## SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 62 JULY 2003

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#### EDITOR'S COMMENT

The big news for this bulletin has got to be the new "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins" edited by our Secretary. Members and others have been looking forward to the new Handbook. The earlier book "Commercial Perfins of Australia" has been out of print for some time and even secondhand copies have been selling well. The publication of the new Handbook demonstrates the intense interest many of us have in perfins as the information included has come from many people and sources. No doubt the publication of the Handbook will be of assistance to very many collectors and encourage further discoveries to be made and reported.

John Mathews has made a major contribution to the research into Australian perfins with this handbook as well as his regular substantial contributions to this Bulletin and has certainly earned our thanks for his efforts.

David Andersen

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#### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members since the previous issue:

#216 Dick Crameri, Mandurah, West Aust#217 Ron Maher, Basin View, NSW

#### CIRCUIT MATERIAL WANTED

The exchange circuit is always in need of suitable material. New additions have been made to the distribution list, and sales are still strong. Please consider for your excess material. Empty books are available from the Secretary.

## CLUB MEETING IN NEW ZEALAND

Richard Smolnicki has advised that he has arranged for a meeting for Club members at the WELPEX Stamp Exhibition in Wellington later this year. The exhibition is being held on the second weekend in November at the Events Centre in the Queen's Wharf complex, Jervois Quay, Wellington. The Club meeting is at 2pm on Saturday 8 November. Bring along your favourite perfin items to show others, or the perfin items/questions which have been puzzling you. Thanks to Richard for arranging this meeting time.

## HANDBOOK OF AUSTRALIAN PRIVATE PERFINS

2003 is HAPPY (Handbook of Australian Private Perfins Year!) as this book has now been printed. Copies are available from the Secretary. Cost is A\$65 (plus postage) for members of PCNZA, and A\$75 (plus postage) for non-members. Please contact the Secretary for cost inclusive of postage for your area. Cheques, etc., should be made payable to "Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia". MasterCard, BankCard and Visa can also be accepted.

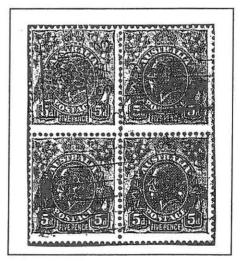
## AUCTION 1/2003

This has been a "record" auction from many aspects. There were a record number of lots, and even though the individual perfins from Denmark and France on high CV stamps did not prove popular (your auctioneer benefitted from the typing practice anyway!), about 80% of the other lots sold. There were some first-time vendors who shared in the sales, and a record number of bidders took part and nearly all won a proportion of their items bid. With an increasing demand for this material, and a perceived decline in the amount available from "public" sources, members are encouraged to consider the Club auction for disposal of their excess perfin material. For the next auction, material should reach the Secretary before the end of September 2003.

## SOME UNUSUAL COMBINATIONS ......

Peter Parsons has shown these two items, a block of four 5d KGV and a pair of the same stamp. The block shows a mirror pair (vertical) of the pattern ES.1, with a pair of unperforated stamps alongside. Of the joined pair, one stamp is perforated inverted and the other sideways.

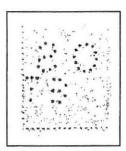




## ... AND ANOTHER ONE (Lindsay Parker)



The enclosed scans are of an item I picked up in a lot on eBay some time ago. I have catalogued it as TB.d on and OS perfin. The stamp is 1<sup>st</sup> watermark King George V (SG 77). I would be interested to hear from any other member who may have a similar item or who might be able to explain how the two perfins came to be on the same stamp.



## HANDBOOK OF AUSTRALIAN PRIVATE PERFINS - A REVIEW (David Andersen)

John Mathews has just published "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins", Canberra 2003 – soft cover A4. *(Available from John, price details on the previous page)* 

This book replaces "Commercial Perfins of Australia" published in 1992 and includes a very large amount of additional information provided by Club members and others. An additional 1200 patterns are listed and around two thirds of patterns previously listed have been updated with additional information. In total around 2700 perfin patterns are listed in the new Handbook, a vast amount of work to compile, resulting in a substantial volume.

