

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 69 APRIL 2005

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Following the request for help in finishing the revision of Australian Official Perfins, I was very pleased to receive some offers of help. Some of those who have offered are experts on the officials of a particular area so the results should be most worthwhile. Over the years the amount of help given by many club members is very significant and has provided for us much more useful information than any single collector could provide.

A couple of members recently told of the frustrations of providing information or articles to a couple of philatelic organisations without any result. While it can take some time to put information together for an article or an article may not fit into the next issue we would hope to utilise the information that members provide.

NEW MEMBERS

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

#226 Mr Linton Peterson, Axedale Victoria

EXCHANGE BOOK MILESTONE

A bit of Club trivia – exchange book number 600 went into the circuit in January 2005. The first book went into the circuit in 1988, so this is an amazing achievement for a Club of our size. Sales figures are consistently around 75 - 80% of total book value. There is always scope for new vendors and new circuit members.

PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005 – CLUB MEETING

The Club held a meeting on Sunday 24 April at the Pacific Explorer 2005 exhibition at the Sydney Convention Centre. It was attended by 12 members (from USA, NZ, NSW, VIC and ACT) and 2 visitors. Apologies were received from the President (Derek Pocock), Treasurer (Peter Wood), and 4 other members. In the absence of the President, our Bulletin editor, David Andersen, agreed to chair the meeting.

The Secretary reported that there had been several new members since the last meeting, and the mailing list for the Bulletin now numbered about 150. The circuits are very active with sales maintaining a level of over 75% of book value. Some new members have already joined the circuit; others are invited to do so. The auctions are also very popular and sales are usually over 70% of all lots. Sales of the new Handbook have now topped 200, and the initial outlay by the Club towards printing costs have now been repaid with a small excess. More copies are available.

The Treasurer provided a written statement, that the Club was in a very healthy financial position. Currently the Club has cash assets of about \$24,000, of which \$1,500 is held in credit for members against future subs, auction sales, etc, and another \$2,000 is estimated as being money received from circuit buyers which is in credit for the vendors. The Treasurer confirmed that the initial outlay of \$6,000 towards the production of the new Handbook of Australia Private Perfins had been fully recouped. The Treasurer recommended that subscriptions remain at their current level.

The Treasurer also recommended that the Club increase its donation for prizes at National level exhibitions in NZ and Australia from \$75 to \$150 per exhibition. A motion to this effect was carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

David Andersen reported that he was making good progress with the update to "Australian Official Perfins", and that he had had good input from several members. David hopes the book to be ready for production by the end of 2005. The members at the meeting expressed the view that the Club offer support for the production for this book as it had done for the Handbook of private perfins.

Rod Sell brought a display of Hong Kong perfins and the start of his display of private perfins on the Kangaroo & Map series to show members. Both were of a very high standard of material and layout. John Mathews showed his mini-display of "CofA" perfins on GB stamps, showing the usage by Australia House and by the Australian military in World War I. He also showed his small display of "Perfin Users and their Premises" (a stamp, company cover and postcard of the premises of each user) which had been assembled for the last meeting in Melbourne

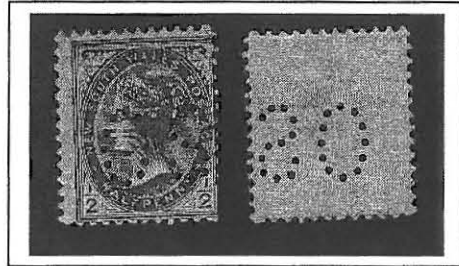
Details of awards at this exhibition are given elsewhere in the issue.

MELBOURNE "OS" : AN UPDATE

Ken Moore provided additional information about some unusual items with the Melbourne "OS". The original article by Ken Scudder was published in the July 2004 Bulletin.

New South Wales

Ken sent an illustration of an additional New South Wales issue with the Melbourne "OS" - 1905 1/2d (Mint).



