

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

Increasingly rare and previously unreported perfins are being listed and sold in internet auctions. Usually these items are illustrated which is more information than often provided in traditional auctions and postal bids sales. Many researchers have used auctions and auction catalogues in the past to undertake their research. However rarely with internet auctions is it possible to view the items themselves and vendors are not always in a position to ensure that material they sell is genuine.

Fortunately there does not appear to be much evidence that non-genuine perfins are being offered in internet auctions on a regular basis and hopefully this will continue to be the case as most perfins lots are not highly priced. On the positive side the images provided with the auction items can be saved in digital form for later reference and possibly for later use in publications or on an internet site. Permission to use such images for non personal use should of course always be obtained. Great potential to assist research but as usual caveat emptor.

NEW MEMBERS

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

#193 Robert Crowe, Burleigh Heads, Queensland

VALE ALAN BENNETT

It is with much sorrow that we have to report the passing of member Alan Bennett of Melbourne, after several months in hospital. Alan was a popular and enthusiastic member of the Noble Park Stamp Club, and in 1993 organised a Perfins Night for that Club to which John Grant and your Secretary were invited to speak. Alan had also been a member of our Club for eight years and had contributed towards our knowledge of perfins. We extend our sympathies to his family.

CLUB AUCTION

Another good selection of material on offer this time. For the last several auctions, many lots have been decided by the first of tying high bids, so remember to bid early! As well as some more material from Derek Pocock's collection, there are also some new vendors offering a variety of good material – something for every perfin collector.

.. and talking of auctions, a 1964 cover of the University of NSW to USA with 10/- Arms, 5/- Cattle, 2/- Flannel Flower and 3d Queen all perf "U/NSW" on the eBay auction in September started at US\$25, sold for US\$76 (= A\$ 140).

PERFIN SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

The new librarian of the Perfin Society of Great Britain has just issued an updated index of the holdings of that Society, and a copy is held by your Secretary. It includes references to articles, books and journals relating to perfins of many countries. If anyone is seeking specific information on a perfin-related topic, and would like to let me know, I will see if they have it listed.

SECURITY AND CANCELLING OVERPRINTS

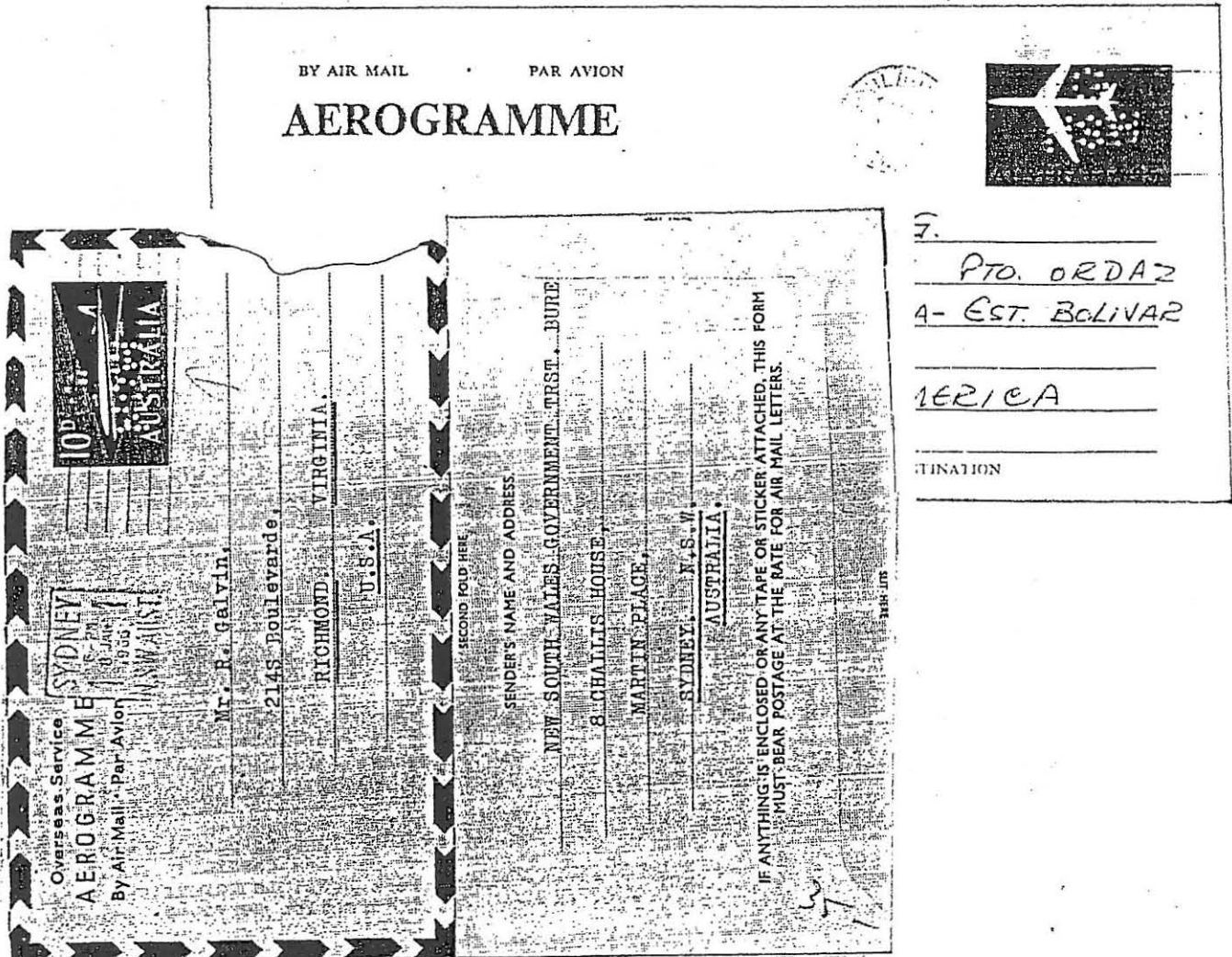
Based on the recent series in this Bulletin on this topic (and following responses from members to it), Bryan Magee has compiled a listing of these overprints on Australian revenue stamps. Over 150 overprints are included in this listing on 17 single-sided A4 pages. It has plastic spine binding so that it opens out flat, and had protective clear plastic sheet covers.