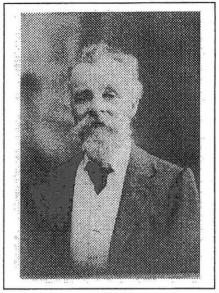
The catalogue listing follows the same format as the earlier book. Each pattern is illustrated, the user identified if known, usage information provided and an estimate of scarcity provided. The detail provided for each pattern exceeds that provided in many perfin catalogues of other countries. Brief comments about pricing are provided and these reflect the normal market for this material. The scarcity ratings provide a most useful guide to assist in pricing perfins both for the buyer and seller.

Information about the history of perfins in Australia is provided at the beginning of the catalogue. This section includes very useful detail about the different perforating services and perforator manufacturers encountered on the Australian scene. Lists of multiple die perforators, applications for approval to use perfins, Sloper supplied patterns and possible users are also provided and are of interest. This background information is usually omitted from perfin catalogues but is very helpful and interesting. The list of possible users clearly indicates that great care has been taken in checking the accuracy of information provided.

This Handbook clearly will be the standard work on Australian private perfins much as the earlier book has been. If you collect Australian private perfins you will need this Handbook to enhance your collecting experience. Considering that the number of patterns listed has nearly doubled from the previous book it really is essential for collectors of these perfins to have a copy on hand even if they have the earlier book. This Handbook is a good example of how to list the perfins of a country and has features others should emulate.

## C. G. ROESZLER AND SON (John Mathews)

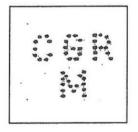
Charles George Roeszler was born on 20 September, 1845<sup>1</sup>, in Holborn, London, one of 10 children of George Charles Roeszler and Mary Ann Willis. From 1858 to 1861, the London Post Office Directories show that George Roeszler was a grocer at 9 Benjamin Street, near Smithfield Markets, London. At the age of 14 years, Charles signed on for an apprenticeship for 5 years, to learn the art and trade of Bookbinding and Printers' Engraving in all its aspects. In 1868, Charles established a business as "bookbinder's tool cutter, die sinker, engraver and printer" at 31 St John's Street, just around the corner from where his father had had his grocer's shop. Charles' mother, Mary Ann, died in the first quarter of 1869 aged 57 years. In the third quarter of 1869, at Hackney, London, Charles married Rosa Agnes Berwick, and brought his new bride to Melbourne on the "Corona" which arrived on 12 July 1870. At that time, Charles was 24 years old and Rosa 22. On the ship's passenger list, Charles' occupation was shown as "Toolmaker".



Charles George Roeszler (1847-1912)

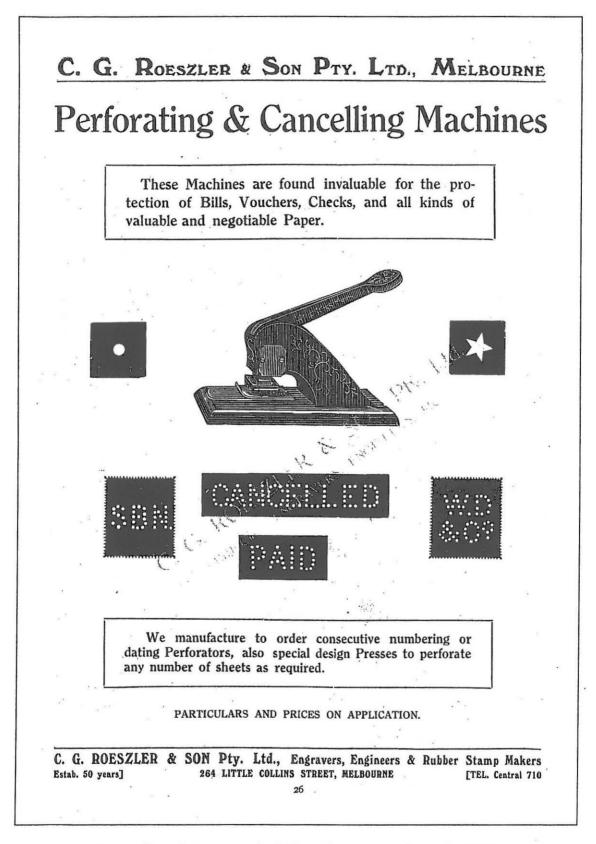
He wasted no time setting himself up in business as a bookbinders' tool cutter, die sinker and general engraver at 41 Swanston Street. He and Rosa lived initially at Prahran where their first child, Arthur Charles, was born in 1873. By 1877, when their second child (Ernest Eugene) was born, they were living at Emerald Hill, now known as South Melbourne. Ernest died before his second birthday. Their only other child was another son, Herbert Leopold, born in 1886.

