

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 65 APRIL 2004

The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia four times each year. Club subscriptions (including payment for the Bulletin) are A \$10-00 p.a. for New Zealand and Australian residents and A \$15-00 p.a. for residents of other countries (including airmail postage). Back issues available from Secretary.

---

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](mailto:JohnMa@ise.canberra.edu.au)

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

Librarian: David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria 3095, Australia

email - [davidcoath@onthe.net.au](mailto:davidcoath@onthe.net.au)

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

email- [d.andersen@library.usyd.edu.au](mailto: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

---

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

At the March Club meeting members expressed their enthusiasm for an updated edition of Australian Official Perfins. While this will involve me in a fair amount of work it is likely to involve a fair amount of effort by others. A new edition would have a much expanded listing of the various perfins on State issues, additional information on postal stationery, listing of Papuan/NWPI issues (Australian territories) and hopefully some conclusive information about the various new discoveries reported in the Bulletin over the last few years.

To convert the existing listings of State issues to cover the numerous different watermarks and perforation types involved will entail quite a bit of work for some States as a lot of existing information lacks this detail and in effect we need to almost start again. Excellent information is available for New South Wales, Western Australia and certainly some South Australian issues. Other information may be available for Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland so I would appreciate being advised of these.

Over the next couple of months I hope to work on a draft that will give me a better idea about what information is needed. In the meantime we have some more information on the OS/GR pattern and reports of any other copies will help confirm their status.

---

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following member who has joined since the previous issue:

# 220 John C. Root, Mass, USA

## CLUB MEETING

A meeting of members of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia was held in conjunction with the Canberra Philatelic Society's StampShow 04 at 1.30 pm on Saturday 13 March. The President was in the chair and there were 7 members and 2 visitors present. Four apologies were received. As there was only one nomination for each of the Club positions, the present incumbents were re-elected unopposed! (We thank them all for their on-going good work). The meeting approved a new position of Club Librarian – our thanks to David Coath for accepting this position. Payments for prizes were approved for the following exhibitions in 2004/2005 – Fremantle (Sep 2004), Hastings (NZ) (Oct 2004), Sydney (Apr 2005), Auckland (NZ) (Jul 2005). An informal Club meeting is planned for the exhibition in Fremantle (details will follow). The Secretary announced that sales of the Handbook had already repaid about \$5000 to the Club out of the original \$6000 advanced for the printing costs. Various members showed an interesting range of perfin items.

---

## ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICE-BEARERS

Several nomination forms were returned by members, but there was overall only one nomination for each of the Club positions, so the present holders of those positions were re-elected unopposed. We thank the members for their ongoing confidence in them! However, for the future, remember that competition is healthy...

---

## AUCTION NEWS

With this issue of the Bulletin you will find the catalogue for Auction 1/2004. There are several new vendors this time, and a great variety of material. In particular, there are some bulk lots of private perfins and official perfins from a "retired" collection, and many nice individual items. There were also 40+ covers (private and official) and more bulk lots which would have stretched your collective budgets this time (and made the catalogue too big!). So I will include them in a special mini-auction, the catalogue for which will be issued with the July 2004 Bulletin – 3 auctions this year!

---

## "AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL PERFINS"

Members at the Club meeting in March expressed their enthusiasm for an update to this publication by David Andersen, long out of print and with numerous supplements. It would help if those members with "extensive" holdings of perfins of Commonwealth and State Government Departments, local councils, and other "government" organisations (Railways, UNSW, Tramways Board, etc) could contact David to enable David to consolidate his data base.

## MEMBERS' REQUESTS

David Coath writes "I collect the perfins of all countries, including private perfins, specimens, punctures, government patterns, etc. I have a great number of spares and duplicates. I would be happy to swap with any member, say 50 patterns of the country they collect in exchange for 50 world patterns."

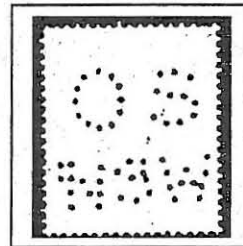
David may be contacted by email at [davidcoath@onthe.net.au](mailto:davidcoath@onthe.net.au), or by mail at 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria 3095, Australia.

## ROMANIAN PERFIN CATALOGUE

This catalogue is currently being updated by a member of the GB Perfin Society. If any member has information about Romanian perfins (patterns, dates, issues, identities), it can be forwarded to David Coath (address in article above) who will pass it on.

## FORGERY – PROBABLY, BUT WHY BOTHER ?

The 2d KGV sideface red single wmk turned up on eBay recently. A very common item, except for the additional holes in the N and S and a missing hole in the S of "OS". Further investigation revealed that the holes are smaller and rougher than normal and the letters NSW do not line up, the N extends too far down. No difficulty in identifying this one as not genuine. But why bother on such a low value item ? Caveat emptor !



