

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 54 JULY 2001

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EDITORIAL

I was very pleased to be able to send a small number of members packets of a few dozen different and common VG and G/NSW perfins. The only suggestion about what to do with such excess common material was to use it as giveaways to encourage other collectors to take up collecting perfins. The number of situations where this could be done seems quite large. Putting on an exhibition of perfins at your local club ? Well why not have a few starter packets available free for any interested. At a larger exhibition a handout introducing the club, a brief introduction to perfins and a few perfins could be given away. If you would like to try something like this please let me know and I'll be happy to provide the perfins.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members since the previous issue:

- #198 Lindsay Parker, Naracoorte, South Australia
- #199 Dr C. Fox, Chatswood, New South Wales
- #200 Norman Hart, Rockhampton, Queensland
- #201 Stephen Jones, Lower Hutt, New Zealand
- #202 C. M Morris, Elimbah, Queensland

It was intended to mark the joining of member #200 in some special way. As members 198 to 201 joined within a few days of each other, the Secretary has sent each of them

one of the souvenir Australia 99 covers as well as one of the recent covers from the Invercargill exhibition.

CLUB AUCTION

Members took your Secretary's advice (to bid early) very seriously. Within the first week after the catalogue was received, 14 bidders had lodged a total of 246 bids on 146 of the 244 lots! Final bidding was very strong, and showed that many of the reserves were very conservative.

If you have material for the next auction, please forward to John by the end of September for inclusion in the catalogue.

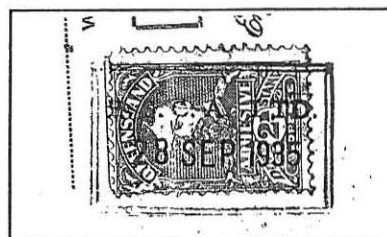
VALE EMIL PIRCHAN

It is with sadness that I have to report that Emil Pirchan, one of our early members, died recently. Emil had been a member of the Club since 1988. His main perfin interests were Austrian commercial issues and KGV sideface issues. He was often encountered sorting through accumulations of KGV sideface issues looking for postmarks or flaws.

I well remember visiting Emil at his home around 15 years ago and being given the opportunity to view his comprehensive Austrian perfin collection. Emil was noted for his great sense of humour. He will be missed.

ANOTHER "REPORTED BUT NOT SEEN" SOLVED? (John Mathews)

Recently, I saw a Queensland Duty Stamp with a boxed company cachet for ESCA Ltd used as a cancel. This may have been the same as one which led to the perfin report for ESCA in an old stamp magazine, along with AUSN and LAMBS. All these "perfin" had been reported on Queensland stamps, and the latter two are now well-known as pre-printed overprints.



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PWD PERFIN

The Public Works Dept. in Western Australia used the PWD perfin for a little over a year dates recorded being from 2/4/1903 to 5/4/1904. This pattern is fairly scarce and not much detail of the positions of the pattern on issues has been published. One of our UK members was fortunate to purchase a selection of these issues which increases our knowledge of these issues somewhat.

The following issues were included:

Swan issues	Positions
3d brown Watermark Crown/CA	1
4d brown “	4
6d purple “	2
1/- green “	2
1d red Watermark W’Crown’A	4 8
1d red Watermark V/ Crown	1 4 8
2d yellow “	1,2 5,6
4d brown “	2

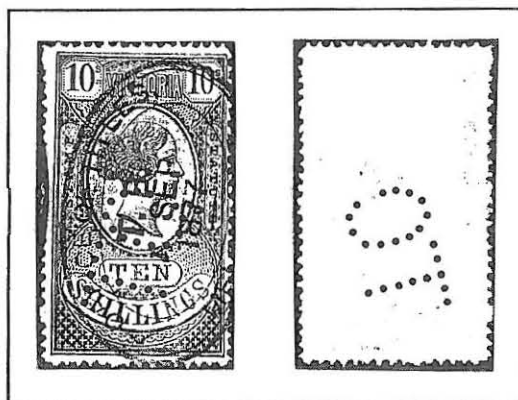
Mogens Juhl in “ Postage Stamps And Postal History of Western Australia” includes information about which issues were given the PWD perfin. Some additional issues are mentioned in volume 1 namely the 1/2d watermark Crown/CA and the 2d watermark W”Crown”A. In volume 2 on the Melbourne printings he notes usage on the watermark V/Crown 1d, 2d, 4d and 2/- issues all p.12.5 x 12. The two higher values he considers rare. The most common would appear to be the 1d of which all 8 positions are mentioned

Can anyone provide further information about these issues so that we can put together a detailed listing?

