

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 66 OCTOBER 2004

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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 – john.mathews@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

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

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## EDITOR'S COMMENT

I have noticed that the illustrations of perfin lots on eBay vary greatly in usefulness. Illustrations of single or small numbers of perfins are usually quite useful showing both the perfin and the condition of the stamp clearly. However quite a few lots with a page or so of perfins have been rather difficult to evaluate. These lots do not show the stamps from the back nor are the illustrations sufficiently enlarged/clear to show the perfins clearly. While some collectors will take the risk and assume that there will be something useful in these 'bulk' lots, I suspect that many of us are looking for material we don't have and will bid higher on a lot that has something we need. Certainly I would do so if I can identify one or more items in such a group that I need. Vendors need to show what they want to sell clearly.

Also noted recently are significant numbers of very common single perfins at rather high prices, both the starting price, and the "buy it now" price. Caveat emptor. If you are not sure of the value of perfins, get the book (if available), check perfin club auctions (there are a number of perfin clubs worldwide) or if you are resident in Australia or New Zealand take advantage of the Club circuit books.

David Andersen

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## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following members who have joined since the previous issue:

# 223 Ken Killeen, Isle of Wight UK

# 224 Robert Schwerdt, NY USA

## VALE BRUCE ALEXANDRE

Bruce was a member of PCNZA for several years from the Club's early days. He was probably known to many (especially NZ members) as the Managing Director of the stamp auction house, Stirling & Co., of Christchurch. He contributed much to philately in New Zealand and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand in 1998. He passed away suddenly on 31 August 2004.

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## REPORT OF CLUB MEETING, SWAN RIVER STAMP SHOW 2004 (Derek Pocock)

The Club as allocated a meeting time and had 1½ hours, but only 3 people turned up. We had a chat about philately but neither of the other 2 were perfin collectors; they had come out of interest. Largely, I think this was due to time pressures on all who were involved in the exhibition as there was much to see and do [it probably also had a lot to do with the fact that we were allocated a Friday (working day) time for our meeting?? – JohnM].

The new "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins" was entered in the Literature Class and received a Vermeil medal – significantly down on the award for "Commercial Perfins of Australia" in spite of having considerably more information in it. Much of the previous archival research was deliberately omitted so that the two books are complimentary rather than making the first one redundant. Congratulations to John Mathews for the work he has put in to the new book [and to all those who sent in new information – JohnM].

The other perfin book exhibited was David McNamee's "Beating the Odds: Tattersalls Private Mail Network 1902-1930" which also received a Vermeil medal. Overall there were 16 entries in the Literature Class at the Show.

The Perfin Club special prize was awarded to Hubert du Guesclin of West Australia for his Gold medal exhibit "Flying Boat Flights to, from or via Australia 1925-1945". There were no perfin stamp entries in the exhibition, which is a pity as we would then be able to show the potential of this aspect of philately. I am, however, firmly of the opinion that we should continue to provide a special prize at National exhibitions as this is an important way to keep the Club as a visible and vigorous group.

[By JohnM: Congratulations to the following PCNZA members who also received awards for non-perfin exhibits: Derek Pocock (2 Vermeil and a Silver), Alan Berry (Vermeil), Dingle Smith (2 Large Vermeil), and Dave Elsmore (Gold, Large Vermeil and a special prize).]

[Souvenir perfin covers were produced for the show with the Western Australian Stamp Promotion Council "W (swan) A " perfins. Similar items have been produced at earlier Western Australian stamp exhibitions. Sets of covers postmarked for each day of the exhibition have usually been available afterwards in rather limited numbers for around \$10 to \$15. I'm not sure what the covers at Swan River Stamp Show were first sold for but sets of 4 covers were advertised on eBay for \$35- Editor]

## PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005

The Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia has been allocated a meeting room at this exhibition (a big one!) in Sydney in April 2005. Mark in your diaries Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 10.00 am. We hope to see many members there. More details in the January 2005 bulletin.

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## THANK YOU

It is most pleasing to note that nearly all members have paid their renewal subscriptions by the time of this Bulletin – this gives a good sign for a continued strong future for the Club.

