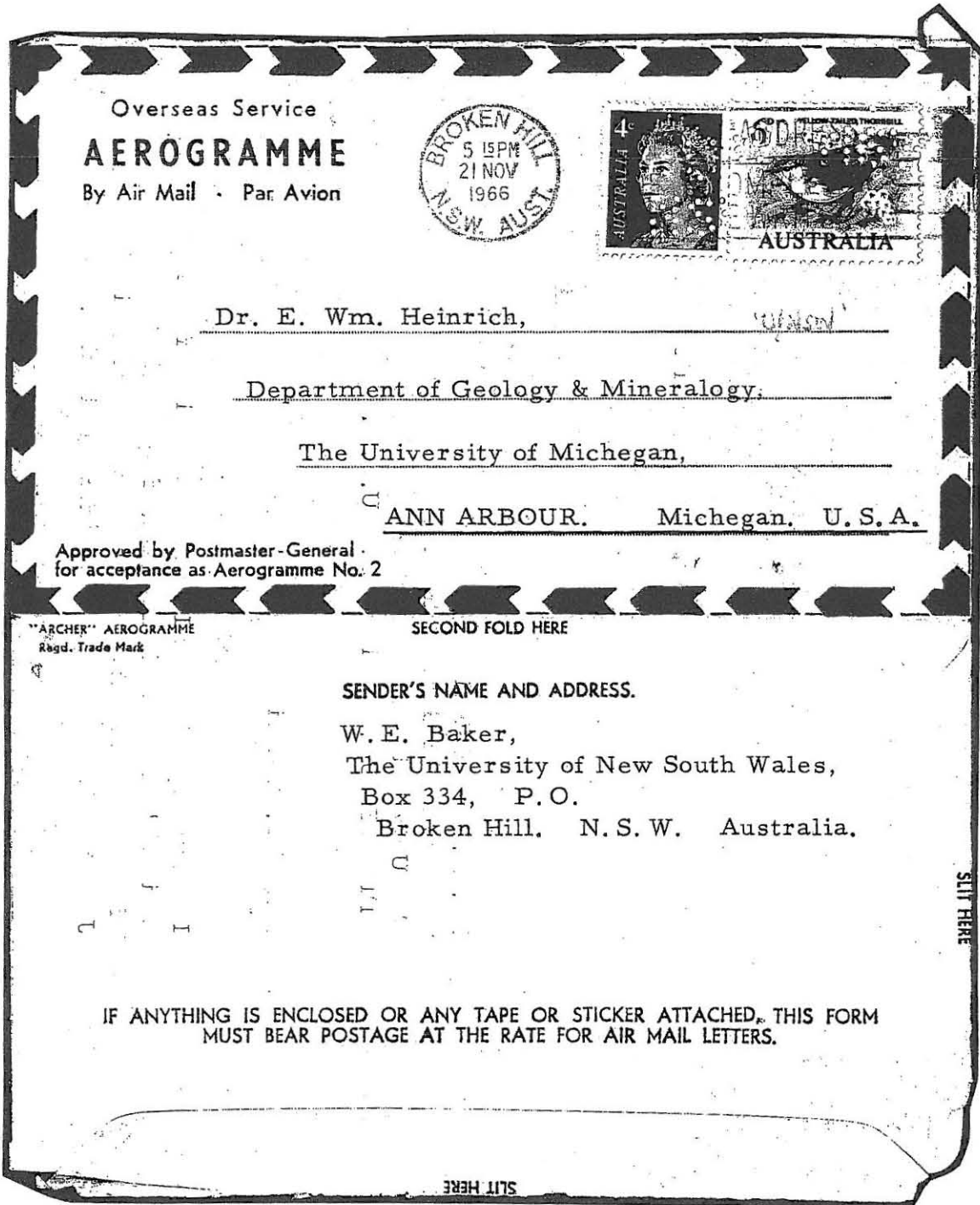
One of the envelopes has a receiving office cachet with the same date as in the puncture. Derek says that the puncture also appears in the letters which were in the envelopes such as to indicate that the puncturing was done before the envelopes were opened.



U/NSW COVER David Andersen

One of my main perfin interests are the U/NSW perfins used by the University of New South Wales. Issues can be quite elusive as they are often found in accumulations with G/NSW perfins and look very similar and no doubt many are overlooked.

John Amiet recently turned up the cover below. Of particular interest is the combined usage of a predecimal and a decimal U/NSW perfin on the same item.



MICHAELIS, HALLENSTEIN & CO John Mathews

The company was formed in 1866 when Isaac Hallenstein was joined by his uncle Moritz Michaelis in partnership in a tannery at Footscray (a suburb west of Melbourne), Isaac having bought the business in 1864. Isaac's brother, Michaelis, had joined the firm between 1864 and 1866.

A branch was opened in London in 1873, and a Sydney branch, known as Farleigh, Nettheim & Co, in 1876. Cosmann Nettheim was a salesman and John Farleigh was a "town traveller" in the Sydney branch. They later acquired a tannery in the Sydney suburb of Concord, and in 1888 they also formed a branch of Farleigh, Nettheim & Co in Brisbane.