With this report we have five issues reported with this pattern on New South Wales Issues:

1/2d 1905 (Mint)

4d Cook (details lacking)

6d – reported by G. J. Hutson with reservations (later reported by other writers)

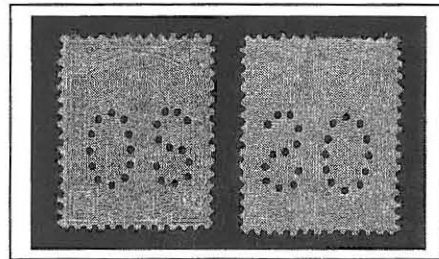
2/6 1905-10 Wmk Crown/A p.12 x 11.5 (Used) plus another used copy without full details

5/- (details lacking)

Unfortunately there is no explanation as to why these issues were produced and the jury is still out on if they are genuine.

South Australia

Ken supplied an illustration of the 1/2d Watermark Crown/SA with the Melbourne "OS". Again this example is mint. Ken Scudder did not report any South Australian issues with this puncture. There have been reports in the past about similar items from South Australia. The following are recorded in the article "Official Stamps: the OS punctures" Shilling Violet March 1991 p.15-16



1898-1906 Wmk Crown/SA p.13 1/2d (SG262A) and 2d (SG265A)

1898-1906 Wmk Crown/SA p.12 x 11.5 1d (SG263/4B) and 2 1/2d (SG 266b)

1905-1911 Wmk Crown/A p.12 x 11.5 1d (SG294)

AWARDS AT PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005

Congratulations to member Dave Elsmore who was awarded a Large Gold with Felicitations for his display "Queensland Revenues", and a silver-bronze for his publication "Queensland Postal Notes".

Luis Alemany, from Spain, was awarded the PCNZA prize (a barometer/thermometer/hygrometer) for his display "Finland : First issue and rouletted, 1856-1870".

A TRAP FOR PERFIN RESEARCHERS (John Mathews)

In the February 2005 auction conducted by New Zealand Stamp Auctions (Auckland City Stamps), there is an item described as “**PERFINS ‘Perfin of UNION STEAMSHIP CO on display Panpex 77 at a workshop session & used without authority’, on 1c Rose. Interesting item. UHM.” The item is illustrated and shows full or partial strikes of 4 heads sideways on a vertical pair of this stamp. I have seen several examples of this multi-head perfin on plain pieces of paper, and no doubt this was the intention for those who wanted to get a sample strike at Panpex 77.

According to the definitive listing of NZ perfins by the late Robert Samuel in our Bulletin some years ago, the “USSCO” perfin was in use from 1907 to 1918. Whoever had possession of the perforator in 1977, and allowed the strike on current stamps (along with whoever did the perforating on the stamps) did perfin researchers no service at all. No matter how much one might say, “It will never go out of my possession”, somehow such items eventually get into the public domain. It would be appropriate for this item to be destroyed. However, as the auction lot has an estimate of NZ\$35, I doubt if that will happen!

COMMERCIAL OVERPRINT SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN (COSGB)

The COSGB have set up an interesting website for the commercial overprints found on British postage or revenue stamps at <http://www.cosgb.org>. They are in the process of creating printable checklists of the overprints in addition to an online catalogue. Their other main initiative is an online newsletter. Membership is free as their preferred method of communication is electronic.

HELP, PLEASE (John Mathews)

My memory is failing! In the last Bulletin, I mentioned a report I had received about fake VG (and other States) perfins turning up in a public auction recently. I have mislaid the original letter. Would the person who told me about them please contact me again?

US REVENUES PERFIN CATALOG

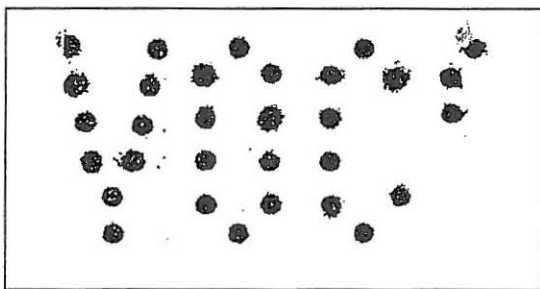
As many of you may know, the US Perfins Club has a project to produce a catalog(ue) of perfins on various types of US Revenue stamps. The new convenor of this project is Art Mongan, and he is keen to maintain a list of all collectors of these perfins who may be interested in helping with the project and getting the completed catalog(ue). His contacts are:

Art Mongan, 12432 Pretoria Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1845, USA
(email: cind_revs@comcast.net)

