SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

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EDITORS COMMENT

No matter what one collects, the associated literature is one of the most useful adjuncts to a collection. It is likely to provide a background to the area, some idea of scarcity and some idea of what is available. However one of the most important things is the authority of the information, who wrote it, where it came from or how it was compiled. Even in the best researched literature errors do occur whether typographic or of interpretation and it is sometimes necessary to track back to work out if something really exists or an interpretation is reasonable.

There are two main types of literature, the "look what I've got" report and, the compilation of information from a range of sources. The first of these is a pretty good source of information as you know that someone has an item or items, material is often illustrated and it usually is possible to check with the person concerned in case of doubt provided that the report is recent. The compilation may be the result of a survey of the existing literature, a survey of a number of collections, numerous reports from different collectors or a combination of these. Regardless the source of the information needs to be stated even if this can only be done in a general way and this is almost always done. Sources of literature used do need to be stated so that information can be checked not to mention giving due acknowledgement to those who have provided it. Knowledge about an area is built up most rapidly by the process of current authors adding there own bit to the previous literature.

Fortunately with perfins as with most other collectables there is an extensive relevant literature albeit of varying utility and most does acknowledge the sources of the information. Books or articles that neglect to acknowledge the source of the information therein tend to lack authority until their reports/interpretations can be extensively checked

against other sources. This is quite difficult for the average collector to do without considerable effort. A starting point however is to look at the existing literature to see if there is any agreement between it and the new unacknowledged information.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members since the previous issue:

#203 John W. Taylor Burleigh Waters, Qld #204 Ed Mackowiak Highett, Vic

#205 J. Richard Rymer New York, NY USA

VALE

We are sad to inform members of the passing of Peter Giffen (NZ) recently. Peter had been a member of the Club since it was formed in 1987.

Also, we have received the sad news that the editor of the US Perfins Club Bulletin, Floyd Walker, has died following heart by-pass surgery last November. Floyd was a tireless worker for the US Perfins Club and had also been editor of their Foreign Catalog. Many of you may have seen examples of his "WAL/KER" perfin.

CLUB AUCTION

The Club auction has been another success for most buyers and vendors. Over 72% of lots sold, many well above the reserve price (your auctioneer will have to revise his thoughts about reserves!). A list of prices realized is enclosed with this Bulletin. Unsold lots are available for a limited time at the reserve price. More material will be needed for the next auction, and should be forwarded to the Secretary by the end of March — with descriptions, reserves and suitable packaging of each lot.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2002

Many thanks to all those members who forwarded completed nomination forms. As there were no new nominees for any of the positions to be elected, the present Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Editor are re-elected for a further 2 years. Particular thanks to Peter, Richard and David for agreeing to continue in their roles.

We are also pleased that Dr. Derek Pocock (WA) has accepted nomination for the position of President. Derek will be well known to many of our members. He is not only an avid collector himself, but also has played an active role for many years in the national and

international philatelic scene of exhibiting and judging. He has also written articles on perfins for philatelic journals.

CLUB MEETING, MARCH 2002 - CANBERRA

The Committee of Canberra StampShow 2002 have kindly offered a meeting room for use of PCNZA at their show in Canberra in March 2002. The meeting will be from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm in the afternoon of Saturday 16 March. We would like to see as many members as possible, and a special invitation is extended to new members whom we have not yet had a chance to meet in person. Ours are friendly meetings where formal business is kept to a minimum, and you do not have to risk being asked to take on an office! Bring any items of perfin or general philatelic interest. The Show is being opened at 10.30 am by the High Commissioner for New Zealand in Australia.

CLUB MEETING, APRIL 2002 - AUCKLAND

The North Shore Philatelic Society is conducting "NORTHPEX 2002" at Birkenhead, Auckland, New Zealand, in the first week of April. The committee has kindly arranged a meeting room for our members to conduct an informal meeting which has been scheduled for 3 p.m. on Friday 5th April. The meeting room is on the upper floor of the North Shore Events Centre. Display boards will be available for members' use at the meeting. We hope that many of our members will be able to attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

Harold Waite has sent to your Secretary some of the results of the National Philatelic Exhibition in Brisbane in October. Our late President, Robert Samuel, was awarded a Vermeil for his display of "The Commercial Perfins of New Zealand". Sadly, the award was announced on the day Robert died, and he would have been unaware of this result.