There was also a New Zealand company known as Michaelis, Hallenstein and Farquhar established in 1879.

From a production of 150 hides a week in 1866, the Footscray tannery increased their output to 800 hides a week by 1892. By then, they had established a city office at 382-384 Lonsdale Street. After World War I, they had new premises built at 441-445 Lonsdale Street. In 1901, the Footscray tannery switched from steam to electric power using its own generating equipment, one of the first enterprises in the Commonwealth to do so. By 1914, the output from Footscray was 2300 hides per week.

In 1964, the company diversified to manufacturing blinds and canvas goods. One of their products was the "Luxaflex" venetian blinds.

Moritz Michaelis died in 1902 at the age of 82 years, and Isaac Hallenstein was also 82 years old when he died in 1912.

SECURITY AND CANCELLING OVERPRINTS ON AUSTRALIAN STATE STAMP DUTY ISSUES PART 3

This is the third article in this series and concludes the information initially supplied by Bryan Magee. With additions supplied since, some 137 patterns have been reported.

One of the more interesting groups included in this group are the italicised "Received / ..." items from Queensland all found on 1d red QV postal fiscals. These appear to have been produced by a single source though for different companies. A few are illustrated below.



OVERPRINT	STATE	DESCRIPTION	USER
READ'S of Prahran	VIC	Black, 1.75 mm top line/ 1mm below on 3d green	Charles Moore Read Co., Prahran
Received by MacDonald Hamilton & Co Per	?	Black	MacDonald Hamilton & Co.
RECEIVED PAYMENT FOR NEW ZEALAND LOAN & MERCANTILE AGENCY COMPANY LIMITED	VIC	Black, 1.5 mm on 1d green and 1d brown QV	New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Co.
RECEIVED £ Henry Berry &Co. A/sia. Ltd. per	VIC	Black, 1.5mm to 2mm on 2d brown	Henry Berry & Co.
RECEIVED £ Henry Berry &Co. A/sia Ltd. per	VIC	Red, 1.5mm to 2mm on 2d brown	Henry Berry & Co.
Received for W.E. SMITH Stationer SYDNEY	NSW	Black, 1mm except for 'W.E. SMITH' which is 1.5mm , sideways on stamp on 2d purple QV	W.E. Smith, Sydney
Received by A.U.S.N.CoLd per	QLD	Black, 3.5mm in italics on QV 1d red	
Received by A.U.S.N.Co.Ld. per	QLD	Black, 3.5mm in italics on QV 1d red	
Received by B.I.& Q. A.Co.Ld. per	QLD	Black, 3.5mm in italics on QV 1d red	
Received by Charles Parbury Co.Ld. Per	QLD	Black, 3mm in italics on QV 1d red	
Received by Parbury Lamb & Co Per	QLD	Black, 3mm in italics on QV 1d red	
S.C.C	NSW	Black, 3.5mm on 3d purple	Sydney County Council
S/C/C	NSW	Black, 2.25mm on 2d orange	Sydney County Council
SEA	QLD	Purple, 6mm on 2c red	
S.E. WATKINS ESQ.	VIC	Black, 3mm on 6d purple (maybe typed rather than printed)	S.E. Watkins (Wholesale butchers) ?
S.G I.O.	QLD	Purple, 6mm on 2c red, 3c green and \$1 brown & red	
SHELL	WA	Red, 2.5 mm on 3c grey	

OVERPRINT	STATE	DESCRIPTION	USER
THE DIRECT PUBLICITY COMPANY	NSW	No information	
T&G Life Society	QLD	Black, 3mm top line/ 2mm below on 1d purple and 2d red	
WALTONS STORES LIMITED	NSW	Black, 1.5mm on 3d purple and 3c orange	Waltons Stores
WALTONS STORES LIMITED	NSW	Red, 2.5mm on 3d purple	Waltons Stores