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## AUCTIONS

As anticipated, bidding in auction 2/2004 was early and strong, with the covers being particularly popular with bidders. Catalogue for auction 3/2004 is enclosed with this Bulletin and there is some more very nice material on offer in this one also.

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## BULLETIN ARTICLES

Members are encouraged to contribute articles for the Bulletin. You may have an interesting perfin item, or know something about (or care to research) the history of a perfin user, which could be shared with other members. There is no minimum length for articles, and material including illustrations can be sent either by mail or email to either the Editor or the Secretary. If you do not have access to a photocopier, the Secretary can scan/photocopy the original and return it by return post.

Members are also reminded that “want ads” may be submitted for inclusion in the Bulletin. However, if you have items for sale, they should be submitted either through the auction or circuit books.

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## CIRCUIT BOOKS

Australian and New Zealand members are reminded of the existence of the Club’s exchange circuits. Any member who would like to have their name added to the distribution lists, please advise John Mathews. “Normal” rules apply.

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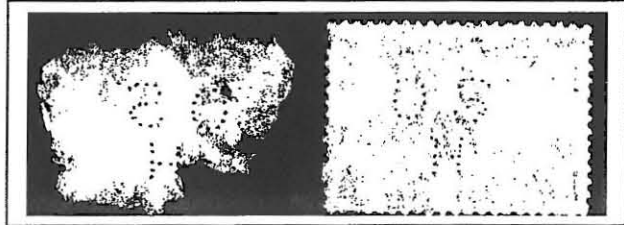
## SWAP WANTED

A non-member in the US (but who has bought a copy of the new Handbook) is looking for a swap of perfins. His wants are mainly “OS” issues, and he has over 300 to trade. If anyone is interested, contact John Mathews who will provide details.

### A PROBABLE FAKE (John Mathews)

I recently came across the item shown and initially thought it might have been a new pattern "OS/H". My suspicions were initially aroused by the postmark on the 2d red Submarine Cable stamp – Arncliffe, NSW, 1935. Surely no-one in this inner Sydney suburb would use a perforator? Also, the holes were very fine, much finer than even the finest of the Victorian Service Punctures.

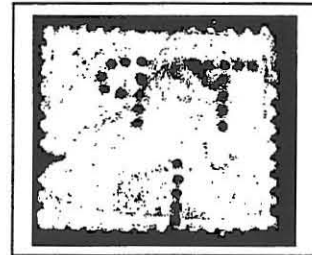
Finally I spotted some paper adhering to the back of the stamp, and under a magnifier it appeared the holes were through the paper too. This was confirmed when I soaked the paper from the stamp. The pattern is quite nicely formed although the top of the 'O' is slightly flattened, the 'S' leans



forward a bit, and the 'H' is not centred below the "OS". The letters are almost exactly the same height and the holes are all about the same size. What was the reason for this "experiment"? If the combination of letters is a guide, perhaps it was vanity by someone with those initials.

### A NEW PATTERN REPORTED (John Mathews)

Andrew Murley has shown a copy of the NSW 1/- chocolate Kangaroo stamp with a previously unreported "customised" pattern "TP/I", as shown. At first, I wondered if this would prove to be another case of a "foreign" perfin turning up on an Australian stamp (as A&ETCL and B&K), but a search of Sydney Directories of that period uncovered a likely user – the Trade Protective Institute of NSW who were in Temple Court (King Street, Sydney) and at Newcastle. The Trade Protective Institute was listed from 1880 to 1890.



### INVERTED OS/NSW ON 3D KANGAROO

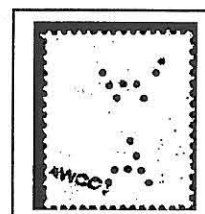
Article 3264 "Perfin OS NSW found inverted on 3d Kangaroo Issue" by Richard Guy in the ACCC Bulletin June 2004 provides information of interest to many of us. Richard purchased a shoe box of 3d Kangaroos from Australia, most perfinned OS/NSW. In this accumulation he found 7 copies with inverted OS/NSW perfins and all those with readable postmarks came from Bomen (near Wagga Wagga). All except one postmark are dated in March and April 1915 and the perfin letters are all at the top of the stamps.