Harold modestly did not point out that he, too, received a Large Vermeil award for his display of "New Zealand Queen Victoria postcards – 1876 – 1901".

Dave Elsmore received a Large Vermeil award for his "1827 – 1966 Impressed Revenues of the Australian States".

Allan Berry received a Large Vermeil for his display of "New Zealand Government Department Printed Franks".

Member David McNamee (USA) has received a Gold Award and Reserve Grand Award at a local show in the San Francisco area for his exhibit, "Focus on the Holes: Perfins on the Stamps of Tasmania".

Congratulations to all these PCNZA members for their various awards.

CLUB PERFORATOR'S PERSONALISED STAMP

Thank you to all those who commented favourably on the personalized Christmas stamps. For those interested in the technical details, the perforator was placed on its side VERY CAREFULLY on the glass of a scanner, and the resultant .jpg file e-mailed to Australia Post. The cheque followed by normal mail! The PC/NZA perfin was of course done by the perforator shown on the tab.

Each member received the same number of these stamps, with one of the appropriate denomination being used as the postage on the envelope. Thanks to those who used one of their spare mint copies to send greetings, purchase slips or other messages to your Secretary.

ANOTHER "BELL" PERFIN ON eBay

In December 2001, another "Bell" perfin was offered for sale on eBay Internet auction. This example was on the New South Wales 2d Queen Victoria issue with "OS" overprint (ASC34). The immediate reaction is "Is this genuine?". This pattern had previously been reported on this stamp (without overprint, ASC27). The perfin pattern certainly looks genuine, as the pin positions and variations in size of holes match other examples.



However, it is not known whether this overprinted stamp was on general sale in the 1880s when the perfin was in use. (The 1931 6d Kingsford-Smith Airmail stamp with "OS" overprint did go on sale to the public, and is known with perfins.) Do any of our readers have any knowledge of sale of this overprinted stamp to the public?

WANTED TO BUY

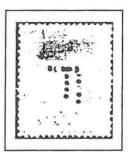
Two Club members are keen to buy Official perfins, particularly on Roos and KGV, and harder-to-find items. If you have spares, please contact your Secretary for a copy of their "wants lists".

John Tyson is looking for private perfins on Tasmanian stamps, including revenues. John's address is 240 Low Head Road, Low Head, Tasmania, 7253.

David Ditterich is seeking used stamps (not perfinned) of Chile for the period 1980 to 2001. David's address is 15 McCulloch Street, Dromana, Victoria 3936.

AN INTERESTING VARIETY OF "T" PERFIN

The item shown has been submitted for the next Club auction, but its existence is worth noting permanently in our Bulletin. The stamp is a 1½d red KGV, small multiple watermark, perf 13½ x 12½. The perfin is a normal 5x5 perf "T", but there is a second strike of the upright leg to the lower right (as seen from the back), giving the appearance of the letter "F".



AUSTRALIAN STATES "OFFICIAL PERFINS" SPECIALIST CATALOGUE David Andersen

I have recently been shown a copy of this catalogue published by G&R Albums late last year. It is part of a larger publishing program that includes a simplified catalogue and an album of the same material as well as catalogues and albums of 'non perfin' states and KGV material. The cost was A\$70 for the 61 page spiral bound booklet.

For each State the watermarks and stamp designs are illustrated as well as the perfin types. A new system of catalogue numbering is used throughout, issues being grouped by face value rather than watermark as in Gibbons. Tables of the issues with each perfin follow but no attempt is made to record the different positions that a perfin can be found with.

There is no historical or usage information about the perfins and most importantly no indication about where the information in the listings has come from. According to the introduction this catalogue is to "introduce Australian State Stamp Official Perfins to the stamp world". There are no references to any previously published information which is a pity as much detailed information of a specialist nature has been published.

Some of the issues listed bear little similarity to those previously recorded. For example the section on the GSB/NSW perfin lists only the 5d value with 12 perforation/watermark varieties. Previous reports going back to 1908 record only one perforation/watermark variety on the 5d but also report this perfin on 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d, 9d, 1/-, 5/-, 10/- and 20/-values. This is a very large discrepancy and unfortunately results in some doubt about the accuracy of the listings, which of course can be cleared up if appropriate information about the source of the information is provided.