## MEMBERS' RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

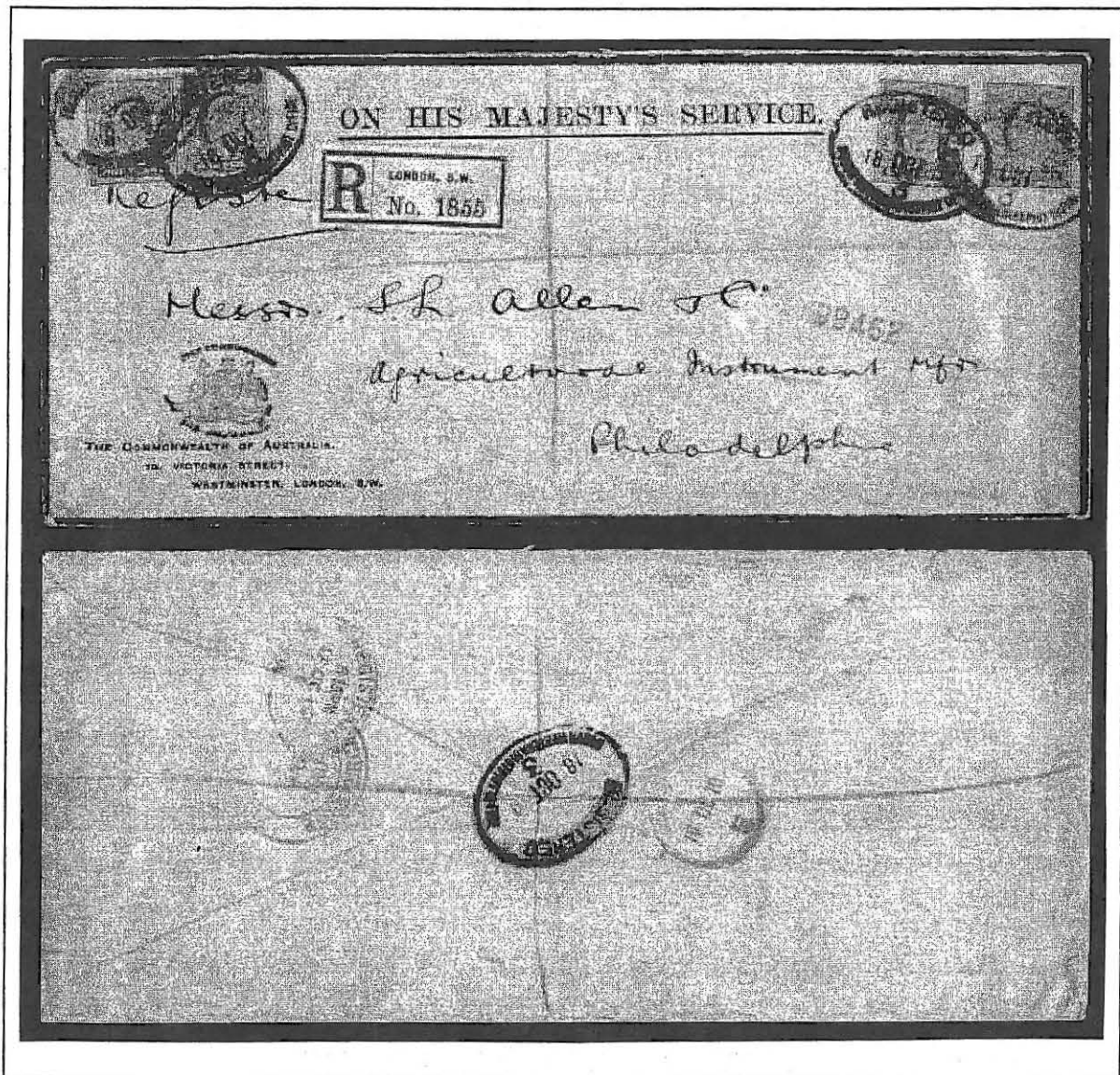
### New Zealand ID

Stephen Jones advised "I am certain that the "ID" is part of the stamp duty perfin used for perfinning stamps through legal documents, predominantly in the 1920s through to the 1940s, in New Zealand. The full text would have been "DUTY PAID" with the date underneath. I first saw some of these about five years ago on mint 1915 1/2d green values, but as I believed them to be bogus then I didn't take much notice of them.

