

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 70 JULY 2005

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

While I was aware of high “postage and handling” costs charged by some eBay vendors in an attempt to increase their income, two lots recently highlighted some of the methods of these people. One lot from Australian vendor was charging US\$10 postage for an item that, if sent to an Australian address, would have been about A\$2.50. I contacted the vendor and was given an honest if unacceptable response. He claimed that the only way he could make any money from eBay was to charge overseas bidders a very inflated flat postage and handling fee and he wasn't really interested in Australian bidders. He presumed I would understand and, if I was the successful bidder, he might charge me half. Not surprisingly I didn't find this approach acceptable so no bids on his lot !

But this fellow obviously has a bit to learn from another vendor from China. This vendor was registered on Australian eBay and you would therefore expect to be local with lower postage and handling charges for Australian bidders. The vendor actually is resident in China and sells a range of Chinese silver medallions, tokens and other small silver collectables. Starting price for all of these treasures is 99c but read further before you bid. Postage and handling charges range from US\$38 for a 20c size item to at least US\$99 for slightly heavier objects. Of course, once you put in your 99c bid (which would have been a bargain no doubt) you are committed to pay the ridiculous postage and handling charge.

Fortunately the vast majority of vendors on eBay are much more honest and charge postage and handling close to the real cost. Always check the postage and handling charges before you bid so you don't get any nasty surprises and avoid those trying to take advantage of you in this way.

David Andersen

CLUB MEETING, CANBERRA, MARCH 2006

The Philatelic Society of Canberra will be holding their Canberra StampShow 2006 at the Hellenic Club of Canberra from 18-20 March 2006 (a long weekend in ACT). We have been provisionally allocated a meeting room for 1.30 pm on Saturday 18 March, so mark this date in your diaries – we hope to see you there. About 24 dealers (local, national and overseas) are expected to be present at the StampShow.

At that time, elections will be due for Club office-bearers for the coming 2 years. Nomination forms will be sent out with the October 2005 Bulletin, but it is not too early to give some thought as to whom you would nominate for the various positions. Volunteers are always welcome, and nominators can be found if necessary!

MEMBER AWARD AT PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005

Congratulations (and apologies for not seeing it earlier) to Colin Salt (UK) for being awarded a Silver-Bronze for his recent book “Victoria – The Machine Date Cases of the Country and Suburban Offices.”

MATERIAL (NON-PERFIN) FOR SALE

A member has the following non-perfin material on offer: 100+ E2R Machins, 70 GB Commems (some duplication), 200+ Canada QV – E2R (some duplication), 80 USA (some duplication) plus a few South Africa. Any expressions of interest to the Secretary who is holding the material.

PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

(Statement for the Club’s Australian account is on page 8.)

Statement of Receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2005 (New Zealand account).

Receipts	(NZ\$)	Expenditure (NZ\$)	
Bank Balance 1.7.04	29.23	Auction vendors	396.30
Circuit book sales	574.85	Circuit vendors	28.30
Subscriptions	216.00	Transfer to Aust. A/c	1086.23
Interest	7.55	Postage	22.10
Auctions	839.30	Miscellaneous	5.40
		BAYPEX exhibition	75.00
		Bank balance 30.6.05	<u>149.60</u>
Total	<u>1762.93</u>	Total	1762.93

Our thanks to Richard Smolnicki for his good work in managing our NZ account.

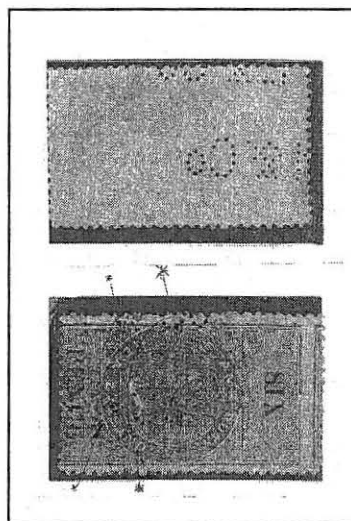
AN EARLY PERFIN MYSTERY

Ray Bennett, our New Zealand circuit manager, is lotting the NZ perfin collection of the late Robert Samuel for auction later this year. He has asked if anyone has knowledge of one item in this collection, shown in the illustration. It is believed that Robert Samuel himself never found an explanation.