AN EARLY GOVERNMENT PERFIN

In 1997, John Amiet showed a previously unknown “TO” perfin on a Victorian Duty Stamp (SPPB, October 1997, page 3). Now he has found another example of this perfin which answers many questions about that pattern. Firstly, a blind pin in the ‘O’, and more blind pins in a second strike which is only visible under a strong magnifier, confirm that the pattern is “TO” and not “OT”.

This example is on a 10/- denomination of the Queen Victoria series and has an oval cachet which reads “OFFICE OF TITLES / T.B. / 4 SEP / 1877 / MELBOURNE”. The perfin pattern probably stands for the less formal name “Titles Office”. The general style of cachet, and in particular the initials (“T.B.”) above the date, is very similar to the cachet for the Prothonotary Office in Victoria, whose Duty Stamps were cancelled with various shaped punches or “CLD”.



The “TO” perfin is not square-on to the edges of the stamp and may also indicate that this was intended as a cancelling punch after the stamp was affixed to the document. Its date precedes that of all known private perfins of Victorian companies.

PRIVATE USE OF A COMPANY PERFIN OR NOT? (John Mathews)

Recently a series of seven postcards was offered on eBay Internet auction in separate lots with perfin ER&COLD.1 on New South Wales stamps postmarked from December 1905 to July 1906. After viewing the messages and signatures on the first three of these cards, I was beginning to think that it looked like illegal private use of the company stamps.

But when I got to the fourth one in the sequence, the message in part read "Mr Rich sends Esma one [postcard] from each place he goes to." So the writer had a close connection with the company (E. Rich & Co Ltd, Sydney).

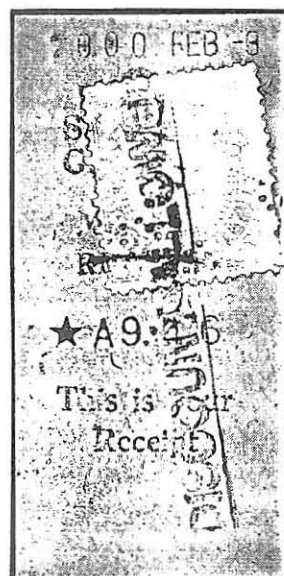
There were several clues to the identity of the writer(s) of the cards. On one of the cards, the message was the simple greeting "Compliments / of the / Season / 'Waimarino' ". On another, the postmark was Mosman (the others all had Sydney postmarks). A search of the Sydney Directories of that period found that there was a house with that name (before house numbers were used in that suburb) in Lang Street, Mosman, occupied by Oswald Watkin. In the Electoral Roll for 1903, Oswald's occupation was shown as "clerk", and from 1905 he was listed as a "Secretary". Undoubtedly, he worked in that capacity for E. Rich & Co Ltd. Esma Watkin first appeared at the same address on the Electoral Roll in 1921, and thus was born about 1899 or 1900. She would have been about 5 or 6 years old when Mr Rich sent her those cards.

On the Electoral Rolls, the other person listed at the Mosman address was Laura Annie Watkin. Four of the postcards were signed by Laura. I could not find a marriage for Oswald and Laura among the New South Wales records, so I wondered if they were related to the addressee on all the cards, a Miss Sharpe of Fordell (near Wanganui), New Zealand. The New Zealand marriage index showed that Oswald William Arthur Watkin was married in New Zealand in 1897, and his bride was Annie Laura Sharpe!

Oswald Watkin died at Mosman on 1 November 1929 before he had reached retirement, and Laura died at their Lang Street home on 30 March 1941, aged 67 years. It would appear that Esma pre-deceased her.