Stamps perfinned with these letters are very common and I would say most NZ revenue or perfin collectors would have examples of them in their collections"

## 1910 CofA COVER ON eBay

In early March, a registered mourning cover of the Commonwealth of Australia was offered on eBay. It had four 1d red KEVII stamps perfinned "CofA" and was addressed to Philadelphia, USA. At a glance, there seemed to be nothing really special about the cover, as the year digits on the four oval hand cancels on the stamps did not print. However, on looking at the back of the cover, the transit mark and arrival date stamp clearly show that the year was 1910. The date of 18 October 1910 is nearly 4 months earlier than the previous earliest recorded use of 10 February 1911. King Edward VII had died on 6 May 1910. The cover sold for over US\$165, with your Secretary being the frustrated under-bidder!



## JOSEPH SLOPER (John Mathews)

I have for some time been trying to trace descendents of Joseph Sloper, inventor and patentee of the process of perforating stamps to prevent fraud (i.e. the “father” of perfins), in the hope that someone among them may have inherited a photograph of Joseph. Now Roy Gault, editor of the New Illustrated Catalogue of GB Perfins for the GB Perfin Society, has sent me a copy of the portrait shown. It was made by The Photographic Co. Ltd., of London, in 1873 when Joseph was 60 years old. The photo is in the collection of the Science Museum/Science & Society Picture Library, London SW7.

It can be seen on-line in its original sepia tonings at



<http://www.nmsi.ac.uk/piclib/imagerecord.asp?id=10401850>

## ... AND HIS PREMISES (John Mathews)

The addresses of Joseph Sloper and Company over the years are all well known, but what they looked like had been the subject of another search by various members of the GB Perfin Society. When the company closed, the society was presented with a large photograph which had hung in Sloper’s offices for nearly 100 years. One of the members has produced a postcard for the Society from this photograph which shows the procession for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria’s reign in 1897.

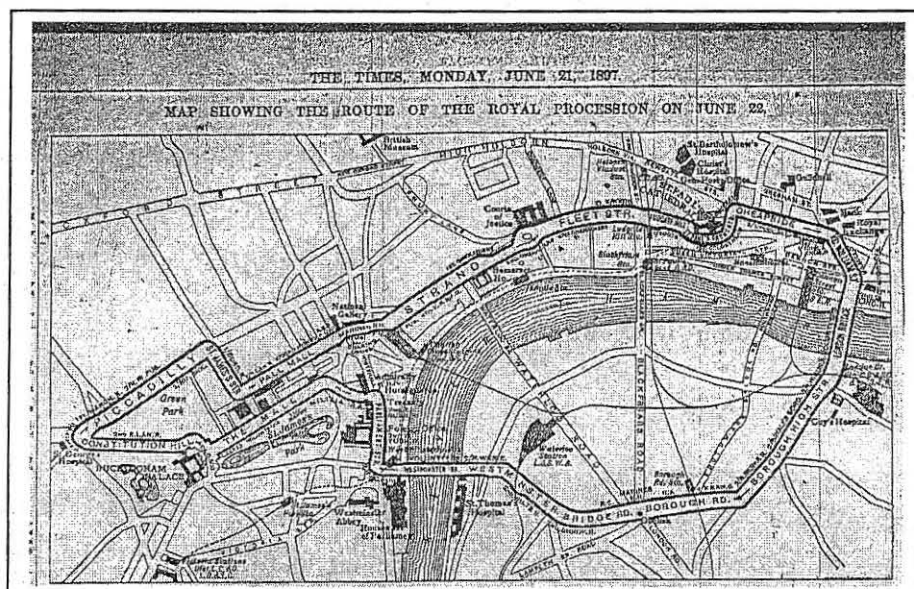
The procession is shown moving from North to South along King William Street in the city of London where it crosses Cannon Street. The dark building on the north-west corner of the intersection in the centre background has a sign above the entrance with the words “Sloper’s Patent”! This would have been 20 King William Street. Unfortunately, it is not possible to read the notice on the window facing Cannon Street.

For those who like a bit of a challenge, the length and direction of the shadows should reveal the day of the year and the time of day when the photo was taken, using the same principle of the old sundials. The most detailed sundials have lines which indicate not

only the time of day (based on the direction of the shadow) but also the time of year based on the length of the shadow. London is at latitude 51 degrees North. My own estimate indicated that the sun was almost as far north as it gets in an English Summer, and that the time was about 12.45 pm (also indicated by a large “lunch-time” crowd??).



