

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

In a world beset with so many problems it is not surprising that perfins have been caught up by such events. A dealer in the US has produced a '911' perfin that commemorates the events of September 11, 2001!

But things are not all negative. Discoveries of Australian private perfin types and official issues continue apace. Presumably new perfin discoveries are being made for most other countries as well. Numbers of useful websites on various groups of perfins are becoming available and a number of new catalogues have been published or are in preparation. The market for perfins continues to expand with the assistance of online auctions. To top off a positive year for perfin collectors we had Hong Kong issuing a set of attractive Christmas stamps with perfin patterns. This may help some other collectors to understand the fascination we have for such material.

Relaxing with a hobby that has so many positives seems like a good idea. All the best for 2003.

VALE RAY COATH

It is with deep regret that we have learnt of the death in November of Ray Coath after a period of ill-health. Ray had been an active member for many years, and in recent times shared the hobby with his son David who is also a member. Ray attended the Club meeting in Melbourne at Australia 99, but was unable to attend the recent meeting at StampShow Melbourne 2002. Our deepest sympathies go to his family.

CLUB AUCTION

At the time this is being written, the auction has not yet closed, but bidding is already strong. Members' collecting interests seem to be widening with much bidding on the European material. If this issue can be posted out to members before Christmas, the list of prices realised will have to be held over until the April Bulletin, with apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

"WANT ADS"

1. Non-member Mike Cooke seeks perfins on New Zealand 1d Dominion stamps. His email address is mike_h_cooke@talk21.com. (an underscore either side of the 'h'.)
2. Non-member Graeme Miller seeks a good mint copy of the Australian 9c Bauxite mining stamp perf "VG". Graeme's email address is GMiller@skm.com.au.

Both of these requests came from contact via the Club's web site.

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Possible fakes of Official Perfins

Although there were no reports of South Australian inverted OS perfins a considerable number of unusual SA perfins are around. Ken Moore reported the 1/2d inverted SA as the most common, a reversed SA on the 1d and double SA on the 1d and 2d. Inverted SA have previously been reported on the 3d, 4d, 6d and 1/- and a triple puncture on the 4d. Most of these varieties are encountered on mint stamps but some used examples are known. Blocks of the 1/2d with inverted SA are not rare nor usually highly priced.

Another unique or fake item ?

Ken Moore writes: The Charles Leski auction description appears to be somewhat misleading and taken at face value appears to be referring to a perforated OS on an OS overprinted 5/-. I believe it to be an OS perfin on SG297d (1897) that has previously been reported.

The best source for information about New South Wales State Government officials on New South Wales stamps is "Postage stamps of New South Wales punctured for Use in Federal and State Government Departments " ACCCNSW Bulletin Supplement no.5 (1966). The following perforation varieties on 5/- issues are recorded: p.11 x 11, p.12 x 12, p.11 x 11.5, p.11.5 x 11.5, p.12 x 11.5 and p.12 x 11. [an updated document on these issues (in Word format) is available from the Editor].

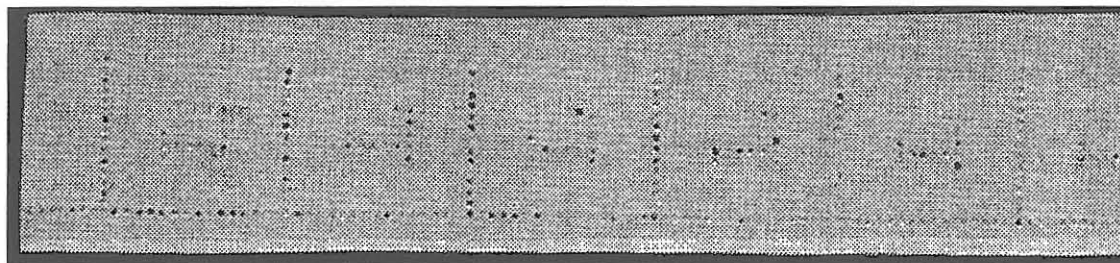
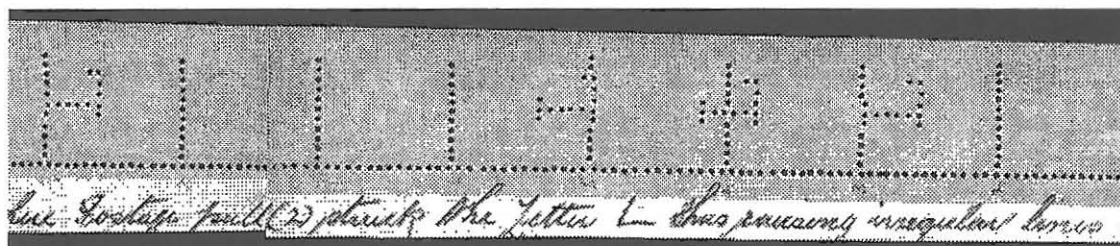
LIST OF MEMBERS' PERFIN COLLECTING INTERESTS