The stamp is a NZ 6d Duty Stamp and has a manuscript date of 8/6/1869. There are 2 perfin patterns, N&Co, and E (or F) & Co, both partials so there may be another letter to the left of either or both strikes.

There are a couple of known examples of 2 different Australian perfins on the same stamp, and these seem to have resulted from a sheet from one perforating batch getting caught up with a subsequent batch.

The “mystery” of the NZ example arises because the earliest recorded date of use of any NZ perfin is about 1875. AQ duty stamp could have been used on a document which was perforated (for some unknown reason) by the recipient, not necessarily in New Zealand. This example was perforated with the stamp face down, maybe on the underside of the document. This style of ampersand is found on several GB perfins and is known to have been used by Joseph Sloper & Co of London from at least as early as October 1869. However, the GB perfin catalogue editor says that there are no known GB perfins with this style of ampersand which match these (partial) strikes.



So the “mystery” remains. Were these perfins applied in 1869 when the stamp was fiscally cancelled? Where were they perforated? Can anyone throw any light on it?

CATALOGO DEI PERFIN ITALIANI UPDATE 2005

David Andersen

The Italian Perfins Catalogue by Enrico Bertazzoli and Beppe Ermentini was published in 2000 and listed around 900 different patterns, providing the name of users, dates of usage and other general information about Italian perfins. As usually happens when a catalogue is published, a great deal of new information is contributed by collectors and an update becomes necessary. An update to the 2000 edition has just been published with a major innovation in perfin catalogues.

The first part of the update is the 96 page booklet which lists and describes another 90 or so patterns from Italy or Italian territories. For each pattern the user, industry, location and period of usage where known are recorded as well as an indication of scarcity. Listings of Italian Offices abroad, patterns with multiple punches, Austrian perfins of Trieste and other Italian territories plus a listing of perfinned postal stationery round out the listings. Updated information about patterns in the original catalogue, recently

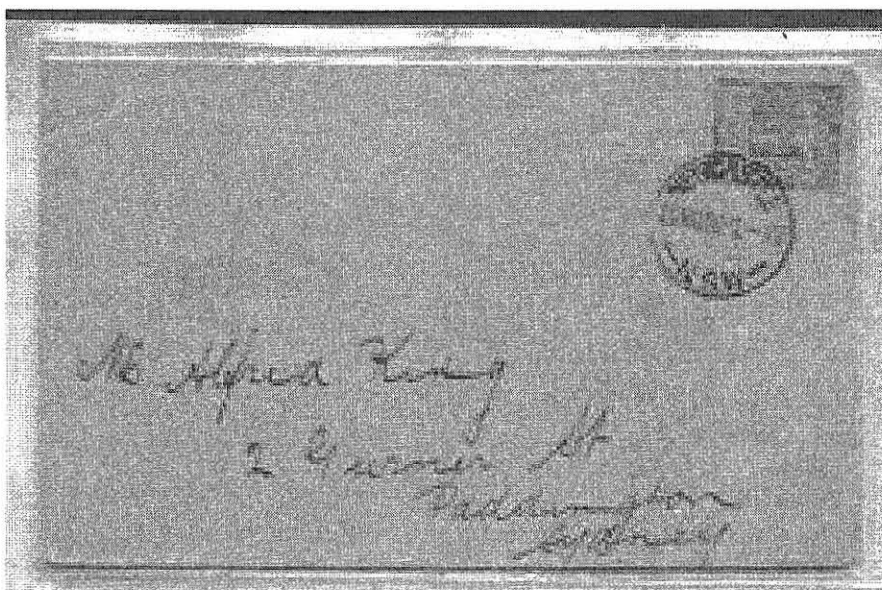
published articles and an index complete the booklet. All of the elements expected in a modern perfin catalogue are included and the printing is clear and uncluttered. The text is in both English and Italian and the listings in Italian are easy to understand.

The other part of the update consists of 30 clear sheets each illustrating 35 of the total 994 patterns in the correct size and with the catalogue number. The intention is that you can turn the sheets in any direction or turn them over and match the patterns on envelopes and documents as well as loose stamps with ease. This is particularly important with some of more complex groups of patterns such as the B.C.I or CI types. The sheets do make it very easy to identify each pattern as the impressions are very clear and accurate. This is certainly a very unusual but useful feature of the update.