A number of official perfin types found on State stamps are omitted in the G&R catalogue including the Tasmanian 'triangle', Western Australian Imperial punctures, Queensland large OS, one of the New South Wales GR types, New South Wales issues with Melbourne OS, Victorian MBW types and New South Wales with OS/GR. A new PW pattern identical to the "PW" letters in the Western Australian PWD pattern is listed as a New South Wales Official which is interesting. More information is needed about this one!

Prices are supplied for both mint and used copies of each item. Prices are stated to be based on the price of the same stamps without "official perfins". Unfortunately this has not always resulted in reasonable estimates of price. For example some of the 5d GSB/NSW issues are listed as low as \$1 for used copies. Such a price indicates that the stamps in question are quite common whereas in fact they are very difficult to obtain.

EXHIBITION PERFIN ON POSTCARD (John Mathews)

In August, on the eBay Internet auction, there was offered a postcard of the 1930 Exposition International Poste Aerienne, with the exhibition perfin "E.I.P.A.30" cancelled with the exhibition postmark. It sold for US\$153.



THE HOUSE OF DANKS - JOHN DANKS AND SONS PTY LTD (John Mathews)

The founder of the company, John Danks, was born in Staffordshire, England, in January 1828 to John and Hannah Danks, and christened in St Bartholomew's Church, Wednesbury, on 10 February 1828.

In 1836, at the tender age of 8, John Danks went to work in his father's business which produced wrought iron pipes and fittings. One year later, young John went to work for his uncle who owned several iron works, and learned brick laying. Some years on, John worked for other companies to widen his knowledge in machinery and mechanics, including Ransomes, Sims & Jeffries Ltd, builders of engines and thrashers. Later, John would become their sole agent in Australia.

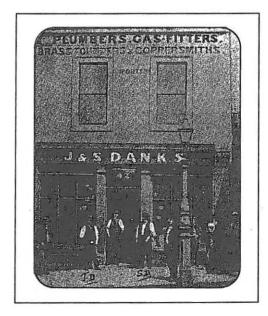
In time, John became a qualified engineer. At the age of 29, he, together with his wife Ann and their two children, Ann aged two and Arthur, a babe in arms, left England on the ship "Shaftesbury" bound for Australia. Travelling with John were his two brothers, Thomas (a batchelor) and Samuel, Samuel's wife Sarah and their two children.

Arriving in Melbourne on 4 November 1857, where gas lighting had just been installed, the Danks brothers and their families took a house in Patterson Place, Emerald Hill (South Melbourne). There they started as coffee roasters, but this proved unprofitable, so in 1859 they turned to the trade with which they were more familiar, brassware, plumber's ware, cast iron pipes and fittings. While the business was still slow, John took a job at the new Treasury Building being constructed in Spring Street. There he is credited with having constructed a travelling crane, and inventing the first stone-sawing machine in Australia.

When brother Thomas retired from the business in 1861, John returned to give his full attention to the company. The business prospered so much that they bought an unpretentious two-storey building at 42 Bourke Street West in the city. They traded as J & S Danks, plumbers, gas-fitters, brass founders and coppersmiths. It would be nearly 100 years before the company was to vacate that site.

In the same year, 1861, John Danks' hope for a son to carry on the business was realised when Aaron Turner Danks was born, the son Arthur having died in 1858. Aaron would eventually follow in his father's footsteps becoming the second

Managing Director and Chairman of the company.



The company went from strength to strength. In 1871, the brothers dissolved the partnership and Samuel went to New Zealand to form his own hardware company, whilst John continued to trade at 42 Bourke Street West. Throughout the 1870s, John became very interested in community affairs. For some years, he was a member of the Municipal Council of South Melbourne, becoming Mayor for a short period.

In Melbourne in the 1880s, the cost of importing manufactured goods from Britain was rising at an alarming rate. The answer was self-evident. Danks would have to produce the goods themselves. This led to the establishment of factories in Queensbridge and Hanna Streets, South Melbourne, and a decision to expand activities into Sydney at Blackfriars and Alexandria. Melbourne was to have a brass and iron foundry, together with lead mills and sheet metal works. Sydney was to get a brass foundry and lead mill. In June 1880, the Melbourne Telephone Exchange Company issued its first one-page directory. There were only 23 subscribers, including John Danks, Esq. (also listed was James McEwan & Co, another hardware company).



