

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

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President: Dr Derek Pocock,, PO Box 670, Subiaco. Western Australia 6904 Australia

Secretary: John Mathews, 21 McConnel Cres, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia

email - JohnMa@ise.canberra.edu.au

Treasurer: Peter Wood, 9 Roslyn Street, Mt Martha Victoria 3934, Australia

Editor: David Andersen, 260 Hawkesbury Rd, Winmalee NSW 2777, Australia

email- d.andersen@library.usyd.edu.au

Circuit Managers:

New Zealand Ray Bennett, PO Box 354, Timaru, New Zealand

Australia John Mathews, 21 McConnel Cres, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia

Assistant Treasurer (NZ payments): Richard Smolnicki, 19 Oakleigh Street, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt, New Zealand

EDITORS COMMENT

One of our members Rod Sell has set up a website for Hong Kong Security Markings and Perfins at <http://rodsell.com/hkperfins/hkperfin.html>. The web site includes general information about security marks and perfins, lists of the perfins and security marks, unidentified items, new discoveries and items of interest. Issues with perfins are illustrated in colour highly magnified and very clear. A very impressive and useful site which shows how useful such a website can be to both record existing information, make available new discoveries and encourage further reports.

Increasingly such sites are coping with substantial bodies of data and include enormous numbers of illustrations in full colour. One such example is the site being developed by the South Asia Coins Group with hundreds of Indian coins illustrated producing a site more useful than many of the books in the area. However web sites are prone to disappear when the compilers change interests, as costs become too high, computers crash etc. Once they are gone the information is no longer available. It is also more difficult to access these sources whenever you want. I haven't seen anybody taking a laptop to a stamp fair yet ! Books still have an important role in archiving information (they can last for hundreds of years in the right conditions) and making it readily available in more situations.

My personal view is that we need to use both methods, print and web based, to conduct and record our research. I'm not about to suggest that we distribute the Bulletin by email at this stage though it would be possible for many members as I have noticed many Club members using ebay with the requisite email address. Rod indicated that Queensland perfins are the next web project. I very much look forward to it.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members since the previous issue:

- #211 John Graham, Baulkham Hills NSW
 - #212 Matt Hancock, Middle Park, Vic
-

WELL DONE, MEMBERS!

A big "thank you" to all those members who have paid their subscription renewals so promptly, including several who have paid years in advance. Your positive support is most encouraging. You may have heard that postage rates in Australia are/will be going up, both for International Post (from 1 September 2002) and locally (from January 2003). Because of the strong membership base, together with continued excellent support from auctions and circuit books, the Club can absorb these postage increases without an increase in subscription rates.

CLUB AUCTION

The catalogue for auction 2/2002 is enclosed with this Bulletin. Another good range of material has been submitted for it. Experience in the last few auctions has shown that early bids have had the advantage of deciding tied high bids for several lots. Avoid disappointment ... bid early, and bid with confidence!

MEETING IN MELBOURNE, October 2002

11 members and 1 visitor (since joined!) attended a meeting at StampShow Melbourne 02 on Sunday 6 October 2002. Those present were from WA, ACT, Vic and USA. The President reported that several members had taken advantage of his offer to lend books from his library. * As the Club is in a healthy financial position, it was agreed that subs did not need to be increased following the recent rise in postal charges. * With the money donated by the Club, the committee of StampShow had purchased a stylish stainless steel tray, which was awarded as a special prize to Ken Barelli (Vic) for his display of The "Emblems" of Victoria, for which he also got a Large Gold award. * In conjunction with StampShow, member David McNamee launched his new book "Beating the Odds – The Story of Tattersalls' Private Mail Network, 1902-1930" (a review of it will appear in the January Bulletin). A copy of it has been purchased for the Club library (a library list will be included in the January Bulletin). * John Mathews announced his intention to publish the new handbook of Australian private perfins early in 2003. * Six members (NZ, USA, Vic, ACT, WA) brought or sent a total of 10 very good entries for the 6-page competitive display. Topics covered included perfins of Colombo (Ceylon), Italy (covers), GB, perfins on postal stationery, GB perf "CofA", private & official perfins of Tasmania. The winning entry was a display of proving covers and postcards depicting the premises of perfin users (photocopies available from Secretary on request). Thanks to Derek Pocock who kindly donated 5 philatelic booklets as prizes.