AN UNUSUAL PROVING ITEM

John Amiet has discovered a cash register receipt of Sargood Gardner Ltd with a Victorian 2d Duty stamp perfined SB (pattern SB.a). At the top of the receipt are the figures "2800 FEB -3". It may be that the "28" indicates the year 1928 (?). SB.a is known to have been used until 1927, when the company name changed from Sargood Brothers. The company started using SG.2 in 1927 but it is not known used on Duty stamps. Some Duty stamps already perforated with SB.a before the company name change may still have been in use the following year.



AN OLD "PHILATELIC" PERFIN COVER (John Mathews)

An unusual perfin cover was offered recently on the eBay Internet auction. The registered cover was sent from London to Bremen, Germany, in 1913, and postage was paid with a 2½d blue KGV stamp of the 1912 series perforated "P/B/CO" (P0620.01) and four ½d QV "cutouts" from postal stationery. The GB perfin catalogue shows the user of this perfin pattern to be Produce Brokers Co Ltd, London EC., but the cachet on the flap of the reverse side of the envelope is not of this company. The oval cachet reads "The William Stamp Co / 120 Leadenhall St. / London EC".

Produce Brokers Co Ltd were at 29 Gt. St. Helens, EC, not far from the end of Leadenhall Street. It is not known if the William Stamp Co was a supplier of perforated stamps, or if it acquired the "P/B/CO" perfin some other way. But the creation of "contrived" covers, especially among the philatelic community, is obviously not a new phenomenon, and this one shows how deceiving it could be if assumed to be a proving perfin cover.



AN UNUSUAL SA PERFIN

Quite frequently an unusual item turns up that is hard to explain. I have recently been shown a couple of perfins that are hard to explain.

There are two well known SA perfins. The first with 13 holes in the 'S' is found on South Australian issues and was used by the South Australian Government. The second with 12 holes in the S was used by the Salvation Army Melbourne on Victorian issues up to around 1906. Neither type are scarce.



However the stamp illustrated at left has an SA perfin with 13 holes in the 'S' and looks similar to the South Australian issue but was used on a Commonwealth issue in the 1930's clearly postmarked in New South Wales. The holes in this perfin do appear to be uniform but vary in size unlike those usually encountered on the common South Australian issues.

Just to complicate issues is a further item illustrated at right. This time the perfin is G SA used in 1936 in South Melbourne. The SA letters look like the one above, again having variable size holes, while the G is a different size, somewhat reminiscent of the G from a VG pattern but with the 'V' missing. Are these poor fakes particularly in view of the lack of SA usage on Commonwealth issues or are other copies known and can the user be identified. Please contact the Editor with any information you have.



PERFINS ON EBAY (Derek Pocock)

Following up comments in the last Bulletin about priced obtained for perfins, I thought it might add a little something to our thoughts by advising about a lot that sold on ebay a while back in February.

Offered under Stamps/ Western Australia was a collection of perfins on common 1d and 2d swans. The lot was illustrated and consisted of 36 stamps- 4 were VOCo, 6 were OS and 1 each of WS/&Co., GDCo/P and GDCo; the other 26 were HSCo. Now although this perfin is listed in G&M as common, I would suggest that this refers to all other States except WA where it is, to say the least, definitely uncommon. I think I could count on the fingers of 2 hands, the number I have seen in some 20 years. Admittedly it is seen more often than the HS/Co where I have only seen 4 copies.

Now here are 26 copies in one hit. Source of sale- Denmark!

As to the price. The estimate was US\$2 but someone else also recognised the scarcity of this lot because it realised US\$29 and might have gone higher if I'd been awake in the last hour or so of the sale. Unfortunately the deadline for many lots comes in the middle of the night, Australian time.

So someone got a good buy, maybe another member of this Club. If so, I guess we can expect a few spares to trickle into the auction in not too distant future. It also confirms the scarcity rating given in G&M whilst at the same time emphasising that such a rating of perfins that have been used across several states does not necessarily reflect a true rating for each State.

DID A PERFORATOR COME BACK TO LIFE?