This is the first report of an inverted OS/NSW on this issue. Inverted OS/NSW perfins have been reported on 1d, 2d, 2 1/2d, 3d, 4d and 6d first watermark Kangaroos. None of these issues are common.

## AWCO UNDERPRINTS (David Coath)

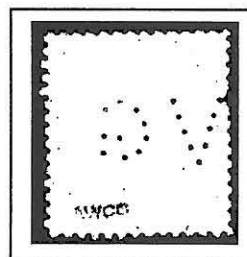
Some weeks ago I was sorting out a pile of WA patterns on some KGV stamps when I noticed a strange underprint on a few of them. The underprint was "AWCO" and given that they were WA patterns I thought the AWCO was significant. As the stamps were used, they would have had to be either put in place before the stamps were gummed or after they had been used and soaked. Placing them on before the gum was applied would have required Post Office approval and would most likely be common knowledge, so it was more likely that the underprint was put on to a used stamp.

I briefly considered an alternative that the underprint had leached off the envelope during use or soaking. However I discounted this when I looked more closely as that would have caused the underprint to have been in the reverse order i.e. "AWCO" on an envelope would have appeared onto the reverse of the stamp as "OCWA".



More than a little stumped I sent the stamps in question to John Mathews to see if he could shed some light on it. John made some enquiries and came up with the following reply.

Apparently there was a stamp dealer in Melbourne by the name of Arnold Wheeler and Co who was prominent in the 1950s and 1960s. Some stamp dealers were known to place underprints on stamps by way of advertisement and in some cases validation. Recently an article appeared in the US Perfin Journal about an underprint "Ermington and Martin" which was briefly thought to be a security underprint until research was done into the name which linked it to a London Stamp dealer.



I have more recently found another "AWCO" underprint on a 1932 large lyre bird perf "VG". Perhaps Mr Wheeler targeted "rubbish" stamps like perfins for his advertising.

## CAVEAT EMPTOR (David Andersen)

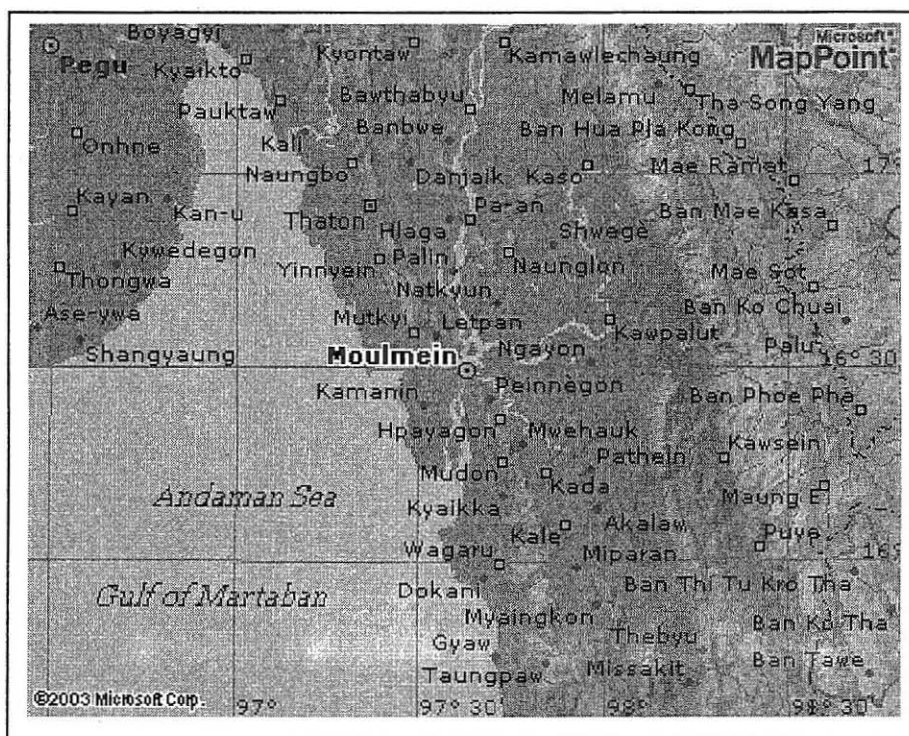
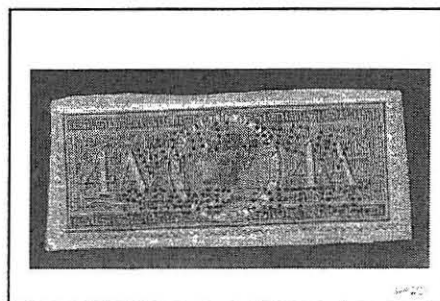
In a recent Status Auction a good range of NSW official perfins were listed including quite a few previously unreported issues. Status noted "Due to the difficulties of authenticating & expertising this material, all lots in this section are offered "As Is". However, the majority of issues look OK and are believed genuine in all respects. Some items appear to be of unknown or questionable authenticity and are indicated by (?!?) in description". Many items were so marked, and I would agree about many of them and have concerns about a few others. Some of the unreported items are listed below:

OS/NSW Type C ¼ KGV Small multi p. 14 Pos 1 (M) (?!?)	G/NSW Type A 5/- Kangaroo Cof A wmk Pos 3 (U) (?!?)
OS/NSW Type C 1 1/2d Canberra Pos 4 (M)	G/NSW Type A 10/- Kangaroo CofA wmk Pos 1 (U) (?!?)
OS/NSW Type C 2/- Roo CofA Wmk Pos 1 (M)	G/NSW Type B 5/- Kangaroo 3 <sup>rd</sup> wmk Pos 1 (U)
OS Type I 3d Kangaroo 3 <sup>rd</sup> wmk Pos 1 (M) (?!?)	G/NSW Type B £1 Kangaroo grey 3 <sup>rd</sup> wmk Pos 1 (U) (?!?)
OS Type I 1/2d KGV CofA wmk Pos 1 (M)	G/NSW Type B 1/6 Hermes thin paper Pos 1,3,4 (MUH)
OS Type I 1 1/2d KGV Cof A wmk Pos 1 (M)	G/NSW Type B 1/6 Hermes thick paper Pos 1 (MUH)
OS Type I 1/- Lyre 1932 Pos 1 (M)	G/NSW Type D 2/3 1963 Royal Visit Pos 5 and 7 (U) (?!?)

### INTERESTING PERFIN WITH LITERARY CONNECTION (John Mathews)

The item shown was offered on eBay in September this year. It is an Indian revenue stamp, 4 Annas denomination, with the 2-line perfin "MOULMEIN / STAMP OFFICE" (the top line being slightly curved). It reminded me of one shown some time ago for "GWALIOR STATE STAMP DEPARTMENT" (a Sloper perforator). I had heard of Gwalior State, as they produced their own stamps years ago, but I had not heard of Moulmein and decided to find out something about it.

A search of the Internet found a site with the map showing Moulmein being part of what is now called Myanmar (previously known as Burma), an area which was under Indian control back when the stamp was in use.



And the literary connection? Well, I knew some words from Rudyard Kipling's poem "Mandalay" from childhood (I was impressed with "the dawn comes up like thunder outer China 'crost the Bay"! ). But when I found the poem on the Internet, I found that the opening lines are:

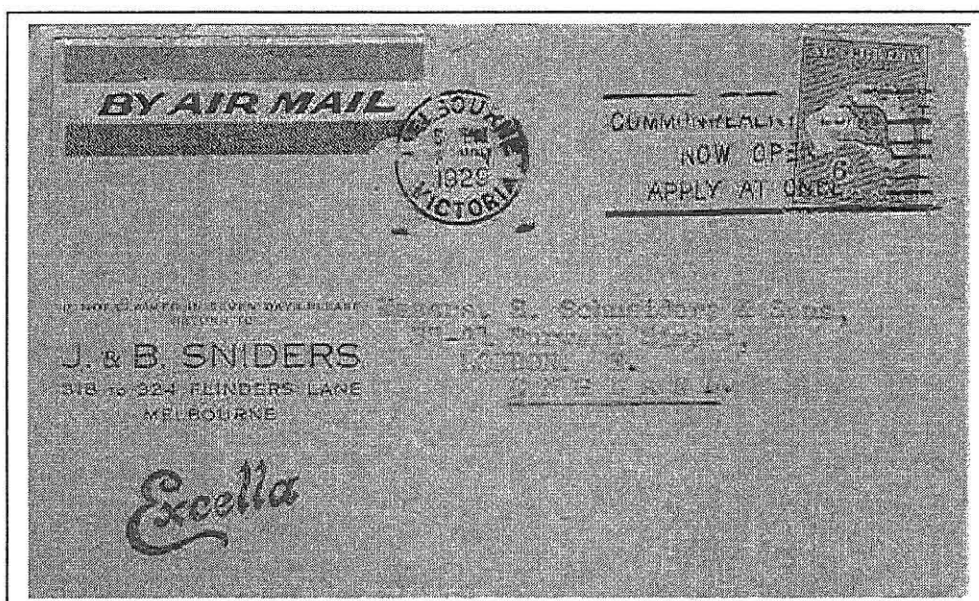
"By the old Moulmein Pagoda, lookin' eastward to the sea,  
There's a Burma girl a-settin', and I know she thinks o' me;"