Sales and distribution are being handled by John Mathews (to whom payments should be made out). Cost inclusive of postage is A\$6.00 for addressees within Australia, A\$7.50 to NZ and A\$9 elsewhere. Payment in US\$ or GB pounds possible by prior arrangement with John.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS ON PREVIOUS ARTICLES

1. Aerogrammes perforated "G/NSW" (July 2000 Bulletin)

Wim Tukker (Netherlands) has sent these illustrations of punctured aerogrammes in his collection. The 10d aerogramme was used by the NSW Government Tourist Bureau and posted on 8 January 1965. The 25c aerogramme (user unknown) was posted at Goulburn, NSW (approximately 200 km south west from Sydney) on 8 September 1977.



Richard Peck (Sydney) says that he once owned one of the 12c aerogrammes punctured "G/NSW" which he found in UK several years ago. He has since sold it to another collector.

2. "F" cachet on Registration label" (July 2000 Bulletin)

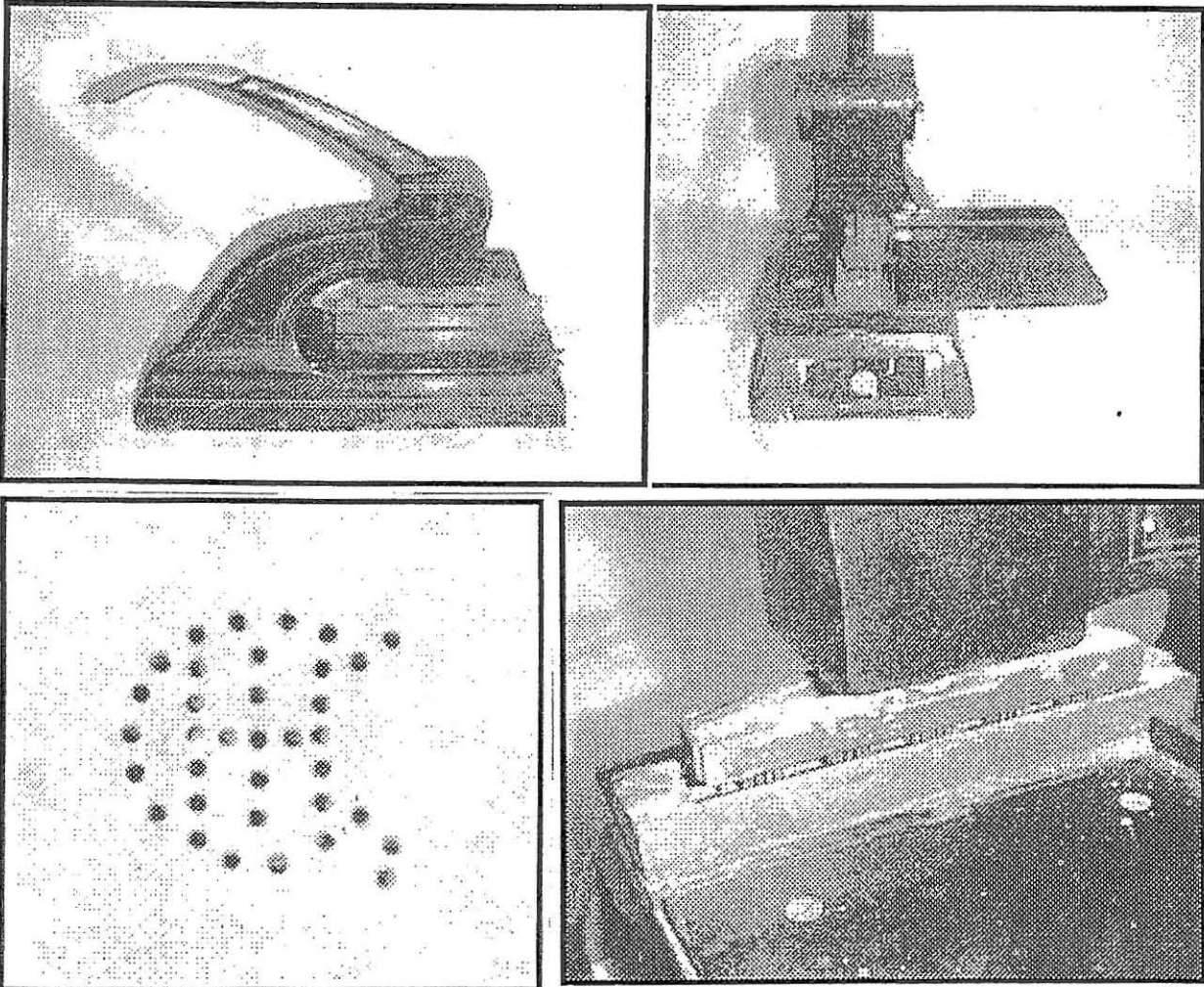
Richard also provides an explanation of the rubber stamp "F" in the rectangle on the Sydney Registration label. Contrary to your Secretary's proposed theory, Richard points

out that it was used to indicate the clerk who received the registered article at the GPO, and it is just a coincidence that it was in the same lot as the "F" perfin of Farmer & Co.

OLD PERFORATOR SOLD AT AUCTION