David Richards reports a sample of pattern Y.7 on a 4d Queen Elizabeth definitive of the 1957 issue. This is 20 years after the last previously known usage of this pattern and of the pattern Y.4 used by the same company, E. L. Yencken & Co Pty Ltd. None of that company's other patterns are known used after 1937. Reference to the 1959 Sands' Melbourne Directory shows that the company certainly existed at that time. Perhaps the perforator had been stored away for 20 years, and was then "discovered" by a mail boy who decided to perforate some stamps in 1957. Perhaps this person was known to our member Bryan Magee who was himself perforating stamps for Sargood Gardiner at about the same time! If anyone has any insight into this matter, we would be pleased to hear.

ADDITIONS TO CLUB LIBRARY

Bryan Magee has kindly donated the following books to the library (held by Secretary):

- Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials, by Tomasson & Johnson, 5th ed., 1985;
 - Perfins of British Malaya, Peter Giffen, 1989
-

EDWARD FAY PTY LTD – PITT AND LIVERPOOL STREETS (John Mathews)

The first Fay's Shoe Store was opened in 1896 by Edward Fay, who was born in Balmain in 1856.

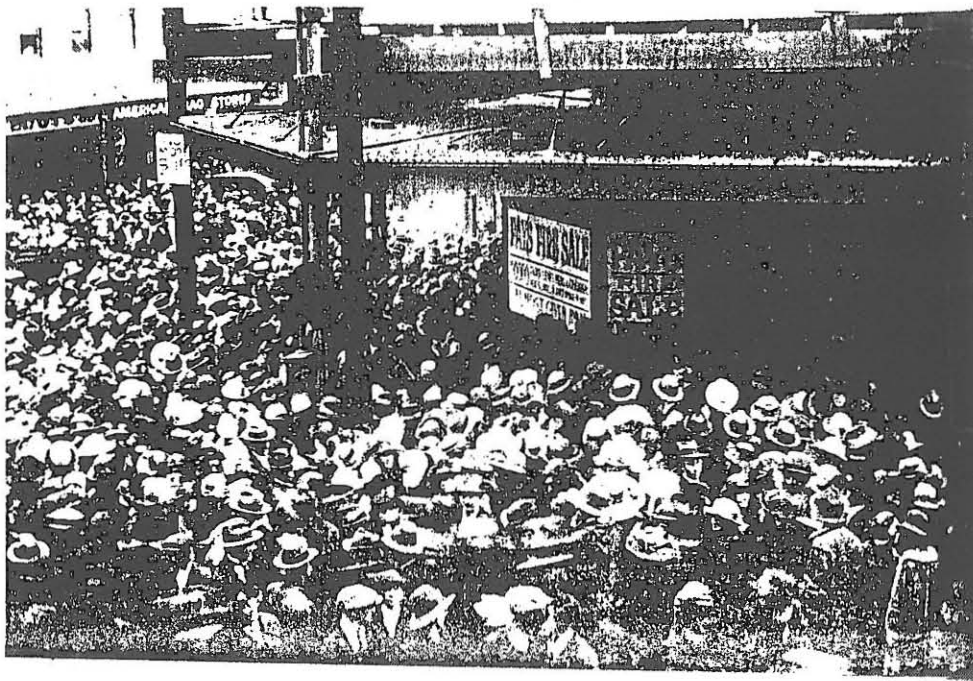
Edward Fay bought out a small existing shoe store in Liverpool Street, near Pitt Street, Sydney. Next door was an iron yard, the Law Courts, and a group of five small shops, which eventually Edward was to lease. In those days the area was mainly inhabited by Chinese, who became his customers. (Even today, many of the small shops close by this area are Chinese grocery shops, and "Chinatown" is nearby on the opposite side of George Street). Although business did well, Edward Fay operated on a stringent budget, and took out of the business only £5 each week for living expenses. The remainder of the profit he ploughed back into the business.

By 1911, Edward Fay formed the business into a separate company which he called Edward Fay Pty Ltd. Three years later he was able to buy from the Hordern Estate the land on which stood the corner shops in Pitt and Liverpool Streets. He demolished the existing buildings and erected a handsome building with a basement, ground floor and first floor.