MINOR VARIATIONS IN VOCO PATTERNS USED IN DIFFERENT OFFICES
(Ken Killeen and John Mathews)

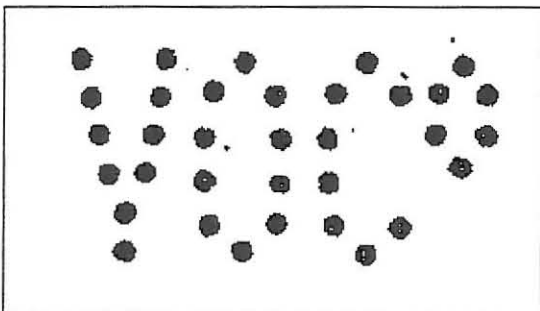
Among a large quantity of information sent to me by member Ken Killeen (IOW, UK), there was a small study of the variations of the VOCO.7 pattern used in the different State offices. To this I have added some dates and other details from my own collection, and been spurred to look for variations in the VOCO.6 patterns used in the different State offices. These may be of use to those who might find one of these patterns on a Commonwealth issue without postmark location visible, and thus be able to identify which office was the user. Geoff Legge has also pointed out the "straight sides" nature of the 'O' and 'C' of VOCO.6 used by the Queensland office.

VOCO.6



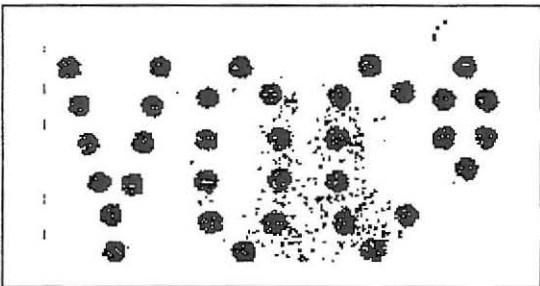
Queensland (1952)
(the small 'o' is incomplete due to position on stamp)

V4 – V7 wider apart
O2 – O5, O7 – O10 both straight
C3 – C6 straight
C8 higher than C6
Spacing O – C 1.7 mm.



Tasmania (c.1951 – 1954)

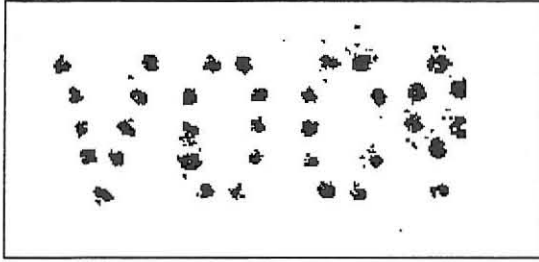
V5 further from V4, V7
O2 to right of O3
C8 level with C6
Small 'o' 2.3 mm wide
o2 higher than C1
Spacing O – C 1.3 mm.



Victoria (1933 – 1953)

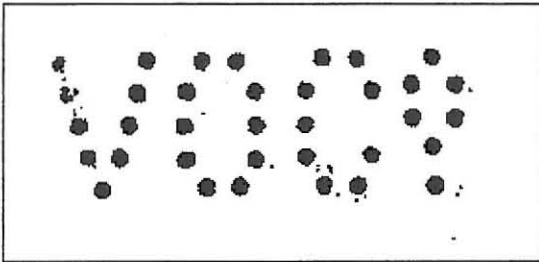
V5 closer to V4, V7; V4 close to V7
O2 – O3 almost vertical
C8 higher than C6
Small 'o' 1.9 mm wide
o2 lower than C1
Spacing O – C 1.7 mm.
Missing pins – Complete in 1933.

July 1934 – V9 missing
1935 – V9, C7 missing, O8 blind
Aug 1936 – V9, C7, O8 missing
1937 – V9, C7, O8 missing
1938 – 1953 - complete

VOCO.7

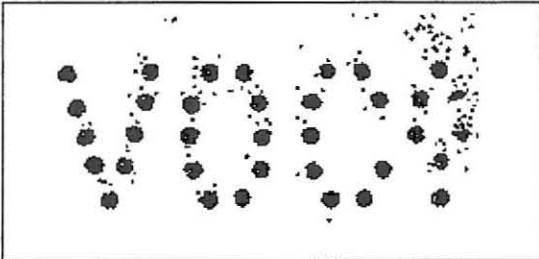
New South Wales (1911)