LIST OF MEMBERS' PERFIN COLLECTING INTERESTS

Thanks to those who have responded to this idea. Not surprisingly, most members collect a "simplified" set of patterns (one example of each) of Australia, GB, NZ, and other world countries. As the purpose of this list was to let members alert others to material which is offered for sale/auction, these members are not listed.

Members who have indicated "specialist" collecting interests are:

Mike Hert – perfins of Lebanon, Egypt. (mikehert@hotmail.com)

Barry Clarke – International Harvester Co. perfins, Kodak punches on "foreign" countries and Kodak private perfins (contact via Secretary's email)

Garry Francis – perfins and security markings of China and Hong Kong
(Garry_FRANCIS@rta.nsw.gov.au)

David Andersen – "U/NSW" perfins (d.andersen@library.usyd.edu.au)

John Mathews – "CofA" on GB stamps, dated copies of Tatts 'A' perfins
(JohnMa@ise.canberra.edu.au)

John Tyson – private perfins on Tasmanian stamps, or on stamps with Tasmanian postmarks (240 Low Head Road, Low Head, Tas 7253)

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

1. Possible fakes of Official Perfins

A few years ago, there was a stamp auction in which there was a large quantity of "unusual" Government perfins – double strikes, triple strikes, inverted strikes, etc. Now member Tom Latto has reported a reference to a SA 2/6 "Long Tom" with an inverted "OS" perfin. Does any member have any information on whether these perfins are genuine or not?

If they are genuine, how rare are they? What other values are known with such varieties"? Are there similar varieties of the "SA" State Government perfin?

2. Perfined postal cards.

A Queensland printed postcard has been seen with the QV 1d red imprinted stamp perfined with a large "OS". The date on the card is 2 April 1913 and was used by the Main Roads Board. Are these cards scarce, and which other States apart from New South Wales and Queensland issued such perfined cards? Over what period did each of the States issue such cards?

Did Federal Government Departments adopt the same practice, either pre-1912 or post-1912?

3. NSW 2d bisect.

A 1898 postcard has been seen bearing half a 2d blue QV stamp, cut diagonally, and tied to the card. Does any member know anything about the legitimacy or otherwise of this?

4. Another unique or fake item?

An item described as “1886 (SG017) 5/- purple, wmk ‘5/-’, perf 12, perforated ‘OS’ appeared in a recent Charles Leski auction. As Gibbons have so far not catalogued State perfins, this item should strictly have been referred to as SG 179 or ASC 24. The date was unclear. The “OS” letters are identical in size and pin numbers and pattern to OS type B. This item appears not to have been catalogued or reported previously, nor does it appear in the recent G&R catalogue.

Is it in fact unique, or a fake, or a “per favor” example?.

OFFICIAL PHOTOS FROM TATURA – AN UPDATE

Brian Fuller provides a lead on the identity of the ‘initiator’ of the VG perfins also perforated by Kodak during the film processing operation. He writes that a John Webster was a postmark collector of the team of Watson, Webster and Wood (not Peter). He wrote extensively for the Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of NSW, and was interested in all sorts of things like registration labels, certified mail labels and meter cancels. He gave away his extensive collection before he died about 10 years ago. Brian knew him well as they shared a lot of the above collecting interests. Brian says that John never collected perfins, so the motive behind the VG - Kodak numeral combination may have been “pseudo-philatelic” or just the use of company stamps.

OS OVERPRINTS- AN UPDATE

A few KGV CofA watermark issues were illustrated with a range of black OS overprints used from a range of New South Wales country towns around 1933. It was suggested that these may have been used by some New South Wales Government employees to produce official stamps while they were waiting for perforated issues to be provided. Another copy has surfaced that confirms this suggestion. The 6d blue kangaroo 3rd watermark illustrated at the right bears both one of these overprints and the OS/NSW perfin usually encountered on this stamp.