The Update is available from Vaccari s.r.l, Via M Buonarroti, 46, 41058 Vignola (Modena) ITALY for Euro25.00 plus postage (Italy Euro5.00; Europe Euro 8.00 or USA/Overseas Euro 9.00) email info@vaccari.it Internet: www.vaccari.it. The original catalogue, which you will still need for information about the first 900 patterns listed, is still available from Vaccari for Euro 36.15 plus postage. An essential catalogue for collectors of Italian perfins as well as an innovative solution to matching perfin patterns.

COHEN'S NEWCASTLE FIRE (John Mathews)

I was reminded of this fire by a cover of D. Cohen & Co. of Newcastle which recently sold on eBay. The cover is dated 25 November 1907 and is thus very late in the life of perfin DC&CO.2 which appears to have been destroyed in the great fire of 20 January 1908. This perforator had been made by Joseph Sloper & Co of London in July 1898. Another perforator, DC&CO.1, was completed by Slopers' on 7 April 1908, no doubt to replace the earlier one.



Cover of D. Cohen & Co, Newcastle, postmarked 25 November 1907

The fire broke out in Cohen's premises shortly before 2am on 20 January 1908, according to the report in the following day's edition of the "Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate". The alarm was raised by the driver of a locomotive in the adjacent railway yards, who sounded his siren for some time and dispatched a messenger to the city fire station. The alarm was sent on to the Newcastle West fire station through the railway signal system. The fire was attended by three brigades from Newcastle, one from Newcastle West, and one from Wickham, and they were later joined by a unit from Stockton (brought over the river on the ferry). The Newcastle West brigade pumped water from the harbour, having laid their hose under the railway track so that movement of rail traffic was not affected.

The fire quickly engulfed the whole building and threatened to spread to adjoining premises. Despite the number of brigades attending, and no shortage of water pressure, the firemen were unable to save anything from Cohen's premises due to inaccessibility to the seat of the fire. The northern wall came down at 3.35am, and the eastern wall followed 15 minutes later on to the roof of the neighbouring hotel (which had already been evacuated). The southern wall collapsed soon afterwards, but the western wall survived until about 5am. The total damage was estimated to be about £150,000.

The steamer "Elaine" from Manila arrived off Newcastle harbour at about the time of the fire and the crew reported that it was a tremendous sight against the night sky. It was not until long after the "Elaine" came to its anchorage that the flames were brought under control. Many hundreds of Newcastle residents also turned out in the middle of the night to witness the event. Fortunately there were few serious casualties. Mr. S. R. Levy, a member of the firm of D. Cohen & Co, was on the scene early, and when he saw how fiercely the building was burning, he fell into a state of collapse, and was taken to an adjoining house for assistance. Mr. S. Cohen reached Newcastle on the midday train from Sydney.

The inability of the fire brigades to extinguish the fire before it had completely consumed Cohen's premises was used by the local deputy superintendent of the City Fire Brigade to press for more appliances in keeping with Newcastle's growth and importance. He expressed doubt that other large premises could be saved, such as F. Ash & Company Limited (another perfumery user!).