The business thrived and by 1890, they had established a steam works for a short time at 285 Little Lonsdale Street, and moved their office to 260 Little Collins Street. The business also had diversified to manufacture rubber stamps as well. About 1900 they made their own perforator, CGRM.1. About this time, it is believed they made several other dies for use on stamps and other items.



By 1904, Arthur had joined the business which became "C. G. Roeszler and Son". Charles had an interest in motor car racing, and *The Weekly Times* of 3 February 1906 shows a photo of him at a race meeting at Aspendale Park in the "Heavy Car Invitation Race" driving a Minerva of 14 horse-power! (A Minerva won the Belgian Grand Prix in 1907).

The following year, Charles handed over the running of the business to his two sons Arthur and Herbert. He died in January 1912. Rosa had pre-deceased him by 18 months.



A page from the company's 50th anniversary catalogue in 1919.

In early 1920, Herbert purchased Arthur's share of the company. The business continued at 264 Little Collins Street until 1931 when it re-located to 429 Little Collins Street. In 1974, they opened premises at 103 Hawke Street, West Melbourne.

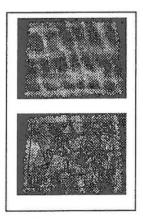
Herbert died in 1940 and Arthur died in 1941, but the family tradition continues with one of Herbert's grandsons as the manager of C. G. Roeszler Engraving, currently operating from premises in South Melbourne, close to where Charles and Rosa lived for many years. They still sell perforating devices, but these are mainly for cancelling documents. Most are electrically operated and manufactured overseas.

Note 1: This date is taken from the parish record of the church where he was christened (St Sepulchre's), and is consistent with the St Catherine's House BD&M index and also the age given on the passenger list of the ship which brought him to Victoria. However, his descendents have a birth certificate which gives his date of birth as 4 June, 1847. The St Catherine's House records show that births of a George Charles Roeszler and Frederick Henry Roeszler were registered on the same day at Holborn registry office in the second quarter of 1847. In the case of the death of an oldest child (particularly if named after a parent), it was quite usual to name a following child with the same names. However, no "Roeszler" deaths are registered in the St Catherine's House BD&M index from 1845 to 1847.

(Thanks to Mrs. Verna Schiess, granddaughter of Charles George Roeszler, for the photograph of her grandfather, for the page from the catalogue, and for information in the above article).

#### SOMETHING TO CONFUSE PERFIN COLLECTORS (John Mathews)

In April on eBay Internet auction, the item shown was offered under the descriptive title "Japan 'NCB' Embossed Perfin". Notwithstanding the number of "blind" pins I have seen in looking at perfins, this combination of "embossed" and "perfin" immediately aroused my curiosity. On close inspection, I could certainly see that it was embossed, but was it meant to be a perfin? There are a couple of clues. Firstly, the letters "NCB" inside the circle of dots are formed as complete letters, not as a series of dots. Secondly, the embossed impressions are pressed upwards as seen when the letters appear with the correct orientation. These are both consistent with this being done by a seal press rather than by a perforating device.



Perhaps someone in Florida could give us an "expert opinion" on this one?