Edward Fay, snr, died on January 21, 1914. His only son, E. A. Fay, had joined the firm in the previous year and became an important part of the organisation. Edward Fay snr's widow also became a vital force in the business management, and another trusted employee, Mr Jenkin, who acted as store manager, formed the third of the triumvirate which saw Fay's Shoe Store stride ahead. The aim was to work towards a chain of shoe stores. This was achieved when shoe stores were opened by the company in the Haymarket area and near Grace Brothers, Broadway.

When Mrs Fay, snr, died in 1938, the firm passed to Mr E. A. Fay, jnr, and his four sisters. The business was well established, well known, and flourishing. This profitable state continued, and in 1923 the management decided to extend the Liverpool/Pitt Street building by adding five extra floors. However, during work on the extensions, a fire broke out when hot coals from the steam crane set alight the malthoid roof, damaging the first and ground floors, and causing flooding in the basement from the fire hoses. The subsequent action was a huge shoe sale when 60,000 pairs of shoes were sold over two weeks' trading.

The business continued its expansion by the leasing of shops in suburbs and country towns. In 1957, Jim Fay, the grandson of the founder, joined the firm, proving Fays as a true family business. In 1975, Edward Fay Pty Ltd took over the Joe Gardiner Shoe Store chain, and it could well be said that the business had reached a peak of achievement.



Seven years later, G. J. Coles Stores made a bid to obtain Fays Shoe Store chain, and were successful. The chain consisted of 68 shoe stores extending throughout New South Wales and into Queensland.

One condition of the sale was irrevocable. Coles must retain the name "Fays Shoes", operating the shoe store chain under the family name.

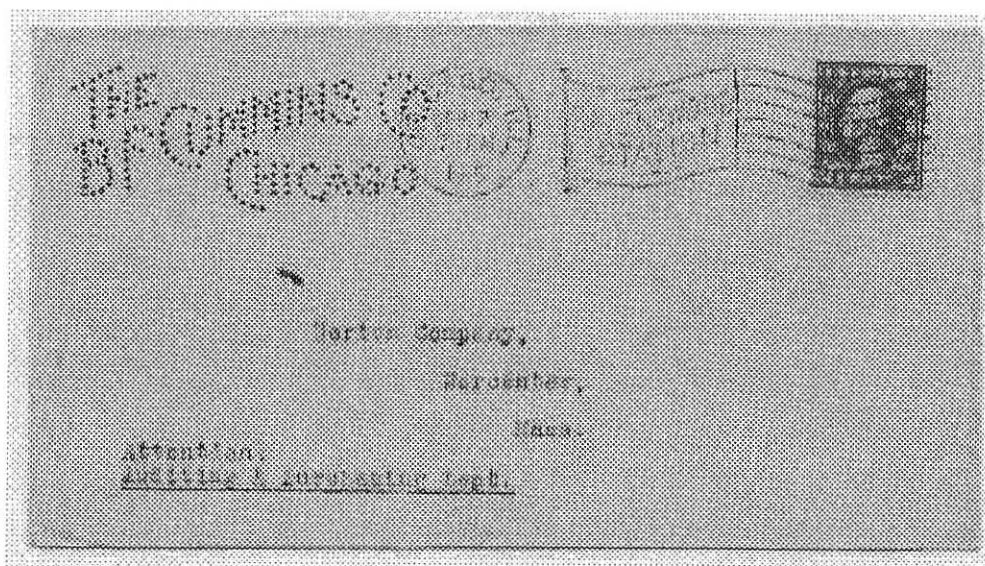
Jim Fay decided to give away his retailing career, and returned to Hay in New South Wales, to become a farmer. John Zinman, another store director, joined Woolworths Limited, and Lee Byrne, and chairman Ted Fay, decided that retirement would be their choice.

Although the retail trade lost another family business, it is interesting, and indeed exciting to realise that at the time of its takeover, Edward Fay Pty Ltd was 92 per cent owned by the Fay family.

(Material for this article was taken from "Shopkeepers and Shoppers", by Francis Pollon (1989) by kind permission of the publishers, The Retail Traders' Association of NSW.)