V2 – V1 curves slightly out
 V4 – V6 slopes down to right
 O7 – O9 straight
 o3 – o5 wider than o2 – o6
 Dot under small 'o' right of centre



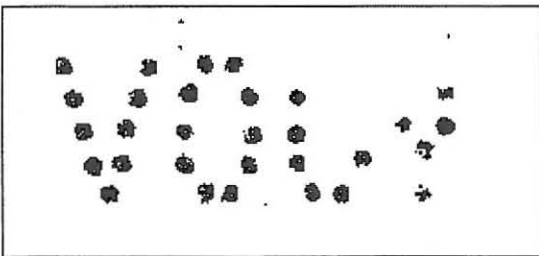
Queensland (1908 – 1917)

V2 – V1 curves slightly in
 o2 – o3, o5 – o6 vertical
 Dot under small 'o' right of centre



South Australia (1902 – 1904)

V8 – V9 curves slightly in
 O2 – O4, O7 – O9, C4 – C6 bow outwards
 C9 further right than C6
 o3 – o5 wider than o2 – o6
 Dot under small 'o' centred



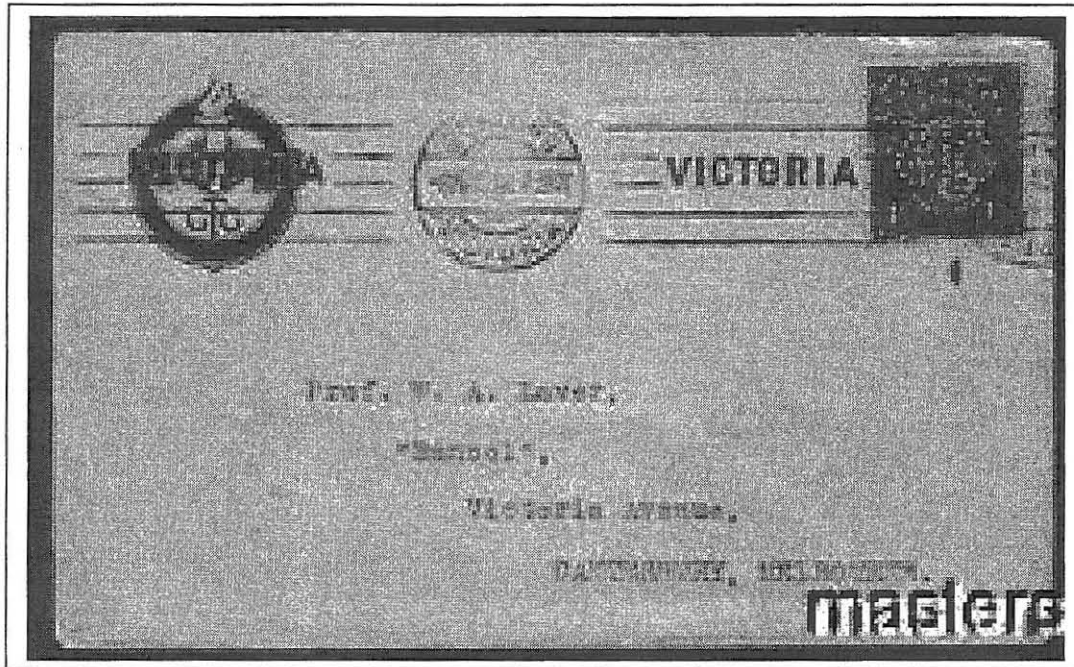
West Australia (1905 – 1914)

V2 – V1 curves slightly out
 V4 – V6 slopes down to left
 V6, V7, V8 bows inwards
 O4 slightly left of O3
 C5 closer to C6 than to C4
 Dot under small 'o' slightly left of center
 Missing pins – C1 – C3 and o1, o2
 missing during period 1905 – 1914

Readers are invited to submit further information, especially about overall periods of use in each State and of missing pin variations. An example of this pattern on Victorian stamps would also be appreciated for sighting, preferably complete – note that VOCO.4 is similar but without the dot under the small 'o'.