ANOTHER UNUSUAL OS/NSW ITEM

A member has shown me the unusual 2/- Kangaroo issue illustrated at the right with the OS/NSW Type B perfin used on New South Wales state issues prior to 1913. While not previously recorded on Kangaroo issues this pattern was used on postcards until at least 1946. Are there any other Kangaroo issues with this pattern ?



THE "VG" PERFORATING PROCESS (David Coath)

I was at a Stamp Fair in Melbourne, as ever on the hunt for perfins amongst the piles of "rubbish", i.e. things that are not perfins.

While I was fossicking, I got into a conversation with fellow member Brian Fuller. As normal, the conversation turned to perfins. Brian surprised me by saying that the person running the stall we were at knew something of perfins, as he had worked in the Security Printing Branch and had supervised the area where the VG perforator was used.

To my surprise he was referring to Ernie Blake. I had known Ernie for a couple of years through his involvement in the Baptist Missionary Stamp Club and their work in raising money, through stamps, for use in the various Missions.

This is not the sort of coincidence I could keep to myself, so when I get home I shot off an email to John Mathews who as you would be aware, is the current owner of the VG perforator. With John's encouragement, I arranged to go around to Ernie's house and interview him about his work in the Victorian Government Printing Office and his involvement and experience with the VG perforator.

Ernie started work at the Victorian Government Printing Office in March 1942 at the age of 15. He started as a Compositor and built his skills as a printer by attending classes at RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) where he was judged best printer and awarded the Beasley Prize in his final year.

After 12 years working at all aspects of the Printing trade he moved to the Planning Office (1959) where he was one of two people who took responsibility for planning all print jobs that come into the Victorian Government Printing Office. He continued in this role until he retired in 1979.

In 1970-72, he was temporarily posted to the Security Printing Branch as Foreman. It was during this time that Ernie came into contact with the VG perforator.

Using the VG perforator was just one of the roles undertaken by the Security Printing Branch. They also produced Ballot papers, Railway Stamps, etc. The perforating was undertaken by a Printing Machinist and, owing to Union/Workplace guidelines, the Branch Foreman did not operate machines. During Ernie's time as Foreman, the perforating was always done by a single machinist. He was a trusted and experienced operator.

Ernie cannot recall the punch head being changed, nor did he know what happened to the old punch heads. In 1970, the "type IV" punch head was already in use and continued to be so until the retirement of the machine in 1989. It is still fitted to the machine.

He says that the individual pins, although strong and durable, did at some times require replacing. The machine was a sound one and, with regular maintenance and cleaning, it operated without any changes to key components in the time he was in charge of the Branch.

Each Tuesday an officer of the Inpost area of Treasury would deliver the stamps that were to be perforated. The stamps arrived in full sheets and were prepared in response to orders from various areas of the Victorian Government.

Ernie recalls that there were generally 500+ sheets with sometimes as many as 2000 sheets each week. The perforating had to be completed by Thursday so that the stamps could be issued to the user areas.

Accordingly, the perforator was usually never in use for more than 3 days of a week.

The sheets of stamps provided by Treasury were in full sheets and put into the perforator a sheet at a time. The machine would pick up each sheet by suction and place it into position to be punctured. The stamps were perforated one sheet at a time.

Orientation of the sheets seemed to be the decision of the operator. Ernie did say that for the most part of the stamps used were of the basic type, ie. common values and hence common formats.

Ernie stated that stamps of similar type/shape would generally be done together and if required other types/shapes would be done.

When the sheets arrived from Treasury, they were signed over as a number of sheets of stamps with no recording of values, denominations or issues, etc. When they had been perforated they were booked out in the same way, i.e. merely as a number of sheets. Any sheets damaged in the perforating process had to be returned so that the total sheets receipted could be correlated to the sheets completed.

From the perspective of the Security Printing Branch, the number of sheets of stamps to be perforated was the only accountable detail.

The Treasury Department seemed to have been responsible for the taking of orders for "VG" perforated stamps from user areas and accordingly they would have held those records. After perforating the sheets were returned to Treasury to be issued.

It would seem that the Treasury Department would most likely have these records of the numbers and denominations/issues perforated and to which Departments they had been issued.