Does anyone know of any other "Official" perfins of the same style as this one?

## AN UNDISCOVERED PERFIN PATTERN EXPLAINED (?) (John Mathews)

On August 31, 1893, Edward T. Moulden, a stamp dealer in Melbourne wrote to the Victorian Postal Department applying on behalf of 14 firms for those firms to be permitted to perforate their stamps with initials. For five of these firms, examples of the perfin patterns with letter combinations cited have not yet been found.

One of these five firms, S. Schneiders & Son, was connected to a known perfin user by a cover sold recently on eBay Internet auction. The 1929 cover was sent by J. & B. Sniders, 318-324 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, to Messrs. S. Schneiders & Sons in London, England. I wondered why they would write to the London office if S. Schneiders & Son had a branch in Melbourne, and checked the Melbourne Directory. In the 1929 Directory, there was no entry for S. Schneiders & Son.



In the 1893 Directory, when Edward T. Moulden wrote his application, S. Schneiders & Son, wholesale clothiers, were co-tenants at 50 Little Flinders Street with J. & B. Sniders, china importers. S. Schneiders & Son was listed immediately after J. & B. Sniders in Moulden's application. These two firms continued to be shown as co-tenants until 1910 (at 36-50 Little Flinders Street), in which issue there was a combined listing for them instead of separate listings as in previous years.

In 1911, 36-50 Little Flinders Street was shown as being vacant, and in another combined listing the two firms were shown as being at 318-324 Flinders Lane (Little Flinders Street had been renamed as Flinders Lane). The listing for J. & B. Sniders in 1912 stated that the firm had incorporated S. Schneiders & Son.

Obviously these two firms had always had close connections and both may have originally planned to use their own initials as a perfin pattern. However, it seems that S. Schneiders & Son did not pursue this idea and may indeed have at least occasionally used "J&BS" perfins. Does anyone know of a J&BS perfin on a cover of S. Schneider & Son?

Reg. No.	Date. 1893	From whom received.	When.
✓ 3577	September 6	Mr. J. C. Wood Operator E. T. G.	7 <sup>th</sup> September
✓ 3578	5	Miss J. Yoke. E. T. G.	
✓ 3579 3414	August 31	E. T. Moulden	
✓ 3580		Certain Residents jubilee 10 for Mr. A. Harris M.P.	
✓ 3581	September 6	Mr. A. Vickroy for Mr. A. Harris M.P.	
✓ 3582	4	Robertson + Howfield	