In September, one of the items sold on the eBay on-line auction was a Cummins No. 52 Perforating Machine. The perfin pattern was similar to Australian pattern IHC.2 of the International Harvester Company, whose head office was in Chicago. The head office of the Cummins Perforator Co. was also in Chicago. The auction item was comprehensively illustrated with 9 views of the perforator from different angles and detail, plus a photo of the pattern produced by it. The punch head had 5 dies in a row which was typical of many of the Cummins devices. To one side of the base plate there is an extension on which a part sheet of five rows of stamps can be placed and then slid under the punch head. Underneath there is a drawer which slides open to the front for collecting the "confetti" produced by the perforating process. The manufacturer's name plate is affixed to the back of the body of the perforator which appears to be in good condition. It was stated to be 11 inches (28 cm) tall, 12 inches (30 cm) long and to weigh over 23 pounds (10 kilograms).

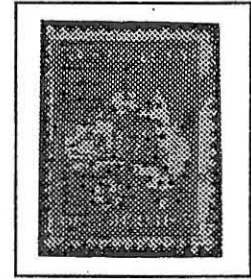
It sold for US\$ 127.50 (A\$ 200+ at current exchange rate).



UNUSUAL OFFICIALS

Frank Hermsen has reported a couple of very unusual officials.

The first item is a 1/- Kangaroo 3rd Watermark with the OS/NSW Type B pattern illustrated at right. The OS/NSW Type B perfin was used on New South Wales state issues up until 1912 but has not been reported on later stamps. However it was also used on postcards until at least the late 1940s so that a perforator was available to puncture 3rd watermark Kangaroo issues if needed. What is not clear though is whether the same machine was used to puncture sheets of stamps as well as postal stationery or whether the latter was punctured on a machine with one die only.