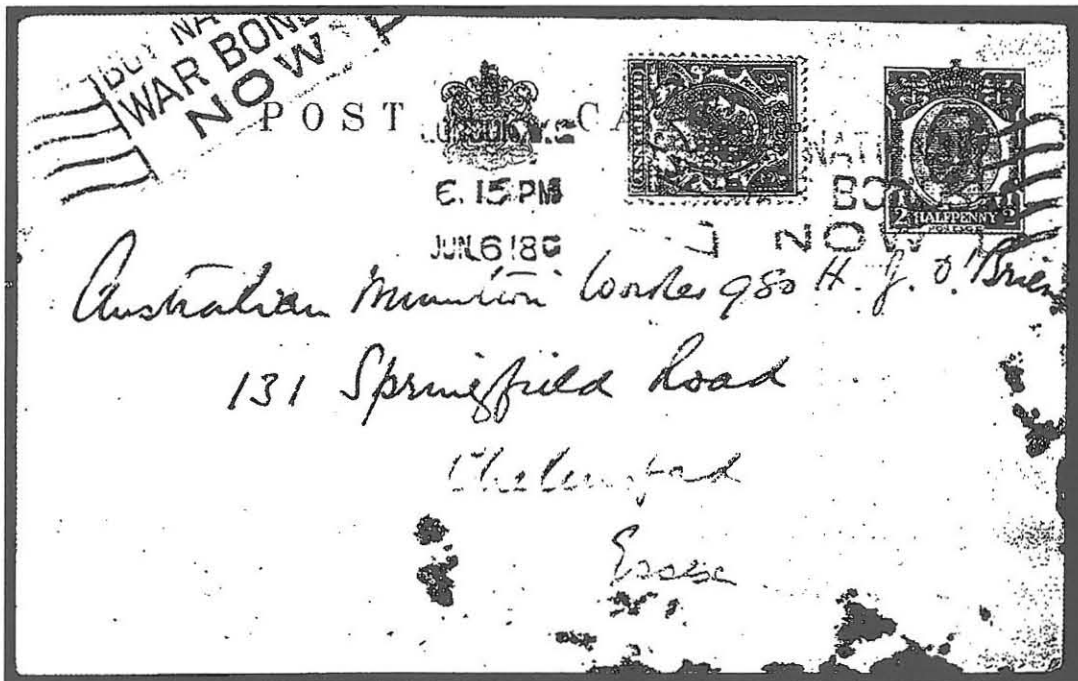
VALE ALAN WALKER

It is with much sadness that we record the passing of member Alan Walker. Alan had been a member since the inception of the Club in 1987. He was a most interesting and knowledgeable character with a wide range of philatelic interests. He particularly liked to illustrate his various displays with appropriate postcards.

A "COFA" PERFIN ITEM WITH MILITARY USE (John Mathews)

I recently purchased a GB postal card (KGV ½d green "Downey Head" imprinted stamp) with an extra ½d KGV adhesive stamp affixed, this latter stamp being perfinned "COFA" in a straight line sideways. I had been originally attracted to this item because it was addressed to "Australian Munitions Worker 980 H. J. O'Brien", and because the straight-line "COFA" perfin seems relatively hard to find on cover. The postmark is London W.C./ 6 June 1918.

The reverse of the card has a pre-printed message acknowledging advice of a change of address which in itself is not "exciting". However, the item's printed return address is "Munitions Workers Office, Australia House," and I had not seen any reference to this among previously listed users of the "COFA" perfins, and indeed did not know that a group of "Munitions Workers" had a separate office within Australia House, London. The Australian Munitions Workers appear to have been non-military personnel, as H. J. O'Brien has no military rank designation, unless this is for security purposes. In addition, the Australian War Memorial's Commemorative Roll Database lists the options under "Service" – Allied Forces, Australian Munitions Workers, Merchant Navy, Civilians, among other categories.



On the other hand, the printed signature block at the bottom of the message reads:

"S. H. E. BARRACLOUGH,
Lieut. Colonel,
Officer i/c Australian Munitions Workers"

My initial thought was that this was a high rank for someone in charge of non-service personnel, although the nature of their occupation seemed to require great responsibility!