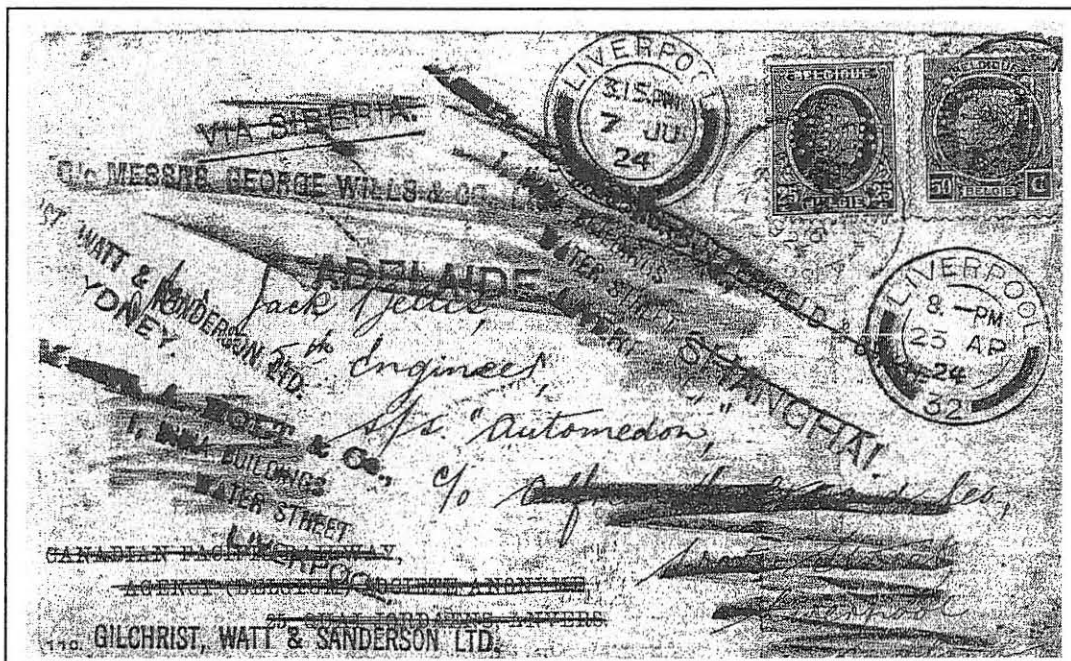
Subject	If referred, to whom and when.	Remarks.
Application for leave of absence - Two weeks 17 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> September		
Application for sick leave Six days 4 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> September		
Applies on behalf of the undermentioned firms for permission to perforate their stamps with initials -		
<u>Simeon Stuart &amp; Co. Ltd</u> ..... L.S. & S.		
<u>No. 1000's City Brewery</u> ..... M.C.B.		
<u>Thomas Sears &amp; Co</u> ..... B.T. & C.		
<u>Henry's Hotel</u> ..... M.H.		
<u>St. Louis &amp; Co</u> ..... F.F. & Co.		
<u>Suckley &amp; Munn</u> ..... B. & N.		
<u>Central Agency Co</u> ..... C.A.		
<u>J. &amp; S. Snider</u> ..... J. & S.		
<u>S. Schneider &amp; Son</u> ..... S. & S.		
<u>W. Hill, Speedy &amp; Co</u> ..... M.K.S. & Co.		
<u>Langye's Limited</u> ..... L.		
<u>A. Havi &amp; Co</u> ..... A.M. & Co.		
<u>Sister White</u> ..... L. & W.		
<u>E. Hingley</u> ..... E.T.		
Application that the Post Office at Jubilee may not be closed.		
Offers to take charge of Loose Bag at Jubilee free of cost till 31:12:93.		
Offer facilities for the establishment of a Telephone Office at MacArthur -		