#### INDO-CHINA PERFINS ON eBay

In July 2003, a small accumulation of 76 "rarely seen" Indo-China perfins was offered on eBay. There appeared to be only 3 different patterns (BI, BIC, and LJC) but in various positions and on a good variety of stamps. From a modest starting price of A\$8 (10c each), they finally sold for A\$327 (A\$4+ each!).

# JOSEPH SLOPER AND THE 1881 BRITISH CENSUS (John Mathews) (... and an Australian connection)

In SPPB July 1998 (page 5), I gave details of the 1881 British Census entries for a Joseph Sloper and 3 "young" children, Kate, Percy and Eustace, living at 41 St Julian's Road, Willesden, north London, and Sarah Sloper and daughter Ellen living at Kensington, west London. Despite ages which were 20 - 30 years different to what would be expected from Joseph's death notice in *The Times*, and the children's birth registrations in the St Catherine's House BD&M indexes, I felt sure that this was Joseph Sloper of perfin fame.

Now a recent email has been received from Dave Hill, Secretary of the GB Perfin Society, who has recalled that among the British Post Office archive records he sighted, he found a letter from Joseph Sloper written in 1878 from his home in St Julian's Road, London NW. It justifies my earlier confidence about this Joseph Sloper in the 1881 Census, but only reinforces the question of why the ages of Joseph and the children were so much in error – obviously the census-taker did not sight any of these four people in noting the details on the census page!

I had also been curious as to why Joseph's widow Sarah's obituary in *The Times* asked that it be copied by "Indian and Colonial papers". Could it be that she had relatives around the Empire?

Sarah's entry in the 1881 British Census states that she was born in Stoke Newington (north London) in about 1815, as she was shown as 65 years old at the census and 76 years old when she died in May 1892. The St Catherine's House indexes show that Sarah Lavell Leete married Joseph Sloper in St Pancras registration district in the second quarter of 1838. In the International Genealogical Index (IGI), there are three other Leete children christened at Stoke Newington (St Mary's Church) – Charles James in 1808, Mary Susanna in 1810, and William Henry in 1811. Their parents are shown as Charles and Mary Leete. Charles Leete and Mary Lavell were married in St Mary's, Marylebone, on 8 January 1807. Charles Leete may have been the chemist in Mile End Road in the 1833 and 1834 London Directories. Neither of Sarah's brothers, Charles and William, are shown in the 1881 or 1901 British Censuses. Maybe, it was they who had gone to India and the Colonies by the time of Sarah's death.

There is another relevent curiosity in the 1881 British Census. At 39 St Julian's Road, Willesden, was Mary Leete (70 years old and unmarried) and her unmarried brother Richard (63 years old) – next door to Joseph Sloper. At first sight, one might think that this Mary was Sarah's sister, Mary Susanna, born in 1810. However, Mary and Richard were both stated to have been born in Ibstock, Leicestershire, and the IGI has an entry for Richard's christening in that parish on 9 April 1818. The IGI also shows that Mary and Richard had at least three other siblings – Thomas (b. 1809), Frederick (b. 1815) and Charles (b. 1816) – all born at Ibstock. Frederick migrated to Victoria, Australia, where he married in 1862, and had 8 children, among whose given names are "Troughton" (from Frederick's maternal grandfather) and "Lydiat" (Frederick's mother's maiden name). So here is a "Colonial connection" which supports the thought that Mary Leete at 39 St Julian's Road in 1881 was related to Joseph Sloper's wife Sarah – perhaps a cousin.

Dave's message inspired me to have another look through the available records for Joseph's other children – Horace (born 1844), Alice (1849), John (1850) and George

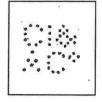
(1852) – who were not listed with either Joseph or Sarah at the 1881 Census. St Catherine's House death records include entries for John (last quarter of 1851, at Marylebone) and George (second quarter of 1854, also at Marylebone).