PROVING COVER FOR PERFIN GTC.1 (John Mathews)

In January 2005, the cover shown was sold on eBay. The stamp is a 1½d brown KGV and the postmark date is 8 May 1919. The vendor has overlaid his/her identification on the lower right corner of the scan. Only a few copies of this perfin are known, so the cover must be rare indeed.



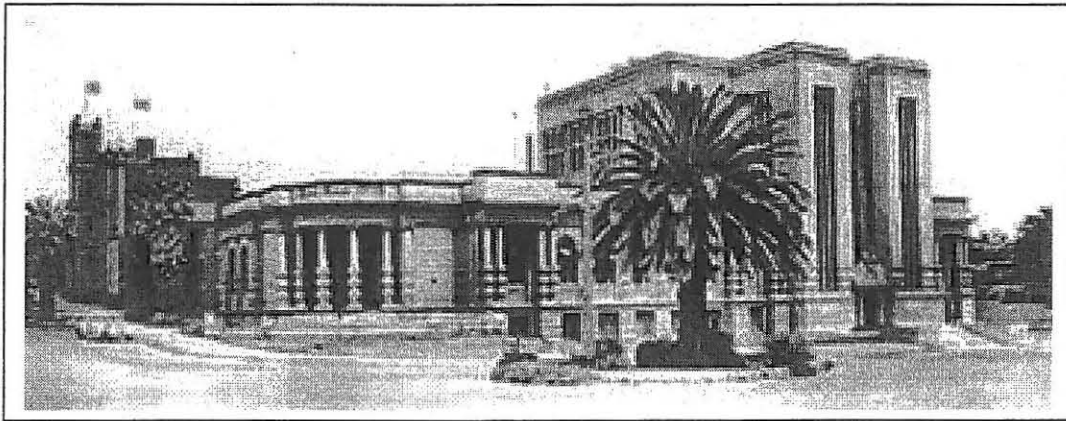
Before I had seen this cover I had suspected the identity of this pattern from my single postmarked copy, based on a single candidate from the Geelong listing in Victoria Directories of that era.

Now this cover provided positive clues. The addressee is an academic, as was the institution who was the suspected user. This was supported by the flame in the logo – a common symbol of educational institutions. The “GTC” in the logo matched the perfin pattern. So the logo could be used to identify the user! The National Library of Australia in Canberra holds several issues of the Handbook and other publications of The Gordon Technical College, and these all had the same logo on them. Under the left “VICTORIA” of the machine cancel is a strip with the motto of “The Gordon” which also matches those on their publications – “MELIORES PRIORES”.

Geelong’s increasing importance as an industrial centre during the late 1880s, and a worrying overseas trend showing Britain was losing its traditional markets to the USA and Europe, spurred leading Geelong citizens to campaign for greater technical training. The citizens of Geelong, like many around the world, were also greatly impressed by the heroic exploits of the British general, Charles Gordon, who died in the siege of Khartoum in Africa, and were keen to have a memorial to him. Instead of a traditional statue, they decided to build a vocational institute in his memory! It opened in 1887, in a single-

storied hall, and operated mainly night classes for tradespeople. Its 63 students were offered diverse classes in architecture, shorthand, bookkeeping and languages. The first of the Fenwick Street towers was built in 1889.

By 1918, "The Gordon" was offering Diplomas in Architecture, as well as surveying and engineering subjects. Full trade courses were conducted in Carpentry, Plumbing, and Fitting and Turning, and there were Certificate courses in Draughtsmanship, Wool-sorting, Textiles, Commerce and Dressmaking.



Gordon Technical College from Fenwick Street

It is a matter of conjecture that the GTC perforator may have been made by staff or students of Fitting and Turning at the Gordon Technical College itself. Enquiries have been made with the Gordon Institute to see if they have any records of its manufacture, but the results of their search are not yet to hand.

Over the years, "The Gordon" has continued to expand. In 1969, land was purchased at Waurn Ponds and initial buildings on this site included the Applied Sciences block, a library, and student lodgings. In 1974, the decision was made to establish another university in Victoria, and the Waurn Ponds campus was chosen for this purpose and named after Australia's first Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin. Deakin University and the Gordon Institute of TAFE still share an on-line library catalogue.

Some time after 1985 (the date of the last Handbook sighted in the National Library), the name of the Gordon Technical College was changed to the Gordon Institute of Technical and Further Education (TAFE) by which it is known today. Today, it operates from 5 campuses around the Geelong area and caters for more than 20,000 students in 170 courses with a staff of 800.