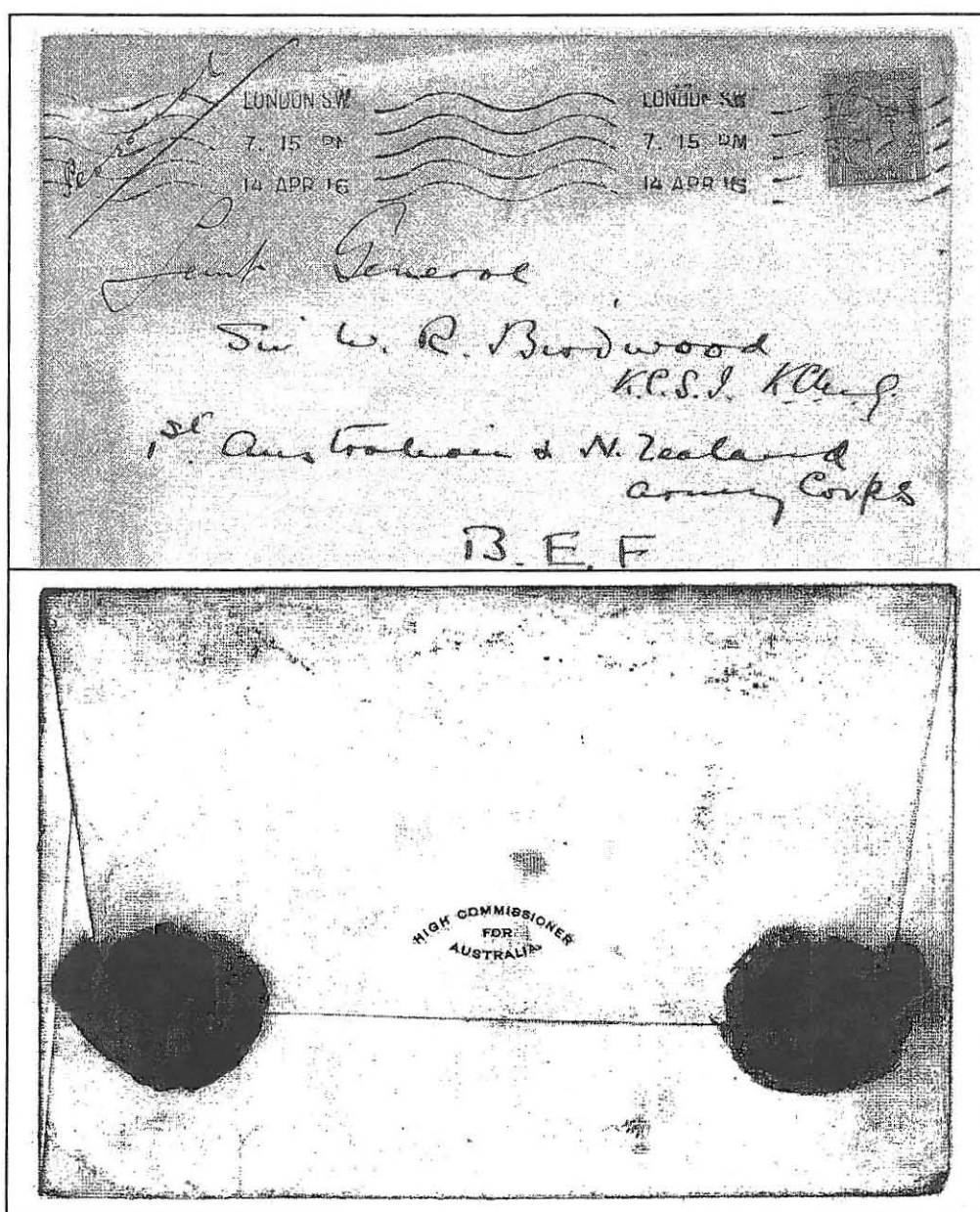
Early on the Wednesday morning following the fire, the doors of the strong room were opened in the presence of the police. The books, documents and other articles were all found intact and undamaged - alas, no mention of the perforator!

"BCL" PATTERNS – MULTIPLE-HEAD DIES

Among the various "BCL" patterns, BCL.5 / BCL.4 / BCL.14 is known to be (part of) a multi-head die. Also BCL.1, BCL.3 and BCL.19 / BCL.20 are known multi-head dies. Known ranges of usage date suggest that some of these may be part of a larger multiple head. If anyone has any strips of these patterns, John Mathews would be pleased to receive clear photocopies/scans of the back of the stamps (with any date information noted).

A "COFA" COVER OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (John Mathews)

In the course of investigating the use of the "COFA" and "C/OF/A" perforators in UK, I found, in the collection of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, the cover shown below. The stamp is a 1d red KGV which is perforated "COFA" (sideways, top of letters to left of stamp). The reverse of the envelope has the identity "HIGH COMMISSION / FOR / AUSTRALIA", and the wax seals read "HIGH COMMISSIONER / (Crown) / COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA". The machine cancel reads "LONDON S.W. / 7.15 PM / 14 APR 16", which is consistent with the address at that time of the High Commission being in Westminster.