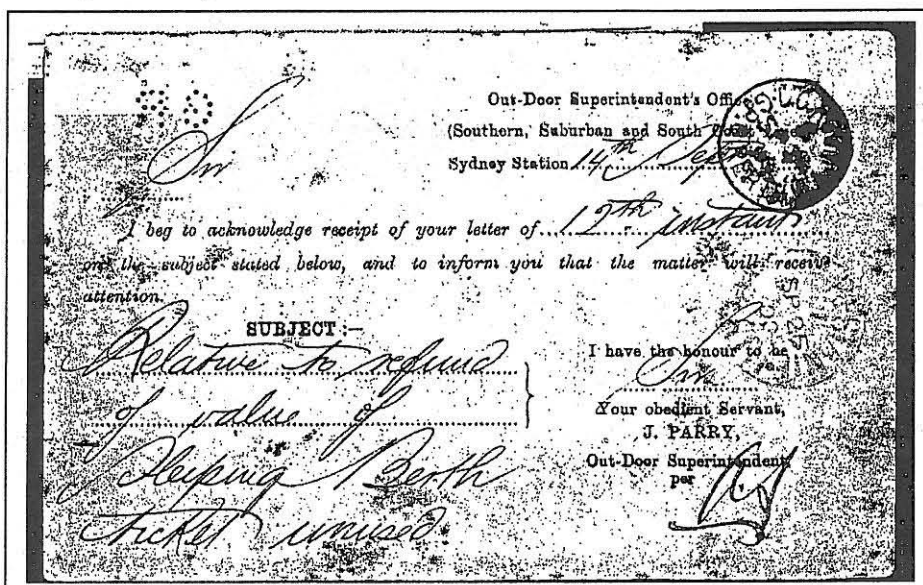
Subsequently, I found that the procession took place on Tuesday June 22, 1897 (a day or two after the Summer Solstice. I have also found that “The Times” newspaper had printed details of the procession the day before. The Queen departed Buckingham Palace at 11.15am, stopped at St. Paul’s Cathedral at 12 noon for a Thanksgiving Service, passed over London Bridge (just South of Cannon Street at 1.30pm and arrived back at the Palace shortly afterwards for the official lunch.



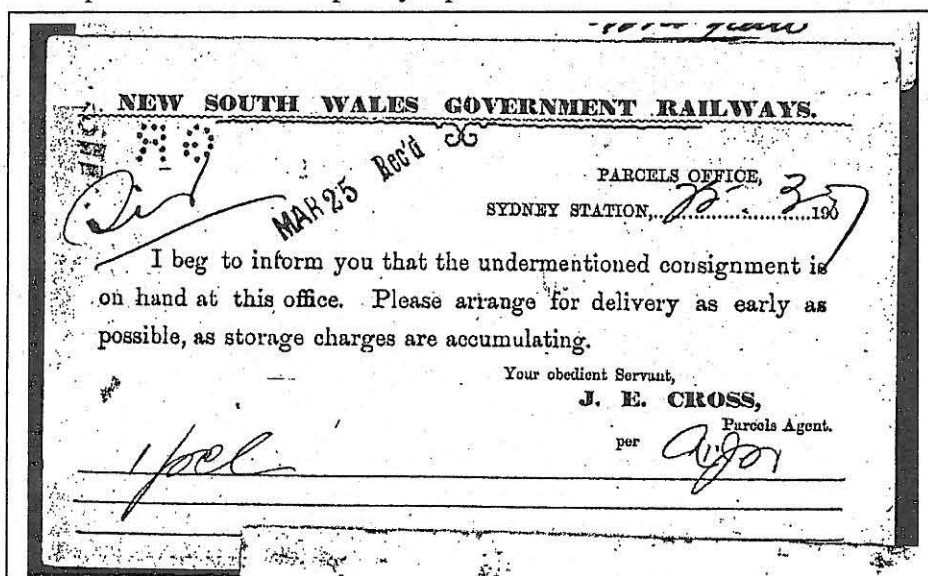
## GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS PERFIN ON POSTCARDS

A member has recently shown me a number of interesting postcards with perfins used by the New South Wales Government Railways.

The New South Wales Government Railways was the first New South Wales Government Department to use perfins, with the earliest usage reported as 12<sup>th</sup> September 1895. This GR pattern consisted of a single die and has been called the "pin puncture" as many examples have small holes. Puncturing was carried out by the Railways themselves. Sheets of stamps were folded before puncturing producing both the variation in hole size and different positions of this pattern. Possibly the same machine was used on postcards, an example of which is illustrated below.



A new die head consisting of 12 dies with larger holes was introduced by the New South Wales Government printer in November 1902 and puncturing of postcards with a similar new GR die commenced, continuing until at least 1907. There is no mention of a separate machine for postcards in contemporary reports.