John Danks (1828 - 1902)

When John Danks' son Aaron joined his father in the business, the company name was changed to John Danks & Son. Some leading employees were made partners in the business, and others were allotted shares. This worked well for the company and the employees.

When John Danks died in 1902, at the age of 74, Aaron Turner Danks became Managing Director and Chairman.

In 1908, the first of Aaron's sons, John Frederick Danks, joined the company at the age of 18, having been trained for a commercial career. Aaron's second son, Frederick Miles Danks, having qualified as an engineer at the Working Men's College (now Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University) joined the business in 1912.

At the outbreak of World War I, much of the material needed for the establishment of military camps was bought from the warehouses of hardware wholesalers, including Danks. At the end of the war in 1918, a new six-storey building was erected on the Bourke Street site.

On his father's death in 1928, Frederick Miles Danks succeeded as Managing Director and Chairman, his elder brother John having died in 1922 at age 32. When war broke out again in 1939, wholesalers like Danks again played an important part in the war effort, producing such items as stirrup pumps and army field ovens. In 1948, Prime Minister Ben Chifley launched the first Holden motor car containing brass petrol fittings made by Danks.

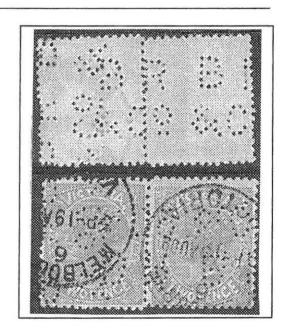
Sir Aaron Danks (1861 – 1928)

In the following years, the company continued to prosper and expand. In the late 1960s, the stock and plant of E. L. Yencken & Co., specialists in architectural hardware, was acquired and the premises leased. Since then, John Danks & Son Pty Ltd has expanded into the retail side of the trade, with chains of outlets under various names in most States of Australia. The 1999/2000 Annual Report of the company shows total sales of \$357 million. The Board of Directors includes four with the Danks family name, including the Chairman.

(I gratefully acknowledge the package of company history information sent to me by John Danks & Son Pty Ltd. Research for the official company history publication was done by John Miller. Details of John's christening was obtained from the web site of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.)

UNUSUAL "DOUBLED" PRIVATE PERFIN

The item illustrated was offered on eBay in January 2002. The joined pair of Victorian 2d mauve QV stamps have two pairs of strikes of BR&CO.2, one in the upright position and the other sideways with the top of the pattern to the right of the stamp (as seen from front). The pairs of patterns in each position also both show spacing consistent with this pattern being a multiplehead die.



THE ELUSIVE LYREBIRD

George Owen commenting on the existence of the somewhat rare 1932 1/- large lyrebird with the 12 hole OS (used in New South Wales in 1933)- "Some two or three years ago I heard of a copy of the 1s 0d Large Lyrebird (O-S 03) with an OS puncture which the owner, a resident of New South Wales, considered must be forged (as the Federal puncture is non existent on this value, of course). I tried to get this stamp for inspection, as it occurred me it might be the State OS puncture, but it had been thrown away!!!"

(Australian Commonwealth Specialists Society of Great Britain Bulletin September 1953)

LITERATURE ON STATES OFFICIALS - PART 1 - NEW SOUTH WALES David Andersen

Specialist information about the official perfins used on the postage issues of the Australian States is available though it does need to be updated as new discoveries have been made. There are a number of "key" sources for each State and I will try to list these though I would like to hear about sources for Victoria , Queensland and South Australia as I suspect information about these areas has been published that I am not aware of.

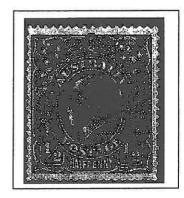
Information about New South Wales issues has been available for nearly a century. "Cerebus" wrote a prize essay in the Sydney Philatelic Club's Gold Medal Competition entitled "The punctured Official Stamps of New South Wales" which was published in the Australasian Philatelist in 1908. While lacking some of the later issues this article was an excellent starting point. The definitive work on the subject however is the article edited by Norm Sheppard "Postage Stamps of New South Wales punctured for use in Federal and State Government Departments" ACCCNSW Bulletin Supplement no.5 (1966) 45 pages. Much descriptive information is included as well as the lists of issues which are based on a number of identified sources including the HL White collection which is housed in the State Library of New South Wales. (This collection would almost certainly be worth a visit.). The P.W perfin illustrated is however listed in error.