The second item a 1d Kangaroo, postmarked NSW with an unusual OS is illustrated at left. While overprints are usually not of much interest to perfin collectors, this item may fit in to the official perfin story in some way. This stamp was not overprinted OS by the Commonwealth nor is the design the same as later Commonwealth OS overprints. Nor does this overprint match the diagonal OS overprint used on the 1/2d Kangaroo and 3d KGVII issues of 1941, possibly by an as yet unidentified New South Wales Government Department.

Have any further copies of these issues or similar items been found? Please send any further information about these items or reporting additional copies to the Editor.

VICTORIAN SERVICE PUNCTURES

John Mathews would like to conduct a feasibility trial to see if it is possible to identify when batches of stamps were punctured by this service. It is thought that the pin settings were re-formed when each batch was perforated for each company, so the postmark dates for the various patterns for a given company should be a good guide to when new batches of stamps were perforated.

Because of the specialised nature of this survey, and the number of copies of perforated stamps which will not have readable dates, help is sought from all members to provide information. A month and year would be useful information for this survey to find out how often batches were done, and of course if the day was also available, that would be even better.

John would like to trial the Buckley & Nunn patterns – the various “BN” and “B&N” perfins. If you cannot identify a pattern (for example, for unlisted ones), a tracing or sketch would probably be sufficient for John to identify it. Listings can be forwarded either by post or by e-mail. Results will be published in the Bulletin.

AN INTERESTING TRADE POSTCARD

In the April 1995 issue of this Bulletin, a trade card of Mrs McCathie's Ltd was illustrated. Another of her trade postcards has been seen, of rather different style to the previous one. Even though this card is unused, it may be of interest to perfin collectors. The "stamp" side of the card advertises "Mrs. McCathie's Great Challenge Sale", commencing at 10 a.m. the following Monday – unfortunately, there is nothing on the card to indicate the date of the sale. However, the address of 80 King Street given on the card shows that it was before August 1904, at which time Mrs McCathie's moved from King Street to Pitt Street. The picture side of the card shows a view of the ocean beach at the Sydney suburb of Manly. The only space which could have been used for an address is at one end of the picture side.

<u>GOOD NEWS!</u>	
Private Mailing Card	
Mrs. McCATHIE'S Great Challenge Sale	
Commences at 10 a.m. --ON-- Monday Next. 	OUR SALES are Renowned for the Genuine BARGAINS we give. Every Half-penny Worth of OUR Fashionable Stock to be Cleared Right Out.
DO NOT MISS THIS CHANCE.	The Busiest Shop in Sydney 80 KING STREET.

WANTED TASMANIAN PERFINS

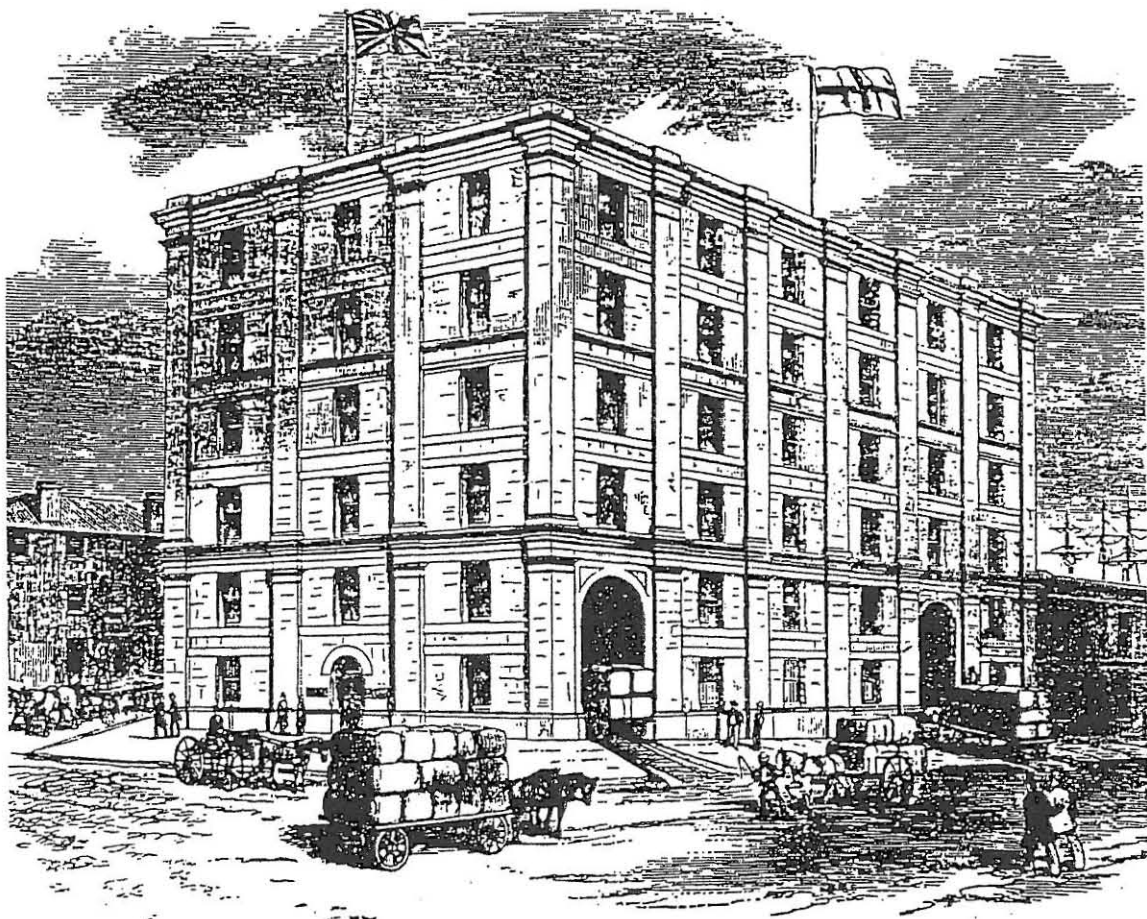
John Tyson (240 Low Head Rd., Low Head, Tasmania 7253) would like to buy or exchange Tasmanian perfin stamps, i.e. "A", "D.W.M/LTD.", "D.S./&Co.", "R.I./Co.", "L.L./G.", "A.W.F", "McKSMcK", or other perfins with Tasmanian postmark.