Tony Nobilo collects perfin on U.S. State and Federal revenues for the U.S. Stock Exchange. Tony's address is Pt. Wells R.D.6, Warkworth, 1241, New Zealand.

LOWOOD CREAMERY PERFIN

Member Dave Elsmore got an unexpected surprise in a recent bulk lot he bought at auction. At the back of what the lot was described as containing, he found some strips of paper on which were strikes of the perfin L.1, used by the Lowood (Queensland) Creamery Co. These perfin are only known on Queensland Railway Parcel stamps and the only dated copies are from 1907. As well as the strikes of the L.1 perfin, there are pulls of two comb perforators. One of these has a size corresponding to the Railway stamps of 1902, and there are 12 strikes of the L.1 die, one neatly centred in each unit.

On the other strip, the comb perforation corresponds to the size of Queensland State postage stamps, and on this are superimposed two sets of 3 strikes of the L.1 pattern showing "drift" from one strike to the next across the comb perforations. A hand-written comment along the "selvedge" refers to this drift. Clearly the L.1 perforator had three dies in a vertical arrangement, spaced to fit the railway stamps. After this trial, its use on postage stamps was probably rejected.

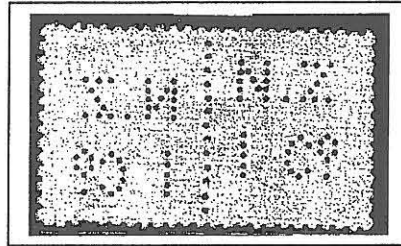


"A.I.F." OVERPRINT COVER SOLD AT AUCTION

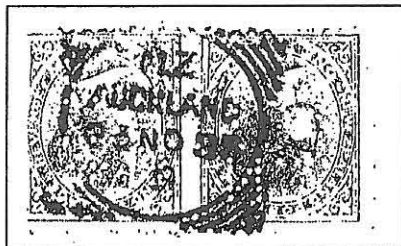
One of the "A.I.F." covers addressed to Mrs Merrillees – the one with two ½d KGV definitive stamps, not tied to the cover – sold in the Premier Philately November auction for A\$625. See the January 2002 issue of this Bulletin for the story behind these covers.

NEW ZEALAND NZ/ICo PERFIN (Ray Bennett)

For perfin collectors, the big news of the month was Len Jury's Special Public Auction on 16th September, 2002. There were two interesting lots - #473 NZ/ICo mirror (sic) pair on 1d SSF Die 1, 1885 pmk, Cat \$100+ Est. \$50; and #474 M.L.S upright and reversed on 2d SSF (x2) Est. \$140. The catalogue illustrations show that the NZ/I Co should have properly been termed, "a two-position pair". The NZ/ICo catalogue value apparently refers to Stirling's listing where postage issues of NZ/ICo are valued at \$50 each, with Stamp Duty fiscal NZ\$35 each!!

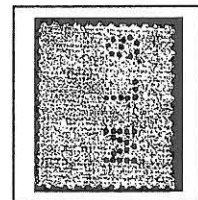


In addition to lot price there was a buyer's premium of 12.5% + G.S.T. The Auction was a huge success. My bid for #473 expired early, and the lot was sold for \$415 which is the highest price for a perfin in New Zealand to my knowledge. The catalogue illustration of the two position pair shows the date 23 Nov 1885. But in the next auction on 25th September, 2002 there was in lot #1514 Selection (6) incl NZ/ICo & RGN, etc. Cat \$77, Est. \$35. This time I did not miss, and I got them at \$120.