(Material for this history was taken from the web site of the Gordon TAFE, www.gordontafe.edu.au)

GB STAMPS PERFORATED "C/OF/A" – A.I.F. BASE POST OFFICE (John Mathews)

In the January 1999 issue of this Bulletin (page 6), I reported finding a copy of a GB stamp perforated "C/OF/A" and postmarked "HAREFIE(LD), 6 MY 16". This stamp would have been used by an Australian soldier at the Australian Military Hospital at Harefield (see the 1999 article).

Since then, I have added two more related stamps to my collection, both 1d red KGV (as was the Harefield stamp). The first is perforated "C/OF/A" and postmarked "(NORTH)WOOD S.O. / 12 NO 15". Northwood is the north-west London suburb just east of Harefield. This stamp was probably also used by a soldier at the hospital.

The second stamp is also perforated "C/OF/A", and is postmarked "AUSTRALIAN IMP. FORCES / 15 AU 16 (boxed) / BASE / ..S.....". I asked the Research Centre at the Australian War Memorial if they could identify the location on the last line of the postmark. To my surprise, they were able to show me a photocopy of an envelope from their World War I covers collection with a complete strike of the same style postmark, this one dated 26 AU 15! The bottom line is "POST OFFICE". The cover is stampless and also has an oval cachet of the Convalescent Home, Nas-el-Tin, with the same date in manuscript. It has a return address of "YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION / ARMY DEPARTMENT", and manuscript markings indicate it was written by a wounded soldier on active service.

Were these two Australian Imperial Forces Base Post Office strikes made by the same postmark? I believe they probably were. In the book "Australian Imperial Forces Postal History, 1914-1918" by R. C. (Bob) Emery, FRPSL, FSPH, and its 1988 Supplement, this postmark is listed among those "used in Egypt", and this is consistent with the oval cachet of the convalescent home at Nas-el-Tin.

What about the strike of this postmark on the GB stamp the following year? Emery states that the Australian Imperial Forces Base Post Office moved from Egypt to England in 1916, and was located within the Letters Section of "the great London postal centre", Mt. Pleasant (north London). This section no doubt processed the mail coming from the Military Hospital at Harefield.

USAGE OF THE "COFA" AND "C/OF/A" PERFORATORS (John Mathews)

The above article prompts me to review the usage of these two perforators.

The "COFA" perforator was used on stamps which are on covers dated 1910, 1911 and 1914 (Bulletins April 2004, October 2003 and January 2004 respectively), a cover dated 14 AP 16 (Australian War Memorial collection), and on a post card dated 1918 (Bulletin October 2002). All of these items have the return address of the Australian High Commission, first at Westminster, and later at Australia House in the Strand. Staff moved into temporary offices in the new building in 1917, and the building was officially

opened on 23 August 1918. This perfin is known on loose stamps until at least 1937, at which time it is reported to have been in a damaged state.

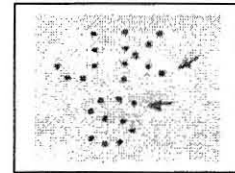
The "C/OF/A" perforator is known used at the AIF Hospital in 1915 and 1916, and was later put into storage, probably when the hospital closed in 1920. It has been reported to have been "brought out of storage" in 1937, possibly for its reported use by the Royal Australian Navy Contingent in UK for the Coronation of King George VI. It also may have replaced the damaged "COFA" perforator.

The "C/OF/A" perforator was itself in a damaged state from 1946 to at least 1948, and repaired by 1951. I recently acquired a "COFA" cover dated 1 June 1950, and I also have loose "COFA" stamps postmarked 1950. The "COFA" perforator must have had a brief "second life" while the "C/OF/A" perforator was being repaired. The latest date recorded for "C/OF/A" is August 1981.

SUSPECT PRIVATE PERFIN? (John Mathews)

David Coath has forwarded the perfin shown for comment. It looks like JKS.2. It is on the 35c denomination of the 1979 issue of Trains. This seemed a little strange as it is a very common perfin, but the previously recorded late date of use had been 1973.