General Birdwood was the Officer Commanding the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) at the time the letter was written. In fact, he had command of the ANZAC forces throughout World War I. The following biography of Field Marshal William Riddell Birdwood, GCB, GCMG, GCVO, GBE is reproduced from the Australian War Memorial web site with kind permission.

Date of birth: 13 September 1865
Place of birth: Kirkee, India
Date of death: 17 May 1951
Place of death: Middlesex, England

Described by Charles Bean as “short and dapper in figure, a vigorous, brave, upright and understanding leader of fighting men”, William Birdwood commanded the Australian Corps for much of the First World War. He was born on 13 September 1865 in India and was educated in England.



He attended the Royal Military College Sandhurst before being posted back to India where he served on the north-west frontier. During the Boer War Birdwood served on Lord Kitchener's staff. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in 1908 and in 1911 was promoted to major general. Birdwood's career was characterised by a series of successful postings and steady promotion. When the First World War began, Britain's Minister for War, Lord Kitchener, placed Birdwood in command of the Australian and New Zealand forces bound for Europe. Before they reached England, however, the ANZACs, as they would soon be known, were ordered to disembark for training in Egypt. Birdwood met them there in December 1914.

Four months later Birdwood's troops landed at Gallipoli. He impressed the men by regularly visiting the front lines and taking daily swims in the sea, heedless of the danger from Turkish shrapnel aimed at men seeking such refreshment. His bravery earned Birdwood the enduring respect of the AIF, and he was appointed its temporary administrative commander, as well as its operational commander, following the death of General William Bridges in May 1915. The appointment was made permanent in September 1916.

Having watched all attempts fail to make headway against the Turks on Gallipoli, Birdwood was nevertheless opposed to the evacuation when the question was raised. In this he was overruled and he oversaw the successful withdrawal in December 1915. In early 1916 the ANZAC Corps was split in two. Birdwood assumed command of I ANZAC Corps, accompanied it to France, and directed its operations throughout 1916 and 1917.

Birdwood made a point of appointing Australians to command and staff positions but took command of the Australian Corps when it was formed from the five AIF divisions in November 1917. He was succeeded by Lieutenant General John Monash in May 1918 and took command of the British 5th Army, but still retained administrative command of the AIF with the support of almost all senior Australian officers. Despite his having

commanded Australians through some of the Western Front's more disastrous actions, Bullecourt being one example, Birdwood continued to be held in high regard. His willingness to support those he commanded, to argue on their behalf and indeed to make it known that he had done so, earned Birdwood a respect from Australians that was given to few British senior commanders.

In 1920 Birdwood was made a General in the Australian Military Forces and five years later was made Field Marshal. He toured Australia and New Zealand in 1920 to wide public acclaim and was given command of the Indian Army in 1925. He retired from the military in 1930 and was thwarted in his desire to become Australia's Governor-General when the prime minister insisted on the office being held by an Australian. Birdwood died in England in 1951 and was buried with full military honours.

[Note: Rt. Hon. Sir Isaac Alfred Isaacs, GCB, GCMG, PC was Governor-General of Australia from 1931 to 1935].

PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

(Statement for the Club's New Zealand account is on page 2.)

Statement of Receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2005 (Australian account).

Receipts		Expenditure	
Bank Balance 1.7.04	7202.01	Bulletins	1742.05
Subscriptions	1020.15	Bank & Govt charges	60.20
Credit payments	353.35	Postage & stationery	125.00
Bank interest	1.15	Exchange Branch	8732.75
Exchange Branch	14209.00	Auction 1/04	3291.75
Auction 1/04	3588.70	Auction 2/04	2663.35
Auction 2/04	2684.05	Auction 3/04	2344.00
Auction 3/04	2179.40	Miscellaneous (1)	75.00
Transfer from NZ	1000.00	Transfer Term Dep	2000.00
Interest Term Deposit	530.00	Souvenir Envelope	150.00
Handbook	973.50	Bank balance 1.7.05	<u>12817.21</u>
Bulletin Sales	120.00	Total	34001.31
Miscellaneous (2)	<u>140.00</u>		
Total	34001.31		

Bank reconciliation Balance per statement \$12,817.21

Notes: (1) Donation to National Exhibition
(2) Unexplained credit

Term deposit \$12000.00 due 6 April 2006 @ 5.05% pa

Included in total funds is \$1464.40 in credit and subs in advance

(Note: Liability for sales from circuit books still in the circuit at 30 June 2005 was approximately \$6000 – jhm)

Our thanks to Peter Wood for his good work in managing our Australian account.