Now, this raises the real question of why NZ/ICo is very undervalued in catalogues. When Robert Samuel wrote his first perfin book in 1968, and also in his display, he described NZ/ICo as being used from 1885 to 1891, and hence the catalogue quotations are based on six years of use. Yet, in his display, he showed this perfin only on stamp duty issues, of which postally used was only in 1890. The Dell collection showed stamp duty issues all fiscally used, though Dell recorded that there were only about 12 stamps known with this perfin. But neither had any postage issues of the SSF. I think that you will find that there were two periods of use. For a period in 1885 (and perhaps 1886) postage issues were so perforated. But around 1890, fiscal stamps were the sole issues with this perfin, and only where they were used for parcels or higher value postings would they be postally used.

You may ask what happened to the MLS perfin lot. It did not sell, and I bought it for the reserve of \$113 - you have to win some of the time!



The perfins in both auctions came from a nondescript collection and would not have previously been noted. Robert noted a two-position pair of NZ/ICo used in September 1885, so that the one in the auction is the second such pair now recorded. And for good measure I show the perfin on the single 1d, part of lot #1514. It does not show a postmark date, but there is more than a casual resemblance to the lower part of the postmark on the NZ/I Co pair. Perhaps it came from the same posting!!!

(Note: Prices in this article are in NZ\$)

BOOK REVIEW

“BEATING THE ODDS – THE STORY OF TATTERSALL’S PRIVATE MAIL NETWORK, 1902-1930”, by David McNamee FRPSL, pub. by RPSV 2002.

On the jacket of the book, David is described as an enthusiast of philately and Tasmanian postal history. In this book, he shows his knowledge of all these areas as he presents a detailed picture of how George Adams’ Tattersalls organization attempted to circumvent the Australian Federal Government ban on mail deliveries to Tattersalls at a time when there was a strong anti-gambling lobby in Australia, particularly in NSW and Victoria. To put this into its proper context, David gives a very readable, yet thorough, account of the circumstances which led to Tattersalls moving from Sydney to Brisbane (1893), then to Hobart in 1895 where he negotiated to get the sanction from the Tasmanian Government through legislation in 1897 to run mail-order sweepstakes on horse races.

The central part of this story came from a discovered hoard of Tattersalls correspondence which had been separated from other material of the company, this latter material having had philatelic interest to collectors, and having been appearing in public auctions for some considerable time. The material which David acquired came from the period from April to October 1902, the first seven months after the Federal Government imposed the ban on mail deliveries to Tattersalls at their Hobart address. In 1901/1902, Tattersalls’ revenue from the sweepstakes was about 500,000 pounds (about 2 million tickets!) per year and the Tasmanian Government depended significantly from the State tax on this business for their revenue. Little wonder, then, that they even specially introduced Railway parcels stamps to enable Tattersalls correspondence to be delivered outside the postal system.

David McNamee traces the story through letters written by David Hastie Harvey, George Adams’ “right-hand-man” in the organization, back to the senior staff in Hobart to report progress on his endeavours as he travelled around Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and New Zealand. To facilitate a final delivery stage to the Tattersalls Hobart office which did not go through the postal system, the Tasmanian Parcels Express Delivery Company was set up (by Tattersalls through D. H. Harvey himself) with offices in Hobart, Melbourne and Adelaide. When the Government detectives started to suspect that this was part of Tattersalls and was about to ban delivery of letters to them as well, Mayne Nickless and their Victorian Parcels Express Company took over this role.

D. H. Harvey set out from Hobart within days of the imposition of the initial ban on 1 April 1902. He spent most of the next seven months travelling by train throughout all the major towns and country centres of southern and western Australia and New Zealand, establishing a network of agents who would collect ticket applications and forward them to Hobart in parcels. He even made recommendations on various ways the company could cut their overhead expenses.

The story makes fascinating reading, and David presents it in a most enjoyable way with transcripts of many of the original letters. The book is also lavishly illustrated with over 50 illustrations of covers, Tattersalls ephemera, Tasmanian railways parcel stamps, the

people, etc., including 4 colour plates. The book is hard-bound, and has 140 pages on quality B5 size paper. Price is A\$70 plus postage.