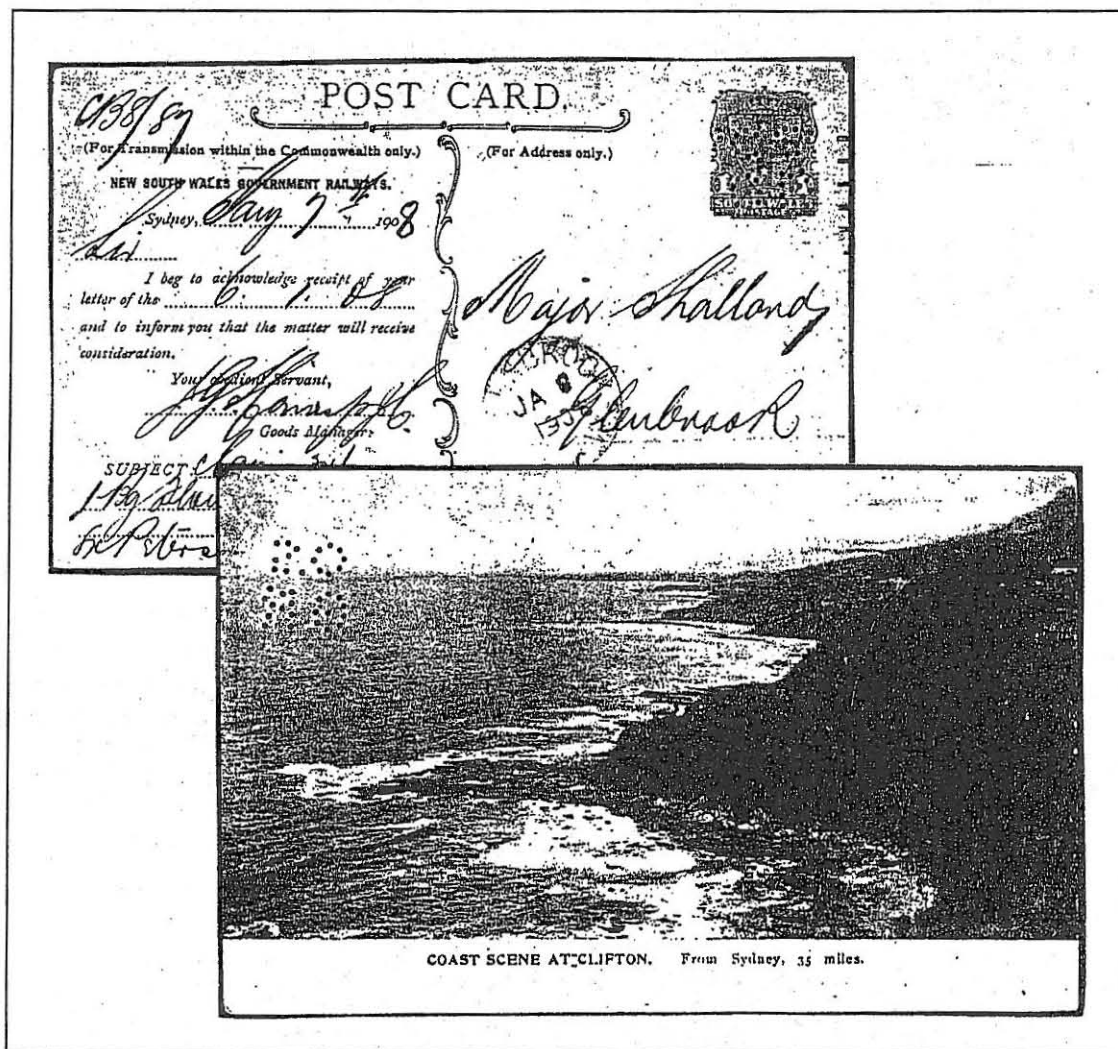


What happened next is a bit of a mystery. Bassett Hull stated that, according to the latest information about perforating machines in a letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 1909, there was no longer a machine perforating GR at the Government Printing Works. C. F. Williams in early 1908 had insisted that puncturing was undertaken by the Railways, not the Government Printer, and this had been the case since their inception. However William's claims have been discounted by later writers as has his claim that the machine had 10 dies. It has been suggested that Railways discontinued using the GR officials and commenced using the OS/NSW issues. But why?

Then a few years ago a single stamp turned up with an OS/GR pattern. So far no other copies have surfaced. However two postcards with an OS/GR pattern have surfaced with postmarks in 1908 and 1912. This OS/GR is quite different from the type on the single stamp and the 'GR' is different from all of the earlier GR dies.