HARRISON, JONES AND DEVLIN (John Mathews)

The wool-broking firm Harrison & Jones (Layman Harrison and Richard Jones, junior) had its woolstore and held auctions at the eastern end of Circular Quay (Bennelong Point, near where the Sydney Opera House now stands) as early as 1866. The firm became Harrison, Jones & Devlin in 1870 when James Devlin, junior, joined. When, in 1872, O. B. Ebsworth (Thomas Mort's auctioneer) died, Harrison, Jones & Devlin moved into his store in that part of Elizabeth Street, adjacent to Circular Quay, which is now Young Street.

In the early days of the wool-selling industry in Australia there were three outstanding firms: R. Goldsbrough & Co (initially in Melbourne), Mort & Co., and Harrison, Jones & Devlin. In 1888, the firms of Goldsbrough and Mort amalgamated and then, in 1922 Goldsbrough Mort & Co absorbed Harrison, Jones & Devlin.

In the 1870s, when Harrison, Jones & Devlin were seeking status and prestige, what better way was there but building a larger and better woolstore? The new store was built in Macquarie Place, where it stood until 1978, in its later years degraded to the ubiquitous use of old buildings on the city fringe – a parking garage!



The wool store in Macquarie Place was designed and supervised by Albert Bond, much-praised architect of Horderns' Palace Emporium, earlier Hordern stores at the Haymarket, and extensions to the Town Hall (he was City Architect briefly late in the 19th century). The six-storey building was built in Pymont sandstone with an average wall thickness 0.92 metres (3 feet); the facades were in Greek style, with Roman treatment in detail. It had a capacity of 25,000 bales and cost £50,000.

Contemporary descriptions stated that the wool was stored in rows, leaving a lane running from window to window, securing uninterrupted light and permitting – an unusual advantage – every single bale of wool in the warehouse to be sampled and inspected in the light. The light of the day cannot be surpassed, it was said; the windows were 2.44 metres (8 feet) high, glazed with plate glass and arranged opposite one another, providing a flood of light not excelled in any warehouse in England. The store was fitted with gas that supplied brilliant light and allowed operations at night.

The stone external walls supported an internal structure of cast iron posts (founded on rock) and ironbark girders; there were seven bays lengthwise and five bays across. The column heads were capped around the ironbark girder ends to provide a solid joint.

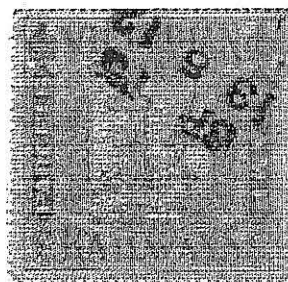
Wool wagons drove into the store from Castlereagh Street (now Loftus Street), and, after discharging their bales of wool, drove off into Arbitration Street on the other side of the building. Inside, the wool was 'whipped' up to the upper storeys by the six steam hoists, driven by two compound steam engines situated with the boilers on the roof.