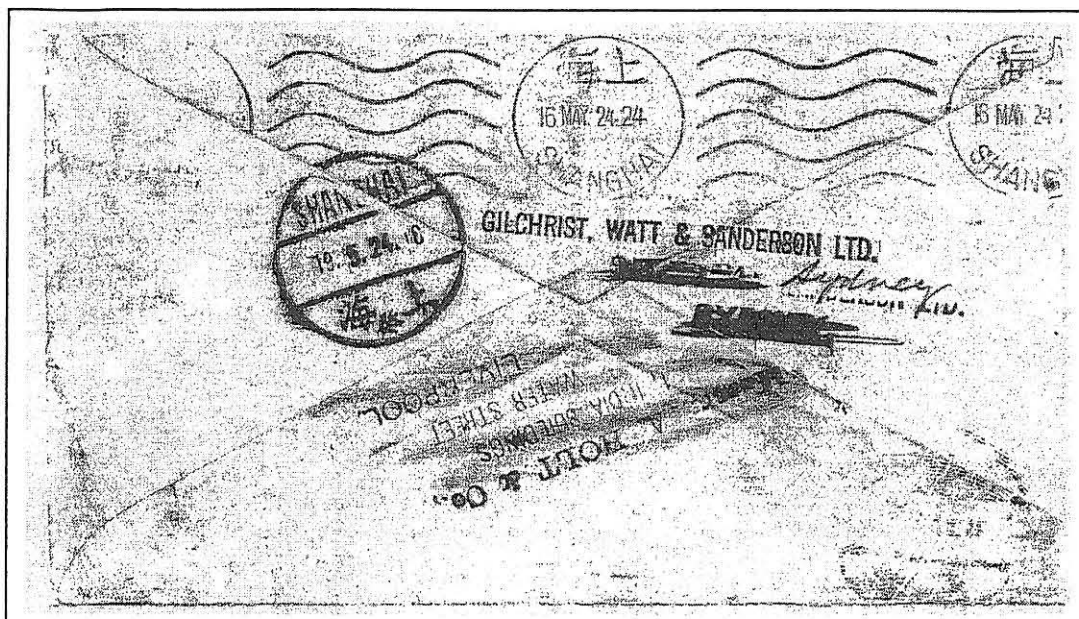
A MUCH-TRAVELLED PERFIN COVER WITH OTHER PERFIN CONNECTIONS  
(John Mathews)

The cover illustrated was recently shown to me by Arthur Taylor. He asked me if I could use the resources of the National Library of Australia to find out more about the voyage of the "S.S. Automedon".

The cover was originally posted on April 16, 1924, by the Canadian Pacific Railway agency in Anvers, Belgium, with two Belgian stamps both perforated "CPR" to the Fifth Engineer of the steamer via the ship's owners' address in Liverpool, England. It was then forwarded from Liverpool on April 23 "via Siberia" to the agents in Shanghai, China, where it received an arrival transit stamp on May 16. The ship must have already sailed and it was sent onwards by the agents, Butterfield & Swire, on May 19. The next addresses appear to be those of agents for the shipping line Gilchrist, Watt & Sanderson Ltd (Sydney) and George Wills & Co. Ltd. (Adelaide), although there are (unfortunately) no transit postmarks for either Sydney or Adelaide. The letter finally arrived back at Liverpool on June 7, 1924 – around the world in 45 days including a train trip across Siberia. One has to wonder if Jack Bellis ever received his letter!

The ship was built in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1922 for the Ocean Steamship Company of Alfred Holt & Co. The ships sailed as "The Blue Funnel Line". Advertisements in London's "The Times" of the period said they provided passenger services (First Class only) to South Africa and Australia, and cargo services to the Straits, China and Japan. Australian shipping records and Sydney and Adelaide newspapers do not record a visit by "S.S. Automedon" to our shores in 1924. However, "The North China Daily News" (published in Shanghai) shipping columns show that the "Automedon" arrived there on Friday, April 25, 1924 and spent the next four days unloading cargo. Unfortunately, I could not find a record of this ship in the departures lists – it possibly went on to Japan, or back to UK, but does not appear to have come to Australia then despite the agents' cachets on the letter.





The “Automedon” did come to Australia, on its maiden voyage to this country, at the end of 1923, averaging the fast speed of 15 – 16 knots for the voyage. Having left Liverpool on September 22, it called at Adelaide on 26 October and arrived in Sydney on November 5, 1923. On November 10, it sailed for Newcastle where it bunkered up with coal before proceeding to Brisbane, arriving November 14. After unloading there, it sailed to Port Pirie in South Australia to take on 1000 tons of “concentrate” – Port Pirie had giant steel smelters – which it delivered to Brisbane on December 8. On December 15, it sailed from Brisbane and called in to Sydney for a one-day visit on its way back to “London and the Continent”.

Apart from the item being a perfin proving cover, Arthur points out that agents Butterworth & Swire were perfin users (China) as were George Wills & Co, Adelaide (Australian stamps). It is also possible that Gilchrist, Watt & Sanderson Ltd, Sydney, were also perfin users. The identity for GWS.1 in the Handbook came from information passed to us for the 1992 catalogue, and was not able to be confirmed by an independent sighting of a proving cover.