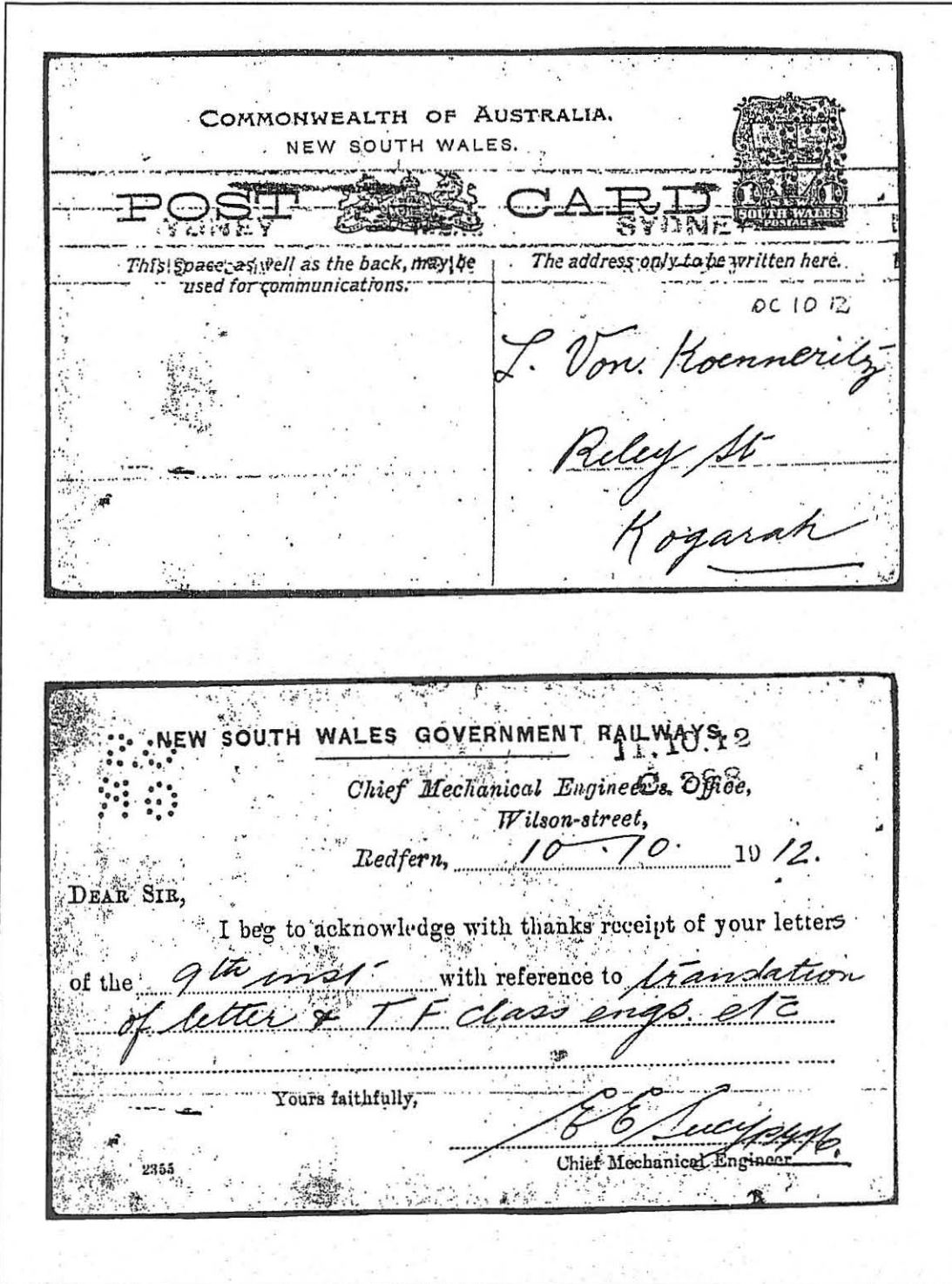


The first of these postcards is rather unusual in being a pictorial issue. Possibly other scenes were used.





The other is a rather more mundane design but still most desirable.



Was the OS/GR a replacement for the GR pattern ? If you have any other copies of the OS/GR perfin on either stamps or postcards please advise the editor .