Much, for those times, innovative equipment was installed; six lifts; the 'Edison telephone' for communication around the store, and tube lines to connect the street with the clerks' offices so that wool receipts could be transmitted for checking.

(from: Warehouses and Woolstores of Victorian Sydney, Balint E., Howells T., & Smyth V., Melbourne: OUP c1982)

"SELDOM SEEN" ITEM ON eBay INTERNET AUCTION

In October, a pair of Victorian railway parcel stamps were auctioned on eBay. The values were 3d black on blue and 1/- red on orange. Both stamps had the perfin "B&WPTYLTD.1" which had previously only been reported on a single Victorian railways parcel stamp. There was some keen bidding on this lot, which finally sold for US\$17 (A\$30+). This perfin still has not been reported on postage stamps, and it seems unusual that a large firm should perforate railway parcel stamps but not postage stamps. They surely would have had large stocks of postage stamps on hand as well.



COFA AND C/OF/A PERFINs: AN UPDATE

Quite a few additional items have been reported since the last listing of these issues in the January 1992 issue of the Bulletin. A full listing is available from the editor (postage appreciated if to be delivered by mail)

COFA**KE VII 1902-10**

2/6 purple (Posn 7)

KG V 1912-22 Royal Cypher Wmk

2 1/2d blue (2, 4)

3d violet (8)

4d grey-green (8)

1/- brown (4)

KG V 1934-36 series

SG 419 1d scarlet (2)

KG VI 1941-42 lighter colours

SG 486 1d pale scarlet (6)

C/OF/A**KG V 1934 Re-engraved**

SG 451 5/- red (1)

KGVI 1937 series

SG 462 1/2d green (6)

KGVI 1939 high values

SG 476a 2/6 green (8)

SG 477 5/- red (5, 7)

SG 478a £1 brown (3, 6)

KG VI 1950-51 new colours

SG 503 1/2d orange (2)

SG 504 1d light ultra (2)

SG 508 4d light ultra (6)

KG VI 1951 high values

SG 509 2/6 green (4)

SG 510 5/- red (4)

QE II 1955-58 St Edwards Crown cont.

SG 533 5/- red (1, 4, 6, 7, 8)

SG 534 10/- blue (5, 6, 7, 8)

SG 535 £1 black (1, 2, 4, 7)

QE II 1958-65 Multiple Crown Wmk

SG 571 1d ultram (2, 6)

SG 573 2d brown (2, 4)

SG 575 3d lilac (6)

SG 576 4d ultram (2, 4)

SG 579 6d deep claret (2)

SG 582 9d green (4)

SG 584 1/- brown (2, 4, 6)

SG 586 1/6 grey blue (6)

SG 595 2/6 black-brown (2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

SG 596 5/- red (3, 4, 6, 7)

SG 597 10/- blue (2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

SG 598 £1 black (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8)

1964 Forth Bridge

SG 659 3d bridge (2)

1967 Flowers

SG 721 9d Dogwood (2)

1967 Machins

SG 725 1d olive (2)

SG 736 6d reddish purple (4)

1968 Anniversaries

SG 768 9d Votes for Women (8)

In the earlier listings the QEII Wildings were not broken down by watermark.

Therefore all issues reported are listed not just additional items. No doubt there are many more of the lower value issues to be reported.

QE II 1952-54 Tudor Wmk

SG 520 3d lilac (8)

SG 523 6d reddish purple (4)

SG 526 9d green (2)

QE II 1955-58 St Edwards Crown

SG 551 9d green (6)

SG 554 1/- brown (1)

SG 536 2/6 black-brown (2, 4, 7)



COFA on 5/- Seahorse



C/O/F/A on £1 KGV brown

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. Prices in A\$ unless indicated.