So, my curiosity turned to who S. H. E. Barraclough might have been. I found him listed in the 1920 edition of the list of Australian Army Officers in the National Library. This heightened my curiosity because he was shown as "Sir S. H. E. Barraclough, KBE, Major (temp. Lt. Col)". A Major with a Knighthood!

MUNITIONS WORKERS OFFICE,
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2.

Date 6.6.18

To No. 980 inst. munitions worker H. J. O'Brien

I have to acknowledge your letter of the 5th/18 notifying me of your change of address. This has been registered and until further notice from yourself all postal matter will be re-directed to the address as typed on the reverse side of this card.

S. H. E. BARRACLOUGH,
Lieut.-Colonel,
Officer in Charge, Australian Munitions Workers.

ARM. W. 21-10000-5/12/17.

After searching the Army List further, and also the Birth, Death and Marriage indexes and various editions of the Australian "Who's Who", the following biography was able to be put together.

Samuel Henry Edgerton Barraclough was born in Redfern, an inner Sydney Suburb, in 1871 (BD&M shows 1871, the Army List shows his date of birth as 25 January 1871, although Who's Who gives 25 October 1874). By 1897, at the age of 26 years, he was a lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Sydney University, a position he held until 1908 when he was appointed an Assistant Professor there. He became a full Professor in 1915, and from 1924 to 1933 and again from 1936 to 1942 he was Dean of the faculty of Mechanical Engineering at Sydney University.

Meantime, he was pursuing a parallel military career. On 26 October 1899, he was commissioned into the Corps of Army Engineers as a Second Lieutenant. He



was promoted to Captain on 1 July 1908, and to Major on 1 August 1914. I believe that as he was not a full time Army Officer, these ranks may have been Honorary ones. In 1915, he went to UK to become OIC of the Australian Munitions Workers based there, and on 1 September 1916 was granted the temporary rank of Lieut. Colonel for the posting to Australia House. He remained in this job until 1919, and on 3 June 1919 the award of Commander of the British Empire (CBE) was gazetted for him in recognition of this service. In April 1920, this was upgraded to Knight Commander of the British Empire (KBE) and he became Sir Henry Barraclough.

In 1922, he returned to his post at Sydney University, and in 1927 he married Mona Rossiter. He died in August 1958.

(The photograph of Sir Henry Barraclough was kindly supplied by the staff of the Engineering Library at Sydney University.)

SWANPEX PERFINS STILL IN USE

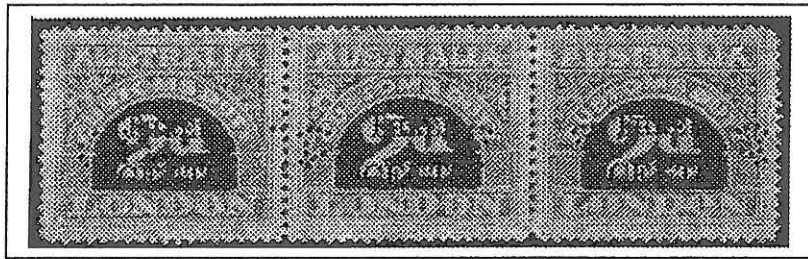
Up until 1996 I had managed to track down copies of the annual SWANPEX covers with the Western Australian Stamp Promotion Council W (swan)A perfin. For the last few years however I did not get around to this. Ebay to the rescue in 2002 !

The W (swan)A perfin is still being used on SWANPEX commemorative covers. Last year the 40c Christmas stamp with a Swanpex 2001 tab was perforated and used on covers on both show days. If this type of perfin usage is of interest to you keep an eye out for covers produced for SWANPEX 2002



RECENT PERFIN "HIGHLIGHTS" FROM eBay

1. Strip of Customs Duty Stamps. The horizontal strip of three 2d Customs Duty Stamps had a total of five strikes of the perfin CTCO.1 or CTCO.2 (many pins appeared to be broken). The left group of three showed a constant offset of 21 mm, and the last two showed the same offset, with a smaller gap between the third and fourth strike. As this was an American perfin, perhaps some US (or other) member may be able to let us know how many dies are known in this punch head.