A closer look revealed that two holes were displaced from their usual position (see arrows). The displacement seemed too much to be accounted for by being due to bent pins (the holes in the base plate would not shift this much)!



At first, I thought that this may be a case of a fake pattern. On the other hand, considering the gap from the previous late date of use of 1973, it may be that the perforator became damaged, put away into storage, and later retrieved and repaired. JKS.2 looks as if it had been a successor to JKS.3, and the firm may not have wanted to get another perforator in the 1970s.

If this proves to be the only example in existence, I would have to maintain my doubts about it being genuine. Does anyone have another copy of JKS.2 with these two pins similarly mis-placed, or perhaps missing altogether?

ANOTHER MULTI-HEAD DIE REVEALED

In the current auction, there is on offer a block (6 x 4) of NSW 2d blue Qvic with the common Daily Telegraph perfin (SYMBOL.4). This block reveals that this perforator had 2 heads in a horizontal row. The block has been folded twice (vertical folds), with the resulting pairs of patterns showing constant horizontal displacement in each of the 4 rows, which is the same as the width of the stamps. The folded sheet has been turned over to perforate the lower 2 rows. The patterns do not align vertically, indicating that

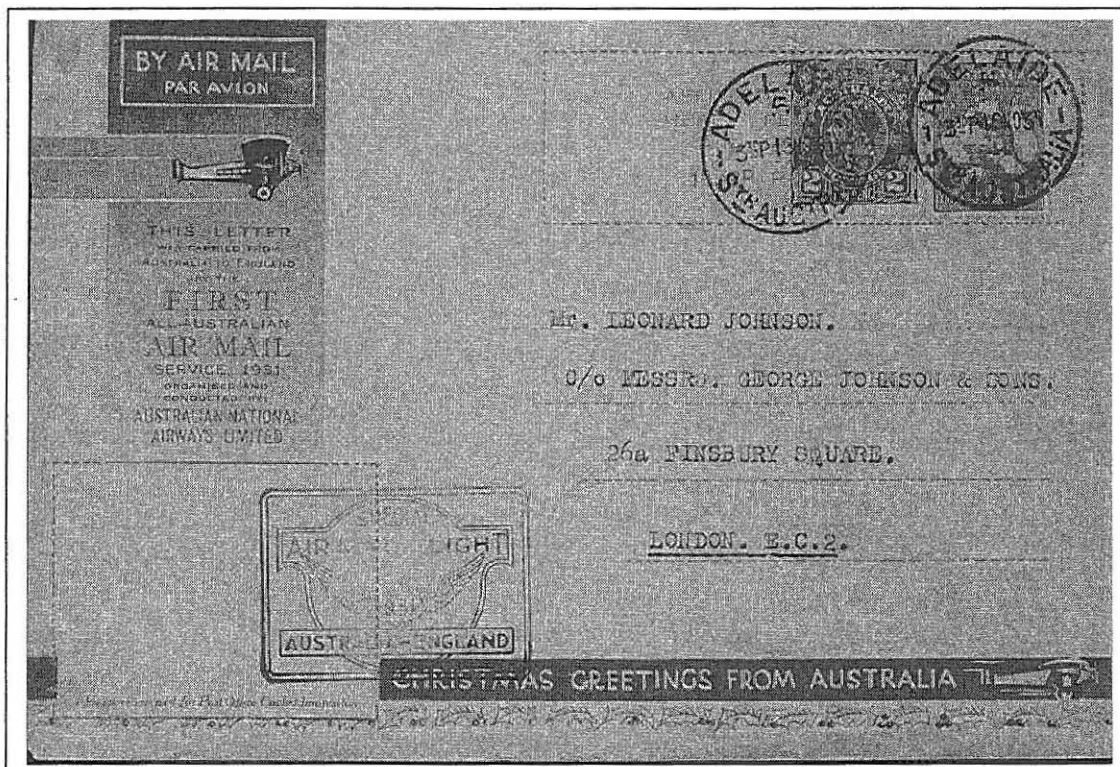
there was only 1 row of heads on the perforator. The 2 heads are barely distinguishable from each other. In one, the "arms" hanging down slope slightly inwards, while in the other one arm is vertical and the other slopes slightly outwards.