Greg Laidler, Henk Teunis and Ken Moore wrote an article "Official punctures of the early Commonwealth period on States Postage Stamps" in the ACCCNSW Bulletin v.24 no.2 (April 1985) p. 43-54 which listed issues from all States with varying degrees of specialisation. Even though earlier information from New South Wales was not used this is still a most useful article as it covers all states. Once again, please ignore the erroneous information about the P.W perfin which is not an official.

These articles are of course out of print. However copies of the journals involved are held in major public libraries throughout Australia so photocopies are quite easy to obtain. Another source is the private libraries of the major philatelic societies such as the PHILAS Library, which is an excellent source for philatelic literature.

A.I.F. OVERPRINT (John Mathews)

In a recent Melbourne philatelic auction, a mint example of the "A.I.F." overprint on a KGV definitive was offered. Bryan Magee sent me a copy of an article on this overprint which appeared in "Cinderellas Australasia", October 1988 (page 3). In this article, Ken Humphreys discussed the evidence of several known covers with this overprint, asking what its status was, questioning the postal rates affixed, and trying to identify



where the "Orient Line" stationery had come from which the sender used for two of the covers.

The covers date from about late 1916 to early 1919. Most of the covers were addressed to a Mrs. Merrillees at Surrey Hills, Victoria, with one cover to Major Merrillees and one to a Capt. Brown. Several are censor covers on which the signature is C.R. Merrillees! The "Orient Line" covers are dated in January and February 1917. Perhaps significantly, the only covers on which the overprinted stamps were tied to the cover by a postmark are the two 1919 covers addressed to himself and Capt Brown which have Florennes (southern Belgium) and FPO 37 c.d.s. strikes of 25.1.1919 and 27.1.1919 respectively. One would therefore have to wonder whether these two covers were cancelled "FPO 37" on receipt by the two officers, and even whether all the other covers had the overprinted stamps added after Major Merrillees returned to Australia at the end of the War!

Author Ken Humphreys did not have access to military records and surmised about Major Merrillees' position within the AIF. He asked for assistance on the military aspect but I do not know whether he got any response before now. Recently, I had a look at the file on Major Merrillees held by the National Archives in Canberra, which throws much light on his career and the circumstances surrounding the covers. I also looked at the List of Officers of the AIF and BD&M records in the National Library.

Crichton Raoul Merrillees joined the AIF on 23 November 1916 at age 32 years, having previously been an Honorary Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps Reserve since 23 August 1915, and a junior Army Cadet before that. His next-of-kin (wife) and two children lived at Surrey Hills, Victoria.

He embarked in the Orient Line's "Orontes" in Melbourne on 23 December 1916 and this was no doubt the source of the "Orient Line" stationery, as the first letter in the sequence (presumably written and despatched ashore before the ship sailed) is a plain cover. The next two known covers use "Orient Line" envelopes. A plain cover postmarked Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, on 12 January 1917, indicates the route taken by the "Orontes".

Captain (as he then was) Merrillees disembarked at Plymouth on 17 February 1917 and was posted to the 16th Field Ambulance based in England. He proceed to France to the 13th Field Ambulance on 29 September 1917, and apart from a period of furlough in UK in March/April 1918, served in France (mainly with the 4th Division Engineers of which he became RMO on 3 February 1918) until he returned to UK on 7 April 1919. He was promoted to Major on 9 February 1918.

He then proceeded on leave to Edinburgh, Scotland, for further medical studies before embarking in HT "Kigoma" on 20 May 1920 for return to Melbourne, Australia. He left the Army shortly after arrival. He had been wounded twice in action in 1918 but remained on duty both times. He was awarded the 1914/1915 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. His son also became a doctor and died a few years ago in Victoria.

JONZ STAMPING GROUND

This is another web site http://www.useless.connectfree.co.uk/index.html that includes information about perfins.