			Est.
a.	Unlisted P&CO perfin on 1d red QV	(Jimbo's Sale Jun 00)	10
b.	Postcard, 1d green KGV PTPO on blue card used 1930 (also with ½d orange KGV adhesive perfin "JKS") with advertisement for Velvet soap on back.	(Jimbo's Sale Jul 00)	20
c.	Approx 400 KGV private perfins	(eBay auction, Jul 00) sold for	65+
d.	"U/NSW" perfin on 3x2 block of Aust. 1/6 Christmas Bell	(eBay auction, Jul00) sold for	45+
e.	NZ High Commissioner, London, official cover with "NZ" perfin	(eBay auction, Jul 00) sold for	55+
f.	Pair NSW £30 Duty Stamps perf BC.1	(eBay auction, Jul 00) sold for	30+
g.	"Bell" perfin on NSW 6d mauve	(eBay auction, Jul 00) sold for	24+
h.	NZ "AC&S" on 1d Terraces	Stirling & Co sale, Aug 00)	NZ 10
i.	NZ "RG/W" in 1d Universal.	(Mowbray auction, Aug 00)	NZ 10
j.	West Aust. Commissariat puncture on 1861 rough paper 1d carmine	(Premier Phil Auctions, Aug 00)	25
k.	Unlisted "SU" perfin on 2d Queensland revenue (2)	(Jimbo's Sale, Aug 00)	30
l.	NZ "M&C/Ltd" on 2d yellow KGV (MNG)	(Stampland sale, Aug 00)	NZ 40
m.	1½d green KGV pair perf "PL&B" cancelled New Caledonia	(West Brisbane Sale, Aug 00)	70
n.	10/- Robes perf "G/NSW". FU.	(West Brisbane Sale, Aug 00)	15
o.	NZ perfin "S.S.E." in reconstructed block of 6 used.	(Ashford Stamps Sale, Aug 00)	NZ 75
p.	NZ 1899 printed cover to Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd, Dunedin, with 2d sideface perf "W.T." pmkd Christchurch	(Ashford Stamps Sale Aug 00)	NZ 500
q.	Aust 1935 cover with Metropolitan Meat Industry Commissioner imprint at L/L & rare franking of ½d orange KGV and Canberra 1½d both perf "OS/NSW"	(Premier Phil Auctions, Sep 00)	300
r.	NZ "BG/EC perfin on 6d Victory	(Stirling & Co auction, Sep 00)	NZ 20-30
s.	1964 cover of University of NSW to USA with 10/- Arms, 5/- Cattle, 2/- Flannel Flower and 3d Queen all perf "U/NSW".	(eBay auction Sep 00) started at US\$25, sold for	US\$76 = A\$ 140

MISSING G/NSW PERFINS

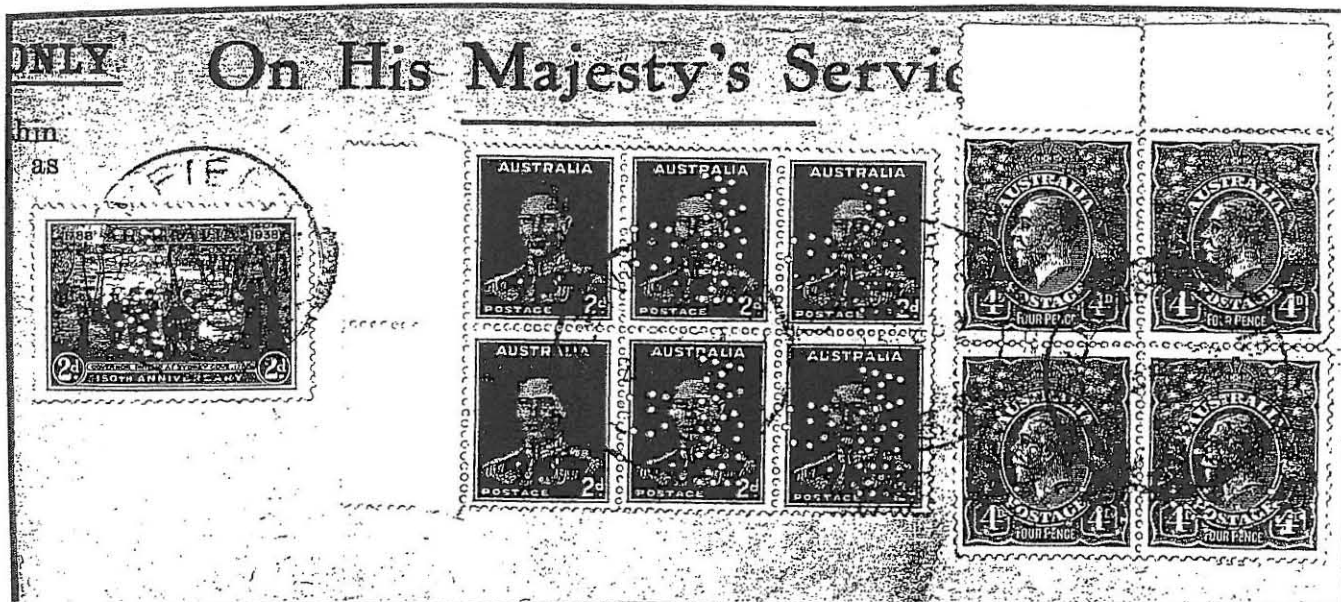
If the 'office boy' producing perfins forgot to puncture a row of stamps you would expect that he would be sent back to correct the oversight. Maybe things were not quite as strict or controlled at the New South Wales Government Printer as blocks of stamps both without and with G/NSW perfins are encountered fairly regularly.