A search of the 1881 Census for Horace gave no result. However, an Alice Sloper (born in north London) was shown as the private governess for a Hutchings family living in Old Stratford, Warwickshire. They had two children, Amy aged 5, and William aged 4. Their mother, Mary, had been born in London. The IGI shows that Alice Sloper, daughter of Joseph Sloper and Sarah Lavel (sic) Sloper, was christened in St Matthews' Church, Rugby, Warwickshire, on 1 June 1872 – at the age of 23 years.

The 1901 Census of England and Wales does not list an Alice Sloper about 50 years old, but she is probably the Alice Knight aged 52 years, born at Marylebone, and living at King's Norton, Worcestershire. An Alice Sloper married Francis Knight (32 at 1901 Census) in King's Norton registration district, Worcestershire in the last quarter of 1896. Alice Sloper may well have been governess to the Knight family after she left the employ of the Hutchings family. At the 1881 Census, the Knight family was living at Atherstone. Warwickshire, where Francis' father (Walter) was a bank agent. The death notice for Eustace Sloper in The Times of September 8, 1903, said he had died 2 days before at Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove, and was formerly of 9 Colville Mansions (this is part of Powis terrace, Kensington, west London). The 1904 Worcestershire Directory shows "Francis Knight, Little Intall Fields" listed among the 10 residents of Stoke Prior. Children Beatrice (born 1897), and Florence (1900) have names of their father's sisters. Amelia (born 1902) has her paternal grandmother's name. First-born son Francis Joseph (1901) has his father's name – does he also bear his maternal grandfather's name as his second given name? Amelia died in the second quarter of 1902, aged 1 year, Francis Joseph died in the second quarter of 1903, and their father died in the following quarter. At the 1901 Census, Francis' and Alice's occupations were shown as "living on own means".

## OH, WHAT AN IRONY! (John Mathews)

A recent auction on eBay included a perfin with a previously unreported letter combination, CI&ACo, of the Victorian Service Puncture style. The "killer" cancel was indicative of the sort of Melbourne postmark used in the 1890s.



A search of Victorian Post Office Directories for 1890 to 1900 showed a listing for (The) Colonial Investment and Agency Co. Ltd.

In 1891-1892, this firm was located at 87 Queen Street, Melbourne (at that time Edward T. Moulden was across the street at 98 Queen Street). A full page advertisement in the 1891 edition stated that they had been established for 11 years and had authorized capital of one million pounds. From 1893 to 1897, they were listed as being "in liquidation", and they were not listed after 1897.

Matthew Davies was born in Geelong, Victoria, in 1850, and educated at Geelong Grammar School and Geelong College. In 1870, he became an articled clerk and was admitted as a solicitor in 1875. Two of his four brothers were also solicitors and all brothers became embroiled in the land speculation which was rampant in Victoria in the

1880s and into the 1890s. As a solicitor, Matthew became exposed to this land speculation.

In 1880, he stood as a candidate for Prahran Council, and was easily elected. The following year, he was unanimously elected to be the Mayor. Also in 1880, he formed the Colonial Investment and Agency Company Limited, whose function was simply to borrow money to buy land, and resell it at a profit. In 1883, Matthew Davies was elected to the Victorian Parliament as the member for St. Kilda, as an independent, and in October 1887 he was elected to be Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

On the surface, he seemed a quiet, respectable, community-minded citizen. He helped to start the Young Men's Christian Association in Melbourne and for a period he was its Honorary Secretary. He was knighted in 1890 for his philanthropic generosity.

The Voluntary Liquidation Act came into law in Victoria in December 1891, and within six months, nearly all of the 34 companies in which Matthew Davies had a significant interest had been "voluntarily liquidated" – many without the knowledge of investors and shareholders. (Many other "land boomers" went the same way and most of these had connections to the Victorian Parliament).

In July 1892, Matthew Davies went to London to raise finance, but word of the land speculation crisis reached England at about the same time, and he failed. On his return, he was forced to resign from Parliament. In May 1893, he and his wife tried to escape to England to avoid legal action, but he was taken off the ship in Colombo (Ceylon, now Sri Lanka) and escorted back to Victoria. He filed for insolvency the following year as he faced trial over the running of his companies. Due to the influence of friends within the Victorian legal system, he was acquitted.