AN INSIGHT INTO AUSTRALIAN GAMBLING ON HORSE RACES, 1899-1909
(John Mathews)

The initial business of George Adams' "Tattersalls" was to conduct "sweepstakes" on horse racing in Australia – a thinly-disguised postal gambling industry. Their outgoing mail consisted predominantly of promotional leaflets for forthcoming major races around Australia, and to a lesser extent the forwarding of "prize money" to lucky punters. The volume of such mail, month by month, was no doubt a reflection of the number of major races (and their support) soon after the mailing date, and a smaller component with results following such races.

For some time, I have been recording dates of usage of the various Adams' "A" perforators, mainly to determine when each was placed into, and taken out of, service. However, at this stage of collecting these records, the number of dates recorded for each month can be taken as an approximate statistical measure of the volume of outward mail for the month – the chance of a particular date being recorded is proportional to the number of items posted on that date, and thus collectively the number of days recorded in a month dependent on the number of items posted that month. (Professional statisticians, please do not get too critical of the "theory"!). For a couple of months, the number of days recorded is now close to the number of days in the month, so further recording time will only tend to hide variations of the counts per month using this method of assessment.

The results to this date are summarized on a month-by-month basis in the table and diagram which follow on the next pages.

The peak in the numbers occurs quite consistently during the month of October each year. Australia's most famous horse race is the Melbourne Cup, run on the first Tuesday in November. Over the years, many people who do not normally take any interest in horse-racing, will have a "flutter" on a horse in the Melbourne Cup, otherwise they have no reason to stop work for about half an hour and join the office celebrations associated with the broadcast of the race!

Those who follow the horse racing industry more closely than this author will be able to place the other major races in the annual racing calendar, and be able to correlate these with minor peaks in the distribution of the numbers shown. However, I believe that many of these major races are run during the "Spring Racing Season" – from the birthday of all horses (August 1), significant for "weight-for-age" races (?), and culminating with the Melbourne Cup week.

Footnote: From the perfin aspect, the table also gives a good indication of the range of months when each "A" perforator was used. Eventually I hope to be able to determine actual dates for these ranges, and also for periods when perforators may have been temporarily taken out of service for repairs, etc. I am always pleased to receive date information for any of the patterns A.1 to A.8.