2. "OS" punctures on 1929 3d green Airmail issue. A lot consisting of Government punctures included two copies of this stamp with different punctures, one being the pattern found on KGV definitives, and the other being the larger type found also on the Western Australia Centenary issue.



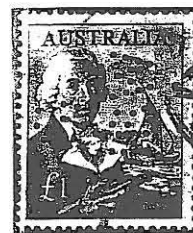
3. Russian Office Perforator for Binders. While this turned out not to be a stamp perforator, the description from the Russian vendor is worth sharing. I (JM) am certainly in no position to correct the English grammar of others – this is purely to illustrate the salesmanship in selling a robust product. “It is Russian Office Perforator for Binders. Made by strong metal in 1974 year in Riga. No Chinese plastics. Metal only. It is Perforator was made like Russian Tanks and will works for you, your children and grandsons.” Who would not be convinced by this?

CONGRATULATIONS !...

.... to members Dave Elsmore, David McNamee and Dingle Smith for their excellent awards at StampShow Melbourne 02 for their (non-perfin) displays, and to Paul Butler for his Gold Medal at the World Masters' Games at a nearby venue!

G/NSW PREDECIMAL NAVIGATORS

One group of scarcer G/NSW perfins are the Navigator series issued from 1963 to 1964. These issues were very quickly replaced by the decimal issues in 1966 and so were not in use for a long period of time. Three new discoveries have been shown to me recently- 7/6 with both G/NSW Type C and G/NSW Type D and £1 Bass with G/NSW Type C. The issues so far reported are shown in the table below:



	G/NSW Type C	G/NSW Type D		
	Position 2 (sideways reading up)	Position 1 (normal)	Position 2 (sideways reading up)	Position 3 (inverted)
4/- Tasman			X	
5/- Dampier		X		X
7/6 Cook	X		X	
10/- Flinders				
£1 Bass	X			X
£2 King		X		

X – reported

As we have contemporary reports of the G/NSW Type D perforator being used prior to 1963 and we have the G/NSW Type C perfin on stamps first issued in 1964 this suggests that both the G/NSW Type C and the G/NSW Type D perforators were used from the early 1960s to 1964 concurrently.

PERFIN LITERATURE

Judy Kennett, not a Club member, but a frequent reader of a friend's copy, noticed Derek Pocock's list of perfin literature in the bulletin and has a couple of additional catalogues:

Hungary- *Katalog der Ungarischen firmen-und Behordenlochungen* Semmler 1989 (in German- based on an earlier work by Vojtech Maxa

Romania- *Catalog of Romanian Perfins* Eros 1989 + Supplement 1(1991), Supplement 2(1993) and Supplement 3 (2000)

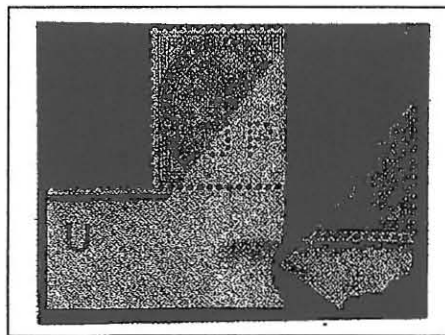
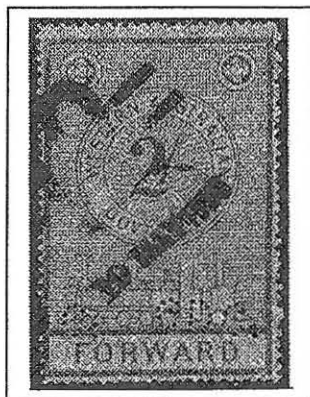
Judy writes: "I am willing to send photocopies to members, or answer questions sent by email (both publications are rather big to send through the post). I can be contacted at PO Box 16 Ulmarra NSW 2462, or by email at jkennett@tpg.com.au.

Judy also mentions a review of "Katalog over Danske firmperforringer [Danish perfins catalog]" by Ove Kaster-Kofoed, Ole Hansen and Kaj Mathiesen published 2001 by Danske Perfinsamlerklub. If you would like a copy of this review, which includes order information please contact Judy.

AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest from auctions/direct sales since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobilo, Geoff Legge, Peter Parsons and David Richards for passing on their spotting of perfin lots in auctions. Prices in A\$ unless indicated.

		Est.
a.	NZ ½d green 1900 Pictorial perfin S&COLD on piece. (D. Holmes Sale, Aug 02)	NZ \$ 10
b.	NZ 2d yellow KGV perfin M&CLTD. (D. Holmes Sale, Aug 02)	NZ \$ 50
c.	AC&S pmirror air on 1d SSF. (Len Jury Auction, Aug 02)	NZ \$ 13
d.	5d Roo, 2 copies both with private perfins. (Tas. Stamp Auctions, Jun 02)	sold for \$ 52
e.	½ d brown/pale brown postal card perfin "J.S./S." unused. (Tas. Stamp Auctions, Jun 02)	sold for \$ 52
f.	GB 5d QVic Jubilee on company cover with perfin JC&COLD of John Connell & Co Ltd. (Australian merchants) (Mowbray, NZ, sale Jul 02)	NZ \$ 75
g.	NZ "VOC" perfin on KGV sideface on Vacuum Oil Co receipt. (eBay, Jul 02)	unsold at US \$ 45
h.	3 fold-out OHMS covers of Victorian Office of Titles with "VG" perfins on KGV stamps. (eBay, Jul 02)	US \$ 12
i.	PWD.1 on 2d yellow WA Swan. (eBay, Jul 02)	sold for US \$ 18
j.	SMC.1 on cover used by Town Clerk, Sydney. (eBay, Jul 02)	sold for US \$ 27
k.	OHMS 1903 cover used by Board for International Exchange, Sydney, to Germany with 2½d QVic perf "OS/NSW" (eBay, Jul 02)	sold for US \$ 36
l.	NSW 10/- QVic o/print "POSTAGE", perfin GSB.1. (eBay, Jul 02)	sold for US \$ 52
m.	WA 2/- Railway stamp perfin GDCO.1. (eBay, Jul 02)	sold for US \$ 20
n.	NSW £50 Duty Stamp perfin YI.1. (eBay, Aug 02)	unsold at US \$ 25
o.	WA 10/- perfin "WA". (eBay, Aug 02)	sold for US \$ 8
p.	NZ 1898 QV 1d pr each perf "NZCF" (NZ Farmers' Co-op), Chch cds, on company env (flap imprint) (Fitzpatrick sale, Sep 02)	NZ \$350
q.	NZ "W&T/W" on 4d yellow KGV, Wellington cds. (Ashford Stamps auction, Sep 02)	NZ \$ 25
r.	Selection of 6 NZ private perfins (Len Jury Auction, Sep 02)	NZ \$ 35
s.	4d orange KGV (Aust.) with "NZL" perfin (Len Jury Auction, Sep 02)	NZ \$ 12
t.	"NZ" perfin on GB KGV 1/-. (Stirling & Co Auction, Oct 02)	NZ \$ 7.50
u.	NZ "DB&CO", 2 copies on 1d SSF and 1d Universal (Mowbray auction, Sep 02)	NZ \$ 35
v.	NZ "MLS" s/w on 2d SSF (x2) (Len Jury auction, Sep 02)	NZ \$140
w.	NZ "NZ/ICo" on pr 1d SSF 1885 pmk (Len Jury auction, Sep 02)	NZ \$ 50
x.	GB 1942 New Zealand High Commission OHMS cover to USA (eBay, Sep 02)	sold for US \$ 16+
y.	NSW £50 Duty Stamp perf "YI" (eBay, Sep 02)	sold for US \$ 15+
z.	NZ Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer window env. with "MGM" perfin. (eBay, Sep 02)	unsold at US \$ 50



Items l (left) and m (centre)

In addition, Tom Latto has sent the following GB item (above, right) which may be of general interest to all perfin collectors. It comes from a recent GB auction catalogue and was estimated at £175. The "bisect" piece was printed on the gummed side of the paper, due either to a paper fold or a "stray" piece of paper. The perfin is "RJP" and the stamp is the GB 1881 1d lilac.