## EUDUNDA FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

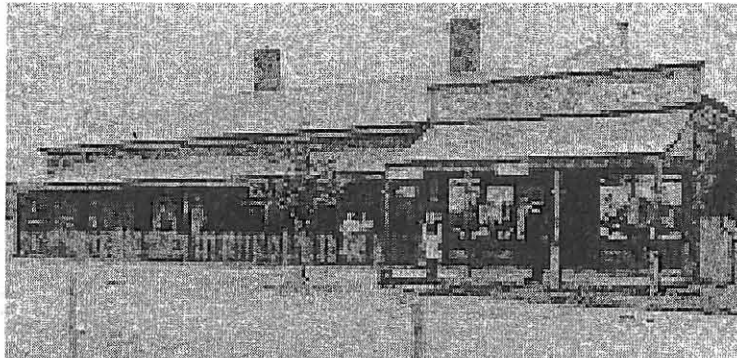
Eudunda Farmer's Co-operative Society started as a small band of people trading in firewood with a hotel parlour (let free of charge) as a meeting-place and cash assets of £54/2/-. In 1946, it owned 44 country stores, a 5-storey city office and warehouse employing 600 people.

Eudunda is about 70 km north of Adelaide, in the mid-north district of South Australia. It is between the Barossa Valley and the Clare Valley, both of which are now famous for their wines. It is in an area which has low rainfall, and in the 1890s, in such low rainfall conditions, farmers in the area were forced to sell firewood in order to survive. Most of it was Mallee roots and Mallee wood. But things got worse. The steady Adelaide market for firewood fell away, and prices fell from 3/9 per ton to 3/- per ton. Wood merchants insisted on paying half in cash and half in stores, and eventually by barter.

In 1893, Thomas Roberts, an Adelaide wood merchant, was the city representative and selling agent for the wood gatherers for direct sale to customers. He travelled to Eudunda every two weeks and used a room at the Eudunda Hotel as his local office. He paid the local shopkeepers for the accounts of farmers against their wood credit.

On December 26, 1895, the first meeting was held of local farmers for the creation of the Eudunda Farmer's Co-operative Society, to enable the farmers to have a better bargaining position, and to co-ordinate marketing and purchase of necessities. The meeting was held at the Eudunda Hotel and about 100 farmers attended. A follow-up meeting on January 7 the following year elected the first board of management.

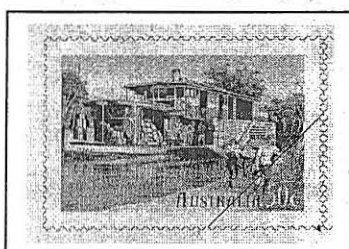
One year later, on December 15, 1896, they bought their first premises, at nearby Sutherlands. It consisted of a store, a weighbridge and 25 acres of land, for the price of £350. They also traded in wheat.



The first Eudunda Farmers' Cooperative Store, at Sutherlands, South Australia

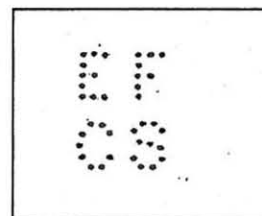
By 1899, business had expanded and they owned 3 stores in the area around Eudunda. In Eudunda, they leased their first premises in 1901, consisting of a general storekeeping business including a wood department. This store was later purchased in 1906. Despite poor crop seasons, they continued to make profits because of good management practices. In 1902 they bought out one of their competitors at Sutherlands. The original EFCS store in Sutherlands was then raised as a single unit onto 4 wheels and transported 5 miles along rough bush tracks by a team of horses to the neighbouring township of Bower to become an addition to the existing business there.

More new stores followed, including at Murray Bridge (1904), Lameroo (1907), Pinaroo (1909), and Loxton on the River Murray (1910). Anyone driving between Sydney and Adelaide via the Sturt Highway, Ouyen and Pinnaroo will pass the Lameroo store. Although it is now a supermarket, the original Eudunda Farmers' Co-operative Society lettering is still high up on the façade of the building.



In 1908, the company bought the s.s. "Pyap" as a trading steamer on the River Murray to serve the communities along that part of the State. It continued in use until 1932. [An aside – the captain of the "Pyap", W. Sladden, was stroke of the famous Murray Bridge rowing crew which was the champion crew of Australia and represented the country at the 1924 Olympic Games.]

The company opened an office in Adelaide in King William Street on March 4, 1896. They moved to larger premises in 1921, and finally erected a spacious new warehouse and offices on North Terrace in 1937.

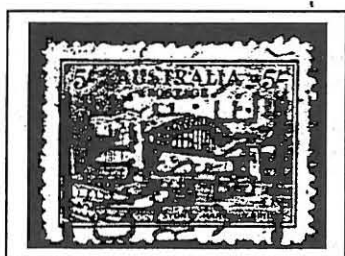


The company's Adelaide office used perfin EFCS.1 from 1924 to 1949.

From having 2 stores, 155 members and an annual turnover of £9,000 in 1897/8, this had increased to 35 stores, 17,000+ members and turnover of £3.2 million in 1924, and to 44 stores by the 50th anniversary of the company in 1946.