A PERFORATOR DID COME BACK TO LIFE! (John Mathews)

In the July 2001 Bulletin, there was a report that perfin Y.7 had been seen on a 1957 stamp, whereas its previous reported last usage was in 1937. E. L. Yencken & Co Ltd are listed in the current Melbourne telephone directory, so I wrote to the company about the perforator. The current chairman, Mr E. H. (Ted) Yencken, replied that he had no knowledge of it, but put me in contact with a former employee, Mr Bill Yeats.

Mr Yeats joined the company in January 1940 and, apart from the period 1941-1946 in the Army, continued with the company until the early 1990s, and still assisted with the accounts after his retirement. Mr Yeats recalls that postage franking machines were introduced about 1937, which would explain the "retirement" of the perforator at that time, but the franking machines were phased out in the 1940s. As for the 1957 perfin, I can best quote from Mr Yeats' letter to me:

"The Chairman of Directors [Mr E. D. Yencken] at that time was Ted's [present Chairman] father. He attended work nearly every day, but took no active part in the running of the company. I remember quite clearly one day him walking through the office, which he seldom did. Apparently seeing unperforated stamps being used, he asked me as the senior member of staff around at the time if the perforator was no longer used, and said that it should because, to quote him, "Stamps were the office boys' perks"! Somebody found the perforator, and stamps were duly perforated, but I don't think it lasted for long."

Mr. Yeats said they folded 5 or 10 stamps together to perforate with one strike, so inverted or reversed Ys should exist (difficult to detect because of symmetry, but under a magnifier the indentation of the edge of the holes gives a clue). Although Y.7 is of the "Victorian Service Puncture" style, Mr Yeats does not know about pins being changed, so the pins may have been permanently fixed in position in the gridded head block. He thinks the machine was probably thrown out when the company moved out of its premises in Little Collins Street, Melbourne.

WEBSITES OF CANADIAN PERFINS

A significant number of Canadian Federal and Provincial Government Departments used perfins at various times, in a similar way to the situation in Australia. Tony Brown has set up a website http://www.rpsc.org/Library/perfins/perfin_officals.html that illustrates and provides introductory information about these.

Another interesting website is that developed by Michael Behm on Canadian perfins of the Victorian Era <http://www.kw.igs.net/~mjbehm/qvperfinstoc.html>. Both are worth a visit.

ASIAN AND PACIFIC PERFINS OF THE 1935 SILVER JUBILEE OMNIBUS ISSUE (Neil Donen and John Mathews)

The 1935 issues celebrating the Silver Jubilee of King George V's accession to the throne included the first ever-commemorative common colonial design stamps for a reigning monarch's jubilee. The issue garnered additional attention because of the King's special interest in stamps. The omnibus set comprises 250 stamps from 6 countries, 44 Crown Colonies, 7 dependencies or protectorates and two agencies. Forty-four Crown Colonies shared a common design. The remaining Countries, Agencies and Dependencies had their own unique designs.

The Common design stamps included a vignette of a view of Windsor Castle above the River Thames and a profile of the King on the right. Printing of the common design stamps was undertaken by three companies based on duplicates from a master die. Different varieties are found on the stamps and are easily identified back to the specific printing company. Varieties are also noted amongst the countries and dependencies. A detailed description of the various stamps and their varieties, including perfins, can be found on a web site dedicated to the issue (<http://www.philatel2.com/jubilee>).

As might be expected perfin dies were applied to those stamps in countries or colonies where perfins were in use. Over the past two years we have been able to identify many different perfins appearing on the various issues. Interestingly we have not found any associated varieties. These would immeasurably increase the value of the perfined stamp.

This article looks at perfins on issues from the Asian continent and countries in the Pacific region. Table 1 lists those countries in the Asia and Pacific regions that were part of the omnibus issue, those that produced perfins and those where perfins are known on Silver Jubilee issues. All common design stamps are known to be 'specimen' perfined. These have been excluded from the listing. Stamp ID numbers are those according to the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue.

Tables 2, 3 and 4 lists the known perfins on the 1935 Silver Jubilee issues from India, Australia, and New Zealand, whilst Table 5 provides information on the common design issues.

The authors would welcome additional information from readers. Where possible the information should identify the colony/country, the face value of the stamp, the perfin die, known catalogue number of the perfin die and the position of the perfin on the stamp (Positions 1 to 4 the perfin insignia is readable looking at the face of the stamp. Each position is a 90° rotation to the upright position – position 1. Positions 5 through 8 are readable as normal from the gummed side of the stamp). Scanned or photocopied images would greatly assist in the cataloguing.