AUCTION WATCH

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

	Est.
a. 1897 pre-printed cover of Harrison, Jones and Devlin with HJD perfin through imprint. (Macray Watson Auction Feb 00) (did not sell)	\$300
b. 1907 advert. cover for G.G. Turri with GGT perfins (Macray Watson Auction Feb 00)	\$100
c. 1854-55 imperf 4d pale blue WA SG3 with small Commissariat punch (Macray Watson Auction Feb 00)	\$ 80
d. "Commercial Perfins of Australia" by Grant & Mathews, as new (Macray Watson Auction Feb 00)	\$ 50
e. 40 Australian private perfins (Stirling & Co (NZ) Auction Feb 00)	NZ \$20 - 40
f. AC&S on NZ 2d SSF, (Stirling & Co (NZ) Auction Feb 00)	NZ \$ 5
g. 300+ GB perfins, 1870-1970 (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction Mar 00)	NZ \$100
h. 160 World perfins 1890-1950 (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction Mar 00)	NZ \$ 60
i. "NZF" on NZ 2d SSF (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction Mar 00)	NZ \$ 5
j. "DB/&CO" on NZ 1d Pictorial (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction Mar 00)	NZ \$ 10
k. "M&C/Ltd" on 2d NZ1935 Pictorial (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction Mar 00)	NZ \$ 40
l. "VO/CO" on NZ 1929 Health 1d Nurse (Ashford Stamps (NZ) Auction Mar 00)	NZ \$ 15
m. "RI/CO" on NZ 1d Dominion (Stirling & Co (NZ) auction Mar 00)	NZ \$ 12
n. c.450 World perfins, mainly pre-1930 (NZ Stamp Auctions Sale Apr 00)	NZ \$225
o. "AWF" on piece with NZ 1d Universal, dated 30 May 1901 (NZ Stamp Auctions Sale Apr 00)	NZ \$ 15
p. 119 private perfins on 1d KGV (red, green) (Brighton Phil. Soc. Auction Mar 00) sold for	\$ 85
q. 5 small window envs. with ads. and "HS" perfins of Harris, Scarfe Ltd (Tasmanian Stamp Auctions Apr 00)	\$ 50
r. 3 covers with private perfins (D&JF, H, HS) (West Brisbane Stamps Sale Apr 00)	\$ 25
s. 1924 1 1/2d scarlet single wmk KGV "Printed on gum" perforated 'OS' with inverted watermark MUH Rare (Philatelics Australia Postal Bid Sale 124 May 1999)	\$225

INTERNET AUCTIONS

The range of items and prices being realised on Internet auctions can be surprising. The following examples were noted recently on eBay. The final realisations were not checked so that the prices achieved were probably higher than noted particularly as most lots had a few days to go. Most bids are placed in the last two days before an auction closes and sniping (bidding at the last moment to prevent higher bids from other bidders) is very common.

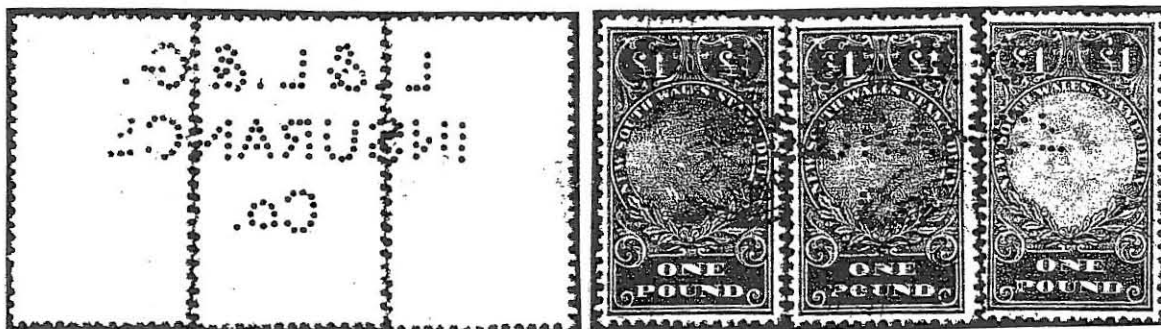
Australia 99 perfins - set of 2 miniature sheets A\$51 with 4 bids so far
 Canada- accumulation of 3,100 mint PS perfins on QEII Centennial issues 1967-1971 A\$775- no bids
 Hong Kong 4c QV 'NCH' perfin A\$10.50 with 3 days to go
 Hong Kong QV 20c on 30c green pair with perfin H&S/B.C. perfin ,double perforated A\$31
 Malta 14 copies of 'AM/B' perfin fiscally used to 2/- (including blk 4) A\$14 with 4 days to go
 Mexico 19 single perfins (3 x M.M./S.S.Co., 5 x C, 1 x MOS/LER, 2 x R.B/&C, 4 x '5', 3 x B) A\$172 after a few bids
 New Zealand private perfins - 56 mixed with duplication A\$105
 Penang - Cover with two 4c KGVI Penang stamps with perfins to the UK A\$15 starting price but no bids

While some of these items are quite scarce some of the prices are astounding. What would one do with the Canadian items which are all very common used ?

L&L&G/INSURANCE/CO. PATTERN

One of the largest Australian perfins usually used on New South Wales stamp duties is that of Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co. The perfin would extend across at least 3 large size duty stamps.

The three one pound KGV stamp duty issues below show the full pattern and were punctured together. However they were used on separate documents as shown by the different cancellations. The documents must have been filed together and so when they were cut from the documents and soaked off piece they were able to be reunited.



SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN #50

The next issue of the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin will be number 50 - a significant milestone. Any suggestions as to the contents would be much appreciated. Please contact the editor with any ideas.

INTERESTING WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT USAGE

The cover below illustrates the usage of OS perfins by the Western Australian Government Railways. While these perfins are usually referred to as the Federal OS perfins, usage by State Government Departments was very high and an interesting display of such usage would be fairly easy to put together.