A NICE B. F. CUMMINS COMPANY COVER

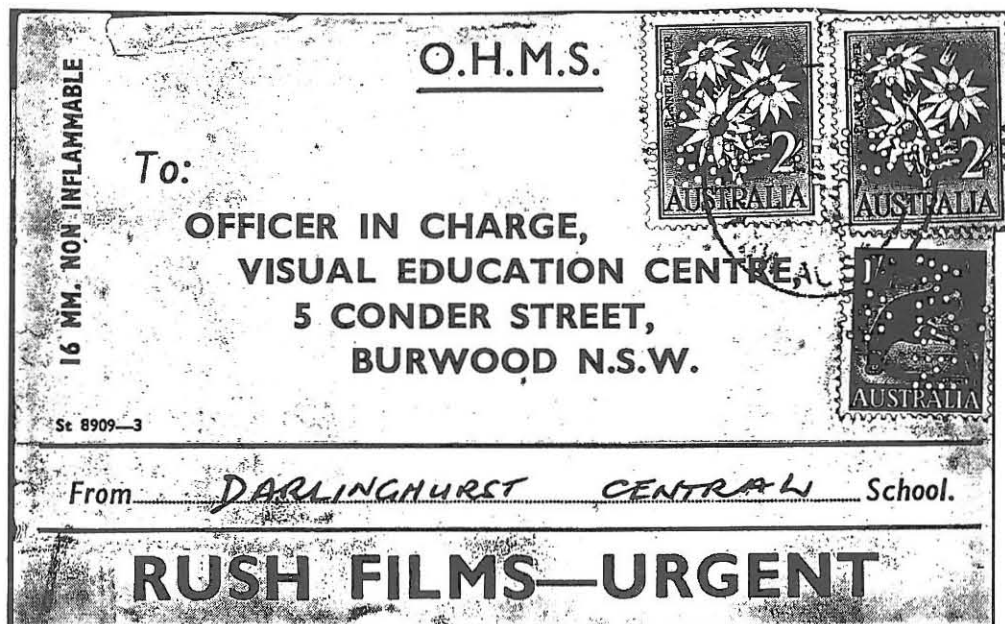
In December 2000, a perfin cover of the B. F. Cummins Company of Chicago was offered on eBay Internet auction. This company made many perforators of various types, including stamp and cheque/check perforators, and on this cover advertised their trade by perforating their identity in the top left corner of the envelope! Even in a city the size of Chicago, they must have been so well known that they did not consider it necessary to include their street or post office box address. The "Ravenswood Station" flag-style machine cancel gives a clue to their actual location. The stamp used has their own perfin, similar to that reported in the July 2000 issue of this Bulletin.



G/NSW PERFINS USED FOR SCHOOL FILMS

Many of our Australian members may remember the large film reels used in public schools in a bygone era. In New South Wales many of these films were on loan from the Visual Education Centre, Burwood and were posted to and from the schools by mail. These packages were quite large and attracted a fair amount of postage. Bill Harley has unearthed a range of return labels supplied by the Visual Education Centre to schools all with a nice range of G/NSW perfins.

This type of usage clearly demonstrates the heavy use of G/NSW perfins by the Education Dept. and why such large numbers of non letter rate issues were used. Another example of where perfins have touched the lives of many of our members without us being aware at the time.



SCOUT PERFINS WANTED

Dick Van Oorschot would like information about and to obtain Australian and New Zealand scout stamps with perfins. A range of Australian State Government perfins on the 2 1/2d and 3 1/2d Pan Pacific Scout Jamboree stamps are recorded and some commercial issues are also encountered. Dick can be contacted by email – snoopie@wanadoo.nl

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2000 / 2001

PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAAustralian account

Statement of receipts and expenditure for year ended 30 June 2001

Receipts (A\$)		Expenditure (A\$)	
Bank balance 1.7.2000	5961.44	Printing/post 4 Bulletins	1555.15
Subscriptions *	1476.35	Bank & Govt charges	63.70
Bank interest	5.29	Transfer to Term Deposit	1000.00
Exchange Branch	10948.55	Exchange Branch	8676.40
Auction 1/00	2404.50	Auction 1/00	2287.88
Auction 2/00	1841.25	Auction 2/00	1831.24
Term Deposit interest	272.40	Postage & Stationery	39.82
Bulletin sales	185.00		
Miscellaneous	11.00	Bank balance 30.6.2001	7381.59
	-----		-----
Total	22835.78	Total	22835.78
	=====		=====

* includes \$866.81 in credit or in advance.