Please direct correspondence to:

Neil Donen, 301-320 Menzies Street, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada V8V 2G9

e-mail: ndonen@shaw.ca

Table 1. Perfins found on 1935 King George V Silver Jubilee stamps

Country / Colonies	Perfins used	Perfins on S.J. stamps	No. of known perfins	S.G. Cat. #
Non-common Design Issue				
Australia	+	+	65*	156 -158
Cook Islands				
India	+	+	25	240 -246
Nauru				
New Guinea				
New Zealand	+	+	1	573 -575
Niue				
Papua	+			
Samoa				
Common Design Issue				
British Solomon Islands				
Ceylon	+	+	19	379 -382
Fiji	+			
Gilbert & Ellice Islands				
Hong Kong	+	+	6	133 -136
Straits Settlements	+	+	17	256 -259

* = includes three official perfins

Table 2. India

Company	Die	Values						
		½ a	9 p	1a	1¼ a	2½ a	3½ a	8 a
Army & Navy Civil Service Supply Ltd, Bombay	A&N / CSL	◆	◆					◆
Ahmedabad Municipality	A.M.				◆			
Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China	CBI				◆	◆	◆	◆
Chartered Bank of India, Madras	CB/I				◆		◆	
?	C.M			◆				
Hegt & Co. Rangoon	H&Co						◆	
James Finlay & Co. Ltd. Calcutta	JF/&/CoLd	◆						
Kemp & Co. Ltd. Bombay	K&Co/L	◆						
Local Fund Service	L.F.S		◆	◆	◆			
?	M	◆						
? (M71), Madras	M./P.S.				◆			
National Bank of India Ltd, Bombay	N/B / I				◆		◆	
National Bank of India, Madras	NB/I			◆		◆	◆	
National Bank of India, Calcutta	N.B.I					◆	◆	
New Zealand Insurance Co., Calcutta	N.Z./I.Co.			◆				
Oriental Fire & General Insurance Company	ORI / ENT/ AL		◆		◆			
P & O Banking Corp. Ltd, Madras	P.&O./B.	◆		◆		◆		
P & O Banking Corp. Ltd. Calcutta	P&O/BANK	◆						
Rohillund Kumain Railway Co. Ltd. Bareilly	R.K.R				◆			
Royal Insurance Company Ltd, Calcutta	Royal	◆						◆
?	SW/Co							◆
Shaw Wallace & Co, Calcutta	SW / &Co	◆	◆		◆	◆		◆
Thacker & Co. Bombay	T		◆		◆			
Thomas Cook & Sons	TC / &S			◆	◆			◆
Volkart Brothers, Bombay	VB (monogram)				◆			