Most of the blocks encountered are found on KGVII issues. A couple of typical blocks are illustrated below:



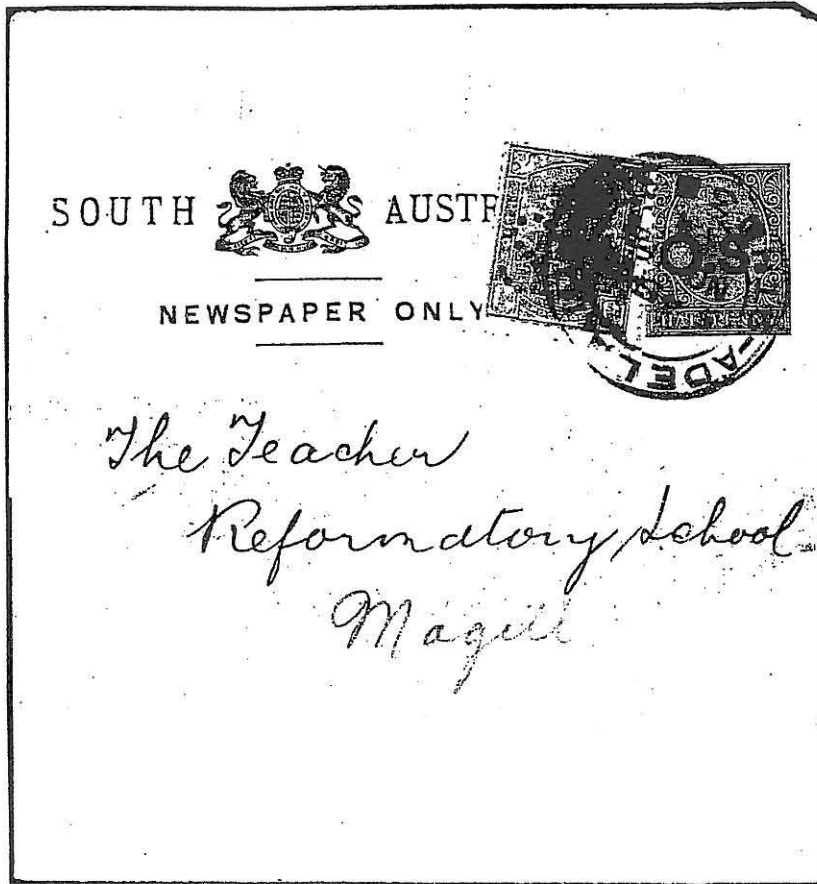
In all cases the stamps missing perfins are a vertical row either at the far left or right hand side of a pane of stamps. As this perforator punctured a vertical row of these stamps it is clear that the entire row was missed, rather than being caused by the size of the perforator or size of the stamps. Possibly it was difficult to gauge where to puncture the first and last row of stamps in a pane.

A somewhat scarcer example is found on 4d KGV CofA wmk issues where the top row in the pane is not perforated. At least one such sheet was issued to and used by the Veterinary Research Station, Glenfield.



SA NEWSPAPER WRAPPER USAGE

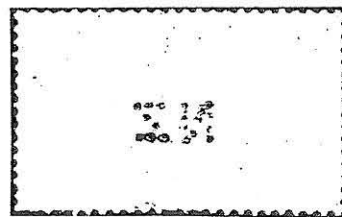
An interesting usage of the South Australian 'SA' perfin is shown on the newspaper wrapper illustrated below. The 1/2d green South Australian 'SA' perfin is combined with the overprinted OS imprinted on the newspaper wrapper, presumably at the time of a rise in postal charges.



HIGH VALUE 'NZ' PERFIN

Most of the 'NZ' perfins on British stamps encountered are found on lower face value issues. This contrasts with the high usage of higher face value stamps with the C/OF/A perfin presumably on parcels.

The example illustrated here is however on a 5/- KGV issue.



Would there be any interest from members for a listing of the issues with the 'NZ' perfins on British stamps?