John Evans collects a wide range of material including perfins and records a fair amount of interesting information on his site about British perfins. Illustrations are very good including a lovely GB £1 1920 PUC with a BW/&Co perfin. He also includes information about underprints, overprints and embossing that were also used for security purposes like perfins. Certainly worth a look.

AUCTION WATCH

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

				Est.
a.	Aust, cover with 6d K-Smith and large 1/- Lyre both perf "ES" (eBay, Oct 01)	sold for	US\$	25+
Ь.	Aust. cover with 3 x 6d large Kooka all perf "ES" (eBay, Oct 01)	sold for	US\$	7+
c.	B&N.15 on 1/- Vic Centy (eBay, Oct 01)	sold for	\$	9
d.	VOCO.11 on 6d Eng. Kooka (eBay, Oct 01)	sold for	\$	20
e.	NZ advertising cover of E. W. Mills & Co with 2 x 1d perfin "EWM/W"			
	(eBay, Oct 01)	sold for	US\$	69
f.	NZ "OHMS" cover from NZ High Commissioner, London, to Switzerland with	"NZ" perfin	10	
	(eBay, Oct 01)	sold for	US\$	26
g.	NZ advertising cover of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (eBay, Oct 01)	unsold at	US\$	50
ĥ.	Aust. 1/- black ANZAC perf JC&COLTD.1 (eBay, Oct 01)	unsold at		15.50
i.	1956 Motor Vehicle Insurance Policy of Hartford Insurance with NSW			
	9d, 5/- & 10/- Duty Stamps perf HI.1 (Philatelics Aust Auction, Nov 01)	sold for	\$	38
j.	Booklet "History of J. Sloper & Co." (eBay, Nov 01)	sold for	US\$	50
k.	NZ "OHMS" cover from NZ High Commissioner, London, to Palestine			
	with "NZ" perfin. (eBay, Nov 01)	sold for	US\$	25+
1.	1939 long OHMS env to NZ with 2d KGVI + 3d NSW Sesqui both perf "T"			
	(David Holmes sale, Nov 01)		NZ\$	50
m.	NZ "M&C/LTD" perfin on part receipt with identity (Stirling & Co sale, Nov 0	1)	NZ\$	40
n.	NZ "SSE" on 1d SSF mirror pr, used Nov 1894 Dunedin (Mowbray auction, No		NZ\$	25
0.	NZ "C&G" on 1d SSF used Cheh (Ashford auction, Dec 01)	Crawline Country	NZ\$	10
p.	"NZ" on GB 3d, 10/- KGVI, 1/- QEII (Len Jury auction, Dec 01)		NZ\$	20
q.	"Bell" perfin on NSW 2d o/print "OS" (eBay, Dec 01)	sold for	\$	25+
г.	Collection of private perfins on 97 covers (Chas Leski auction, Dec 01)		\$	2000
S.	1944 Goode, Durrant & Murray logo (back flap) cover, KGVI 21/2d perf in GDCOA.1			
	(AeroCollectables sale, Dec 01)		\$	15
t.	1944 Adelaide Co-op Society corner card cover, KGVI 21/2d perf in ACS.1			
	(AeroCollectables sale, Dec 01)		\$	12
u.	GB QVic £1 brown (SG185) perf C.I.H.&S. (eBay, Dec 01)	sold for	£	127
v.	GB pr of 1934 5/- Seahorse perf "G&G" (Brighton Phil Soc, Nov 01)	sold for	\$	14
w.	KGVI-QEII 2 boxes Aust perfins, on/off ppr, Govt and private (PHILAS sale, N	Nov 01) sold:	for \$	220
X.	3d Queensland Railways Parcel Stamp with "QUEENSLAND / GOVT. RAILY			
	(Premier Phil Auctions, Dec 01)		\$	200
W.	1/- Queensland Railways Parcel Stamp with "QUEENSLAND / GOVT. RAIL"	YS."		
	(Premier Phil Auctions, Dec 01)		\$	400
y.	NZ "W.T" on 4d SSF with Cadbury's advert on back. (eBay, Dec 01)		US \$	9
z.	GB 1d brown QV o/print "O.U.S." (D. Holmes (NZ) sale, Jan 02)		NZ\$	25
aa.	NZ "GNB" on 1d Universal (D. Holmes (NZ) sale, Jan 02)		NZ\$	100