Table 3. Australia

Company	Die	Values			Company	Die	Values		
		2d	3d	2/-			2d	3d	2/-
Atlas Assurance Co.,Australia., Sydney	A	◆			Insurance Office of Australia, Sydney	I.O.A	◆		
Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd Sydney	ACO.	◆			Insurance Office of Australia, Melbourne	I.O.A.	◆		
Arthur Cocks & Co. Ltd, Sydney	AC/&Co	◆			John Dickinson & Co, Sydney	JD /&Co	◆		
Adekaide Co-operative Society, Adelaide	AC/S	◆			John Kitchen & Sons, Bendigo	J.K/S	◆		
Anthony Hordern & Sons. Sydney	A.H/&S			◆	Kodak Ltd. Melbourne	K	◆	◆	
Angus & Robertson Ltd. Sydney	A+R		◆		Kodak Ltd. (Abbotsford, Melbourne, Perth)	K	◆		
A. Simpson & Sons, Adelaide	AS/&S	◆			London & Lancashire Insurance Co Melbourne	LL		◆	
Bagots Executor & Trustee Co. Ltd. Adelaide	BE/Co	◆			London & Lancashire Insurance Co Sydney	LLG	◆		
Boans Ltd, Perth	B / Ltd.	◆	◆		JF McKenzie & Co., Melbourne	McK/&Co	◆		
Burns, Phillips & Co. Ltd, Townsville	BP				Nestle & Anglo Swiss Milk Co, Melbourne	NA / SC	◆		
Burroughs Wellcome & Co. , Sydney	BW / &Co	◆			Nestle & Anglo Swiss Milk Co, Perth	NA / SC	◆		
Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Co., Melbourne	CMF	◆			North Shore Gas Co, North Sydney	NS / Gco	◆		
David Jones Ltd, Sydney	DJ / Ltd	◆			New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Co. Sydney	NZL	◆		
Edward Dunlop & Co, Brisbane	ED	◆			Prudential Assurance Co. Sydney	PA/C			◆
Edward Dunlop & Co, Sydney	ED&CoLTD	◆			Parke, Davis & Co. Ltd, Roseberry	P.D/&Co.		◆	
Edward Fay Ltd, Sydney	EF / Ld	◆			Patterson, Laing & Bruce, Sydney	PL/&B			◆
Elder Smith & Co., Adelaide	E.S		◆		Raine & Horne, Sydney	RH	◆		
Eliza Tinsley, Melbourne	E.T.	◆			Royal Insurance Co, Tasmania	RIC	◆		
Elders Trustee & Executor Co. Ltd, Adelaide	ET	◆			Royal Insurance Co. Ltd. (Adelaide, Brisbane)	RU/Co/Ld	◆		
Farmers Ltd, Sydney	F			◆	?	R / C	◆		
Farmers & Grazier Co-op Agency. Sydney	FG	◆			Swallow & Ariell, Melbourne.	S&A	◆		
Farleigh, Nettheim Pty Ltd, Sydney	FN/Co	◆			Sargood, Gardiner Ltd. Melbourne	SG	◆		◆
Gibbs, Bright & Co. Adelaide	GB	◆			S. Hoffnung & Sons Ltd. Brisbane & Sydney	SH/&/CoLtd	◆		
Goode, Durrant & Murray. Perth	GDM	◆			Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramway Board	TB	◆		
Glover, Onians & Co, Melbourne	G.O./&Co.	◆			Thomas Brown & Sons Ltd. Brisbane	T.B.S	◆		
G&R Wills Co, Adelaide	GR/W		◆		Tooheys Ltd. Sydney	TYS/Ld	◆		
Geo. Wills & Co Ltd, Adelaide	GW/A		◆		Vacuum Oil Co. Melbourne	VOCo			◆
Henry Berry & Co, Adelaide	HB/&Co		◆		Vacuum Oil Co. Port Adelaide	VO/Co	◆		
Harringtons Ltd, Sydney	H / LTD	◆			Victorian Producers Cooperative. Melbourne	VP/C	◆		
Harris Scarfe & Co, Adelaide	HS	◆			WD & HO Wills (Australia) Ltd. Melbourne	WILLS	◆		
Howard Smith & Co, Sydney	HSLd	◆	◆		State Governments				
International Harvester, Brisbane	IH	◆			New South Wales	G / NSW	◆	◆	◆
International Harvester Co., Melbourne	IH		◆		Victoria	VG	◆	◆	
					Tasmania	T	◆		

Table 4. New Zealand

Company	Die	Values		
		½d	1d	6d
Vacuum Oil Company (3 rd perfin)	VOCO	◆	◆	

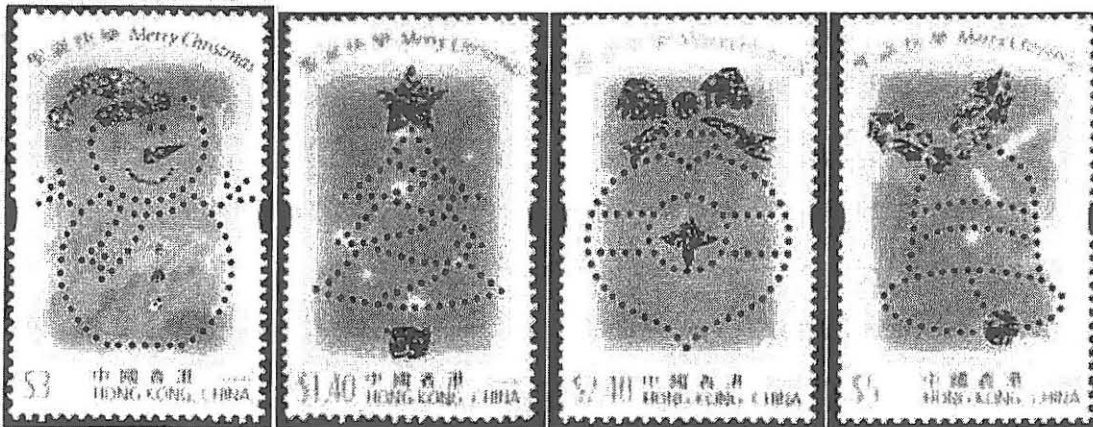
Table 5. Perfins on Common Design Stamps of the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue

Country and Company	Die	Face Values			
		6c	9c	20c	50c
Ceylon					
Brook Bond Co., Colombo	BBC	◆	◆	◆	
Cargills Ltd, Colombo	C.Ltd		◆		
H.W. Cave & Co. Ltd., Colombo	CAVE	◆	◆		◆
Colombo Commercial Co., Colombo	CC / Co	◆	◆		◆
Colombo Municipal Council, Colombo	CMC	◆			
Dalmege Forsyth & Co. Ltd., Colombo	DF/&Co		◆	◆	
E.B. Creasey & Co. Ltd, Colombo	E.B / C.C	◆	◆	◆	
Gordon Frazer & Co. Ltd, Colombo	G.F.		◆		
Henderson & Co. Ltd, Colombo	H& / Co	◆		◆	
Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corp., Colombo	HS / B	◆	◆	◆	
Lee Hodges & Co. Ltd., Colombo	LH/&Co				◆
Mercantile Bank of India, Colombo	MBI	◆	◆		
Miller & Co. Ltd, Colombo	M&Co / Ld	◆			◆
National Bank of India (blind perfins)	N.B.I				◆
Plate Ltd., Colombo	P / Ltd	◆	◆		
P&O Banking Corp. Ltd., Colombo	P&O/BC	◆			◆
Thomas Cook & Sons Ltd., Colombo	TC / & / S	◆	◆	◆	◆
Volkart Brothers, Colombo	V.B.	◆		◆	
Whittall & Co, Colombo	W& / Co	◆	◆	◆	
Hong Kong					
Hong Kong Electric Company	HE/C	◆		◆	
	LC	◆			
Mitsui Busan Kaisha	MBK				◆
Peninsula & Oriental Banking Corporation	P&O/BC				◆
Thomas Cook & Sons	TC / &S	◆	◆	◆	◆
Union Trading Company	UT/Co		◆		◆
Yokohama Specie Bank	YSB				◆
Straits Settlements					
Adamson, Gilfillan & Co. Singapore	A.G			◆	
Asiatic Petroleum Company, Singapore	A.P.C	◆	◆	◆	◆
Boustead & Company – Singapore	B&Co	◆	◆	◆	◆
Boustead & Company – Penang	B&Co	◆	◆	◆	◆
Borneo Co. Ltd, Finlayson Green. Singapore	B.C.L	◆		◆	
Chartered Bank of India, Penang	CBI	◆			
Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corp	HS / BC	◆	◆	◆	◆
Lee Plantations, Singapore	LP/L	◆	◆	◆	◆
L.Y. Swee & Co. Penang	LYS	◆			
McAlister & Co, Singapore	McA / Co	◆	◆	◆	◆
Municipal Commissioners, Penang	MC/P	◆			
Singapore Municipal Commissioners	SMC	◆			
Stoomvaart Maatschappij Nederland	S.M.N	◆			◆
Straits Trading Company, Singapore	S.T.C.				◆
Thomas Cook & Sons, Singapore	TC / &S	◆		◆	◆
Yokohama Specie Bank, Singapore	YS/B	◆	◆	◆	◆

NEW HONG KONG STAMPS WITH PERFINs (Judith Sidaway)

The 2002 Hong Kong Christmas stamps measure 45 mm by 28 mm each. They are perforated gauge 13.25 by 13.5, with one elliptical perforation on each vertical side. Hong Kong began using elliptical perforations in late 1999 as a security measure. These odd-sized perforations, usually two per stamp, were earlier introduced on GB stamps and are supposed to make it more difficult to counterfeit stamps. The stamps incorporate perfin patterns in the stamp design. The four stamp designs also appear on the picture sides of four new picture postal cards.