PERFIN COVER TO ENGLAND BY FIRST ALL-AUSTRALIAN AIR MAIL
(John Mathews)

The cover shown was sold on eBay in December 2004. The cover itself was specially produced for the first All-Australian Air Mail service to England in November 1931, organised and conducted by Australian National Airways Ltd. (later became Ansett Airways, now defunct).

This particular cover was sent by John Reid and Son Ltd., Adelaide, and franked with a 1/- Roo and 2d KGV, both perfined JRSA.1 (which has a known late date of use of 1933).

The addressee, Leonard Johnson, was an import and export merchant and manufacturer's agent of long standing in London. The firm of George Johnson & Sons were listed as tallow melters, wax importers and soap makers (1909), also in the city of London, with premises also in the eastern London suburb of Stratford.



IDENTITY CONFIRMED FOR CUSTOMISED PERFORATOR (John Mathews)

There are only a few perfins used by companies based in regional centres (e.g. Longreach and major coastal towns in Queensland, Geelong and Wangaratta in Victoria, and Newcastle, Broken Hill and Albury in NSW). Of these, the user of pattern ME.1, which invariably is on stamps postmarked at Albury, NSW, had eluded confirmed identification, although the identity had been suspected as early as 1992. Now, on an eBay item, this perfin has been seen on a pictorial postcard pre-printed as a trade card for T. H. Mate & Co., Albury, NSW. Their premises were known as "Mate's Emporium".

BNA PERFORATOR #125

The latest issue of the BNA perforator, v. 26 no. 1 #125 2005 includes the following articles: "Pattern S7: the Shawinigan Water & Power Co." by Conrad Tremblay and "Newfoundland Victorian Revenues Geometric Snowflake "cancellation""

AUCTION WATCH

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

		Est.
a.	Proving cover of Alexander Stewart & Sons Ltd, Brisbane, with 3d Roo perf S&H.1. (eBay, Jan 05)	sold for US \$ 53
b.	France 1930 Airmail 1f50 with perfin E.I.P.A.30 of the International Philatelic Exhibition of 1930. (eBay, Jan 05)	sold for US \$150
c.	NZ "McC/Ltd" on 2d KGV. (Len Jury auction, Feb 05)	NZ \$ 25
d.	NZ "GNB/LD" on 1d Universal on pce. (Auckland City Stamps auction Feb 05)	NZ \$125
e.	Victoria £1 and £2 KEVII both perf "OS" CTO. (eBay, Feb 05)	sold for US \$208
f.	Cover of The Australian Institute of Tropical Medicine", Townsville to USA with 2d and ½ d Roos both perf small "OS" (eBay, Feb 05)	sold for US \$72+
g.	1932 cover of Gollin & Co, Sydney (identity on flap) with 3d SHB perf G&COS.1 (eBay, Feb 05)	sold for US \$52+
h.	25 Nov 1907 cover of D. Cohen & Co, Newcastle (identity on flap) with 2d blue QV perf DC&CO.2 (eBay, Feb 05)	sold for US \$29+
i.	Long 12c aerogram used 1974 by Pharmacy Board of NSW to Canada, perf "G/NSW". (eBay, Feb 05)	sold for US \$180
j.	NZ 1d SSF perf "SSE". (David Holmes sale, Mar 05)	NZ \$ 10
k.	NZ 6d SSF perf "AC&S". (David Holmes sale, Mar 05)	NZ \$ 20
l.	NZ 1d Universal perf "S&S/W". (David Holmes sale, Mar 05)	NZ \$ 20
m.	NZ 1d Dominion perf "RG/N". (David Holmes sale, Mar 05)	NZ \$ 40
n.	2 NZ High Commission, London, covers each with 2½d KGVI perf "NZ". One is OHMS window envelope with no return address, the other is OHMS envelope with "The Dominion of New Zealand" seal imprinted. (eBay, Mar 05)	sold for US \$ 46
o.	2 advertising covers (1 trimmed at left) of Tooheys Ltd with TYSLD.1 perfins. (eBay, Mar 05)	sold for US \$ 51
p.	NSW advertising postcard of T.H. Mate, Albury, with 1d Shield perf ME.1 (eBay, Mar 05)	sold for US \$ 42
q.	France 1fr50 red Air Mail stamp with exhibition perfin "E.I.P.A.30" (eBay, Mar 05)	sold for US \$366