It is ironic that a company involved in the disappearance of hundreds of thousands of pounds of investors' money should perforate their postage stamps as security against petty theft!

See also the South Pacific Perfin Bulletin, October 1997, page 11 for another article about a perfin associated with the land speculators.

(Some of the above data was taken from "The Land Boomers", by Michael Cannon, published by Melbourne University Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 1967)

#### MORE ON THE PRT.1 PERFIN

Since the above article was written, two more examples of the PRT.1 perfin have been offered on eBay Internet auction. One was on the £5 QVic Duty Stamp of Victoria and the other on the £8 denomination of the same series. In both cases, the perfin characteristically is near the top edge of the stamp. The £5 stamp is pen-cancelled "H.W.S." (see 1997 article). The £8 stamp is pen-cancelled "C.F.E.Z. 16/1/89" – Charles Frederick Edward Zorn (1821-1911), farmer turned sauce manufacturer, of Clayton, Victoria.

#### STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE for the year ending 30 June 2003

#### Australian account

Receipts		Expenditure		
Bank balance 1 July 2002	8180.80	Bulletins	1832.88	
Subscriptions (Note 1)	2289.65	Bank and Govt charges	44.00	
Bank interest	0.41 Post and stati	Post and stationery	0.00	
Exchange branch	9536:90	Exchange branch	11913.45	
Auction 2/01	0.00	Auction 2/01	45.10	
Auction 1/02	1930.30	Auction 1/02	2531.81	
Auction 2/02	1422.45	Auction 2/02	1451.60	
Transfer from NZ a/c	900.00			
Interest Term Deposit	360.99	Miscellaneous (Note 2)	465.00	
Miscellaneous	55.22	Bank balance 30 June 2003	6393.88	
Total	24677.72		24677.72	

Notes. 1. includes credit and paid in advance \$1006.62

2. includes donations to National exhibitions (\$125.00), stamps for souvenir (\$120.00) and purchase of books for library (\$170.00).

Term deposit: \$9000 at 4% due 6 April 2004.

#### New Zealand account

Receipts		Expenditure	
Bank balance 1 July 2002	425.25	Stamps for souvenir	385.00
Circuit books	315.00	Auction sales	5.50
Subscriptions	298.00	Transfer to Aust a/c	1023.74
Bank interest	12.90	а С	
Auctions	453.30	Bank balance 30 June 2003	_90.21
Total	1505.25		1505.25

Our sincere thanks go to Peter and Richard for their good work in keeping our accounts in good order.

## ARTICLES WANTED FOR BULLETIN

Readers are invited, encouraged, nay even urged, to submit items of interest to be shared with other collectors. Contributions can be in the form of articles pertaining to perfins and their users, or simply clear illustrations of items (or the temporary loan of the item itself) which may have some interesting or unusual feature.

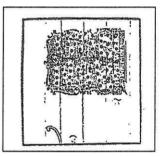
#### OFFICIAL POSTAL STATIONERY PERFINS

A significant number of items of postal stationery such as postcards are found with official State or Federal perfins. Many of these items are very scarce and listings of them are at present very inadequate. A few such items that have been shown to me recently are illustrated below.

Large numbers of postcards must have been perforated and were used for brief messages or acknowledgements such as the example below used in Tasmania "A parcel containing paper for the 2C Exam is being sent tonight by tram. Please acknowledge receipt.". The range of preprinted messages from different departments is quite large so there is endless scope for the serious collector.

WRITTEN ON THIS DSPA 5 11:0V 1915 Sert llen a

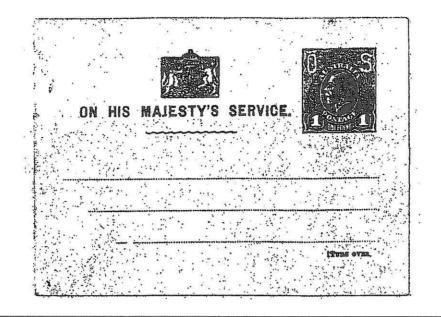
Unfortunately, sometimes the full item was not retained but the stamp area was cut out. The example on the right bears the GSB/NSW perfin, a very scarce item even on a normal stamp and despite being a cutout still a very desirable item.