Hong Kong has released only a few Christmas stamps. On Nov. 8, 1990, Hong Kong issued a set of six Christmas stamps (Scott 578-83). Some stamps in Greetings sets from Hong Kong have Christmas themes. For example, a \$5 Personal Greetings stamp released by Hong Kong Post Feb. 1, 2002, pictures snow on poinsettias. An attached label reads "Merry Christmas." This stamp also was available with a blank label that could be personalized with a photograph.



The snowman is outlined by interior perforations and the snowman's hat, mouth, nose and buttons are in silver foil. The main design of the tree, ornament and bell outlined by perforations and highlighted by foil.

Hong Kong Post says of the island's holiday celebrations: "Cosmopolitan Hong Kong has embraced Christmas as one of its major annual festivals and celebrates the season in a burst of brilliant colors, joyful carols and creative lighting. The excitement starts from early December when shopping malls deck their floors with holly and decorations galore. "Buildings on either side of Victoria Harbor compete to set the city ablaze with thousands of bright lights, creating a magical twinkling fairyland by night." For ordering information, contact Hong Kong Post Stamps, 1706-7 East Asia Aetna Tower, 308-320 Des Vouex Road Central, Hong Kong, China; or its agency in the United States, Interpost, Box 420, Hewlett, NY 11557-0420.

BNA PERFORATOR

The July/August 2002 issue of the BNA perforator includes articles on the "CMS private perfins" and the " True identity of the C48 perfin design" The Sept/Oct 2002 issue includes a detailed article on " OHMS 4 hole perfins on the 1942 war issue" , a very useful article for official perfin collectors and information that the next edition of the Canadian Perfins handbook is being prepared.

M&B PERFIN (David Richards)

A.D. Meares & Bishop had its genesis in 1932 when Alfred Devenish Meares, after working as a clerk for six years at the Stock Exchange, set up in business as a stockbroker. After being a sole trader for 17 years, he invited J. S. Bishop, a former administrator in the UK Board of Trade, to join him as a partner in 1949. Additional partners were introduced into the firm as it grew in the post-war years, but the name remained the same, although for brevity's sake it was usually called Meares & Bishop.

In 1974 it merged with Philips & Kitchen to form Meares & Philips. In 1984, Meares & Philips Ltd and Ord Minnett Ltd were the first stockbrokers to become incorporated member firms of the Sydney Stock Exchange. The name of the firm changed again in 1987-89 to Barclays de Zoete Wedd Australia Ltd when it was taken over by interests associated with Barclays Bank. A further takeover in the 1990s has seen the firm become ABN Amro Morgans Ltd.

AUCTION WATCH

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

		Est.
a. NZ 'K' perfin on ½d KGV	(Stirling & Co sale, Oct 02)	NZ \$ 60 -75
b. NZ 1908 p'card with ½ d green Pictorial perf W.T.&W	(David Holmes sale, Oct 02)	NZ \$ 250
c. NZ 1946 Adv. env. with MGM perfin on 1d green KGVI	(David Holmes sale, Oct 02)	NZ \$ 150
(a similar lot on eBay, Oct 02, was unsold at US \$ 25)		
d. 1920s GB cover from NZ High Comm to France with "NZ" perfin	(David Holmes sale, Oct 02)	NZ \$ 75
e. NZ "S&S/W" inv. on ½ d Mt Cook 1906.	(Mowbray auction, Nov 02)	NZ \$ 40
f. 'OS' inverted perfin on 2d red KGV 13/5/31	(eBay, Oct 02)	sold for US \$-168
g. Queensland 5/- and 10/- Chalons each with "BI&QACoLtd"	(eBay, Nov 02)	sold for US \$ 40
h. Pr. £1 Robes with 'G/NSW' perfin	(eBay, Nov 02)	sold for GB £ 10
i. 'HB' on 1d Dominion on NZ p'card to Germany	(eBay, Nov 02)	sold for US \$ 100+
j. '911' (Sep.11!) perfin on 6 U.S. stamps	(eBay, Nov 02)	sold for US \$ 2.80
k. 1950 cover of Prescott Pty Ltd with PLD.1 on 1½d Queen	(eBay, Nov 02)	unsold at A \$ 99
l. HJD.1 on printed stationery cover, plus "ED&CO" on cover	(Premier Philately auction, Nov 02)	sold for \$ 170
m. DJLTD.2 on 1/- black ANZAC	(eBay, Nov 02)	sold for US \$ 5.50