The “Automedon” also played a part in World War II which it may not have wanted. On November 10, 1940, on its way to Singapore and other Far East ports, it answered a distress call from the Norwegian tanker “Ole Jacob” in the north Indian Ocean, only to find itself also the target of a German raider, the “Atlantis”, with the loss of the Captain and seven of her crew together with two passengers. Unfortunately the German raider boarding party gained possession of Top Secret documents being carried by the “Automedon” relating to British intentions against Japan in the Far East, including its inability to spare a significant number of troops from the conflict in Europe to defend its colonies in the Far East. The information captured from the “Automedon”, apparently not able to be destroyed before the boarding party found it, was passed from the Germans to the Japanese, who subsequently advanced down through the Malay peninsula and captured Singapore. For those interested, the full story of this incident is at Web site:

[www.forcez-survivors.org.uk/automedon.html](http://www.forcez-survivors.org.uk/automedon.html)

“DS&CO” PERFINS (John Mathews)

The provisional user shown in “Handbook of Australian Private Perfins” for DS&CO.1 is D. Slater & Co., customs and forwarding agents, Strahan, Tasmania. This user was mentioned on the original worksheets on which “Commercial Perfins of Australia” was based, and has been carried through. However, there has always been considerable doubt about this identity as no such firm has been able to be found in Tasmanian Directories of that period. The fact that DS&CO.1 is from a customized perforator, and reported on both postage and duty stamps of Tasmania (before Federation and the use of any State stamps in any State), seemed to point to a Tasmanian user.

Since then, patterns DS&CO.2 to DS&CO.4 have been reported, and these are all on Victorian stamps and of the Victorian Service Puncture style. Their combined period of use follows from that of DS&CO.1, and would suggest that all these patterns might share the same user, with the Victorian Service Punctures being used after the DS&CO.1 device had become inoperative. They also point to the user being a Victorian firm. Victorian Directories of that period show two possible users, David Syme & Co (proprietors of “The Age” newspaper), and D. Stratton & Co Ltd (millers and grain merchants), both of whom probably had business contacts in Tasmania.

It would greatly assist solving this puzzle if members could check their collections and report details such as stamp issue, dates, postmark/other location and any other clue (such as lettering on cachets on duty stamps) for any of these patterns, and also DS&C.1 which possibly shares the same user.

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AUCTION WATCH

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

	Est.
a. Selection of 14 NZ “NZF” perfins in various positions. (Len Jury auction, Aug 04)	NZ \$ 40
b. Victoria £1 Rose KEVII perf “OS” MLH. (Philatelics Aust auction, Sep 04)	\$ 175
c. 1922 4d Untramarine KGV single wmk with Thin “Four Pence” perf VOCO, FU. (Philatelics Aust auction, Sep 04)	\$ 100
d. NZ “DB/ & /Co” s/w on 1d SSF (Stirling & Co sale, Sep 04)	NZ \$ 40
e. NZ “NZL” on 1d SSF with Sunlight Soap advert on back. (David Holmes sale, Sep 04)	NZ \$ 25
f. NZ “BG/EC” on 2d mauve KEVII. (David Holmes sale, Sep 04)	NZ \$ 40
g. NZ “M&C/LTD” on 2d yellow KGV. (David Holmes sale, Sep 04)	NZ \$ 50
h. NZ “VOCO” on 1933 Health (Pathway). (David Holmes sale, Sep 04)	NZ \$ 50
i. Pre-printed 1d (Shield) cover of Harrison, Jones & Devlin used 1897 with perf HJD through stamp image. (eBay, Aug 04)	sold for \$ 81
j. Pre-printed 2d (QV) cover of Harrison, Jones & Devlin used 1897 with perf HJD through stamp image. (eBay, Aug 04)	sold for \$ 83
k. 1901 proving cover of G.G. Turri & Co, Melbourne, with 1d pink perf “GGT” (eBay, Aug 04)	sold for \$ 52
l. WWII Prisoner of War enquiry cover to Red Cross in Switzerland with 2 x GB KGVI 2½d blue perf “NZ” (eBay, Aug 04)	sold for US \$ 41
m. HW/ & /Co on 4d Roo. (David Holmes sale, Jul 04)	sold for NZ \$ 56