Sometimes the "perfin" was printed rather than perforated.

While not really a perfin they were used for exactly the same purpose. A couple of examples are shown below; the first with "holes" and the second without. Not quite an overprint !





## AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest from auctions/direct sales since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobilo, Paul Butler, Bill Harley and Doug Brookson for passing on their spotting of perfin lots in auctions. Prices in A\$ unless indicated.

		3		E	Est.
	a. NZ "MGM" on 6d Air	(Stirling & Co Sale, May 03)	)	NZ\$	45+
	b. NZ "DB/&/CO" s/w on damaged 1d SSF			NZ \$	25
	c. NZ "S&S/W" on 1d Universal	(Len Jury Auction, Jun 03)		NZ \$	25
	d. NZ "GNB/LD" on 1d Universal	(Len Jury Auction, Jun 03)		NZ \$	60
Ŕ	e. 1940 Air Mail cover Brisbane to USA "Clipper Mail" with 1/- Lyre & 2 x Hermes 1/6				
	all perf "BP".	(Fitzpatrick Sale, May 03)		NZ\$	60
	f. NZ "C&G" s/w on 2d SSF	(Stirling & Co Sale, Apr 03)		NZ \$	15
g. 1924 cover of The Armstrong Cycle & Motor Agency, Perth, to USA with 2 stamps					
	perf "PWA".	(eBay, Apr 03)	sold for	US\$	25
12	h. GB "S.M./& Co" on 1878 QV 10/-	(eBay, May 03)	sold for	GBP \$	250
- 85	i. GB "CBI" on 1891 QV £1 green	(eBay, May 03)	sold for	GBP \$	CALCULATING STREET
	j. "EIPA30" perfin on France 1f50 Air	(eBay, May 03)	sold for	US \$	53
	k. NZL.8 on 1/2d green KGV single-line perf.	(Premier Philately, date u/k)	sold for	\$ 6	575
	<ol> <li>NZ "SSE" s/w mirror pr on 1d SSF</li> </ol>	(Stirling & Co Sale, Jun 03)		NZ \$	
	m. NZ "GNB/LD" on 1d Universal	(David Holmes Sale, Jul 03)		NZ\$	
	n. NZ "RG/W" on 5/- Mt Cook p.14, wmk s/w	(David Holmes Sale, Jul 03)		NZ \$	400
(	o. Receipt of Vacuum Oil Co., Wellington, NZ with				
	100 100 10 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	(eBay, Jun 03)	sold for	US \$	33
1	p. MOA.1 on piece with North Fremantle, WA, 1962				
		(Cygnet Philatelics Auction, .		\$	20
(	q. NZ "D.I.C." (Drapery & General Importing Co., V		ancel		
		(Mowbray Auction, Jul 03)		NZ\$	
	r. NZ "MGM" on 3/- Mt Egmont	(Mowbray Auction, Jul 03)		NZ \$	
	s. 100's official perfins, mostly "VG"	(Premier Philately sale, Jun 0			120
	t. 2 kg of "VG" perfins in plastic bag (1000s)	(Premier Philately sale, Jun 0			500
	1. 2 large stockbooks of State and C'wealth perfins	(Premier Philately sale, Jun 0			105
	v. Selection of Perfins from IndoChina	(eBay July 03)	sold for	\$ 32	7
	w. Group of 5 perfin covers with identities.	(Chas Leski auction, Jun 03)	sold f	or \$1	.40
?	k. Cut-down GB "C/of/A" cover plus a GB commerce				
		(eBay, Jul 03)	sold f	or US\$	15+
У	<ol> <li>WD &amp; HO Wills receipt 1903 with 2d NSW Duty</li> </ol>				
		(eBay, Jul 03) s	old for U	JS \$ 12.	50

12