[Information for this article was taken from the official company history, "Path to Prosperity – Abridged History of Eudunda Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited, 1896 – 1946"]

#### 5/- BRIDGES WITH COMMERCIAL PERFINS

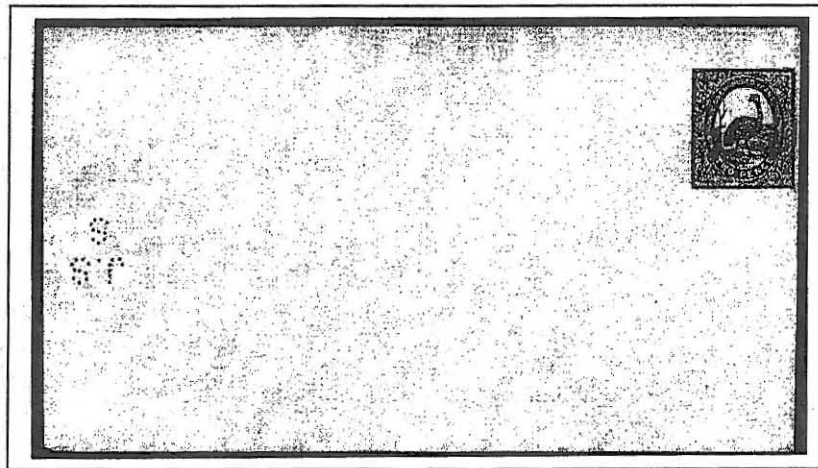


Over the years a number of copies of 5/- Bridges with perfins have surfaced. Usually the postmarks are rather messy being commercial as the example of the Farmers (F.1 or F.2) illustrated here on the left. Other patterns encountered on 5/- Bridges have included K.5 and VOCO.6 (2 copies).

## ANOTHER POSTAL STATIONERY ITEM PERFORATED "JSS.4" (John Mathews)

In the January 2001 Bulletin (page 7), it was reported that some Postal Cards of Western Australia with perfin JSS.4 near the right edge had been offered at public auction. At the time little was known of these items, and in particular, it was a matter of conjecture how these WA cards received the perfin of a Sydney firm. Now a postal stationery envelope of New South Wales with 2d Emu imprint has been found with the same perfin, and again it appears near the edge of the item rather than in the stamp impression. While this item is also unused (as were the WA ones), it does perhaps confirm that the WA items are genuine and that it was done in the period when States' postal items could be used in any State.

The consistent placing of the perfin near the edges, and my loose stamps also show the strikes at the same distance from the edges, suggests that the pin pattern was sideways in the perforator with the "stop" adjacent to the right side of the pin pattern.



## AUCTION WATCH

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

		Est.
a.	1898 Canadian 1c wrapper with 2x2 strike of perfin "S.L/Aco" (eBay, Jan 04)	US \$ 150+
b.	SA 5/- "Long Tom" perf "SA". (eBay, Jan 04)	US \$ 10
c.	Perfin EFH.1 (see Australian Handbook – Customs Stamps) on Canadian 1c Customs Duty stamp, 1912 issue. (eBay, Feb 04)	US \$ 15+
d.	1901 4 <sup>th</sup> series Queensland 5/- brown railway stamp perf TCB&CO.1 (Premier Auction, Mar 04)	\$ 40
e.	NZ "NZF" mirror pr on 1d SSF (Len Jury auction, Feb 04)	NZ \$ 12
g.	NZ "VOCO" perfin on rejoined pr 1944 1d Health issue (Stirling & Co Sale, Feb 04)	NZ \$ 75
h.	NZ "GNB/Ld" on 1d Universal. (Len Jury auction, Mar 04)	NZ \$ 60
i.	GB mourning cover of Australian High Commissioner to USA with 4 KEVII stamps perf "CofA". Backstamp shows clear date in October 1910 – earliest reported use. (see article this issue) (eBay, Mar 04)	US \$ 168+
j.	BLTD.1 on 1/- black Vic Centenary (David Holmes(NZ) sale, Apr 04)	NZ \$ 25
k.	1937 cover with 1d, 2d KGV perf "F.G." (David Holmes(NZ) sale, Apr 04)	NZ \$ 25
l.	NZ "M&C Ltd" on 2d yellow KGV used as revenue. (David Holmes(NZ) sale, Apr 04)	NZ \$ 50
m.	Collection of 350 Japanese perfins (offered as 2 lots) (eBay, Apr 04)	US \$ 200+
n.	30 Australian perfin covers (1940s/1950s) plus few on piece and loose (eBay, Apr 04)	US \$ 260+