Term Deposit \$8000.00 @ 3.95% due 6.4.2002

New Zealand account

Statement of receipts and expenditure for year ended 30 June 2001

Receipts		Expenditure	
	NZ\$		NZ\$
Bank balance July 1, 2000	668.46	Donation to CANPEX	100.00
Subscriptions	325.75	Donation to Southland	
Interest	10.94	Exhibition 2001	75.00
Auction sales	108.05	Auction payments to	
Vendors 86.30		Bank balance 30 June 2001	851.90
	-----		-----
Total	1,113.20	Total	1,113.20
	=====		=====

Our thanks go to Peter and Richard who have managed our financial accounts so well for another twelve months.

AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest from auctions/direct sales since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobilo, John Amiet, David Andersen, Bryan Magee, and Hubert Goron for passing on their keen spotting of perfin lots in these auctions. Prices in A\$ unless indicated.

		Est.
a.	“Rosback” peddle-operated line perforator (eBay auction, Apr 01)	Sold for US \$511
b.	NZ “RG/W” perfin on 2/- Milford Sound (eBay auction, May 01)	Sold for US \$ 8
c.	NSW 1d wrapper with 2d QV adhesive added. Both perf “GR” (eBay auction, May 01)	Sold for US \$123.50
d.	“NZ” perfin on GB 2/6 QV, Lombard St B.O. pmk (Stirling & Co Sale May 01)	NZ \$ 25
e.	NZ 1d Universal with “GNB/Ltd” perfin (Ashford Stamps Auction May 01)	NZ \$ 80
f.	Small lot private perfins inc Europe, HK, GB, USA, etc. (West Brisbane Stamps Sale May 01)	\$ 30
g.	World perfins on cover (25 items – 8 from Australia) (West Brisbane Stamps Sale May 01)	\$ 90
h.	World private perfins (380), mainly 1910s to 1930s. Many diff countries, some unusual. (Auckland City Stamps Auction Jun 01)	NZ \$215
i.	3d, 6d, 1/- Numeral Series duty stamps with “AACO” perfin (Tasmania Stamp Auctions Jun 01)	Sold for \$ 40
j.	1913 sm Treasury reg’d env with 4d Pictorial perf ‘T’ (Tasmania Stamp Auctions Jun 01)	Sold for \$ 64
k.	NZ 1909 2d mauve perf “B.G./E.C.” (David Holmes sale, Jun 01)	NZ \$ 40
l.	NZ 2d yellow KGV perf “M&C/LD” (David Holmes sale, Jun 01)	NZ \$ 40
m.	Malaya (Kelantan) perfins QV to modern on card (David Holmes sale, Jun 01)	NZ \$ 20
n.	NZ “VOCO” on 4d 1935 set (Stirling & Co Sale, Jul 01)	NZ \$ 10
o.	St Lucia 1946 KGV 8d, 3/- and £1 perf “SPECIMEN” (Stirling & Co Sale, Jul 01)	NZ \$100
p.	Block of 4 x 6d Tasmanian Duty Stamps perf MM.7 (eBay Jul 01)	sold for US\$20.50

ON-LINE AUCTION CATALOGUE (John Mathews)

I hope this is not interpreted as advertising for a particular auction house (which it is not), but for those who may not be aware of it, Premier Philatelic Auctions have produced an on-line version of their catalogue. It includes scans of selected items. The overall style is the same as their hardcopy version, including their comprehensive index of sections, countries/regions, and thematic/topical items (this including “perfins”).

Their site is at www.premierauctions.com.au.

Your Secretary would be interested to hear of any other “traditional” auction catalogues which now have an on-line version. These details will also be included in later Bulletins for members information.