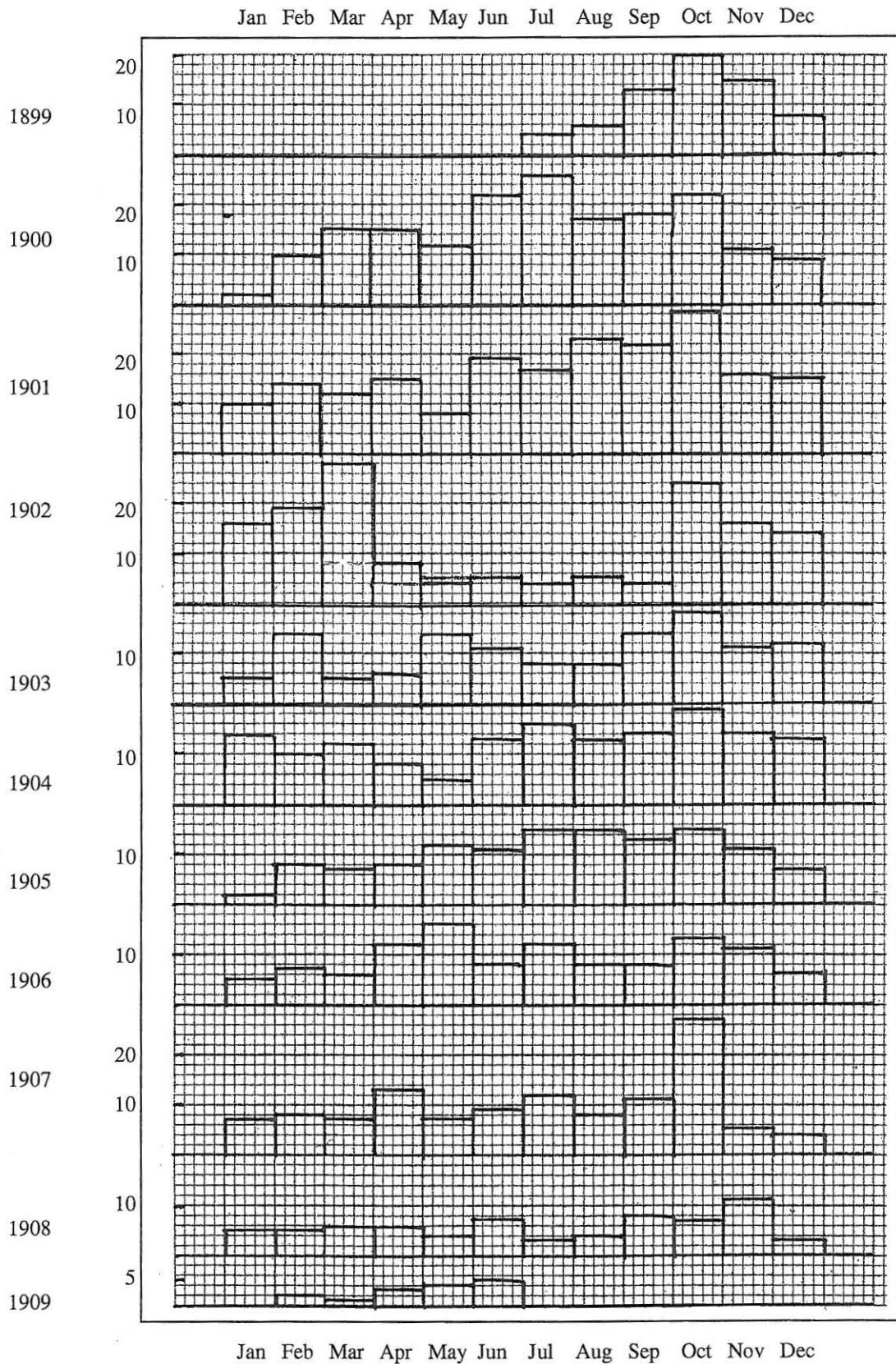


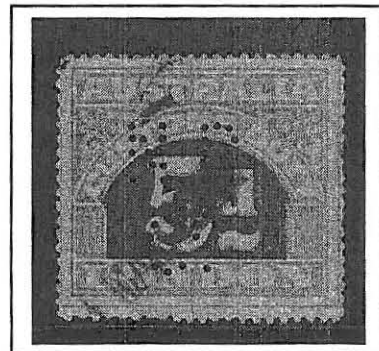
Figure 1 – Number of dates per month in which “A” perfinns have been recorded.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
<u>1899</u>												
A.3/4						-	4	6	13	20	15	8
<u>1900</u>												
A.1	1	7	10	9	6	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
A.3/4	1	2	3	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
A.2	-	1	2	5	6	20	23	16	18	22	11	9
<u>1901</u>												
A.1	-	(1)										
A.2	10	13	12	15	8	19	17	22	18	25	16	8
A.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	6	-	7
<u>1902</u>												
A.2	2	-	9	3	1	2	1	-	4	5	2	6
A.6	14	19	21	5	3	3	3	3	-	19	14	8
<u>1903</u>												
A.2	2	13	4	6	14	11	8	8	12	21	10	12
A.6	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
<u>1904</u>												
A.2	14	10	11	8	5	13	16	13	13	18	14	13
A.6	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
<u>1905</u>												
A.2	2	7	7	8	12	11	11	14	13	15	11	7
A.6	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
<u>1906</u>												
A.2	5	7	6	12	16	8	12	8	8	8	4	-
A.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	6
<u>1907</u>												
A.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	4	2	-
A.7	7	8	7	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A.8	-	-	-	4	7	9	11	8	9	23	3	4
<u>1908</u>												
A.2	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	1	1	3	1
A.8	5	5	5	5	3	7	3	2	7	6	8	2
<u>1909</u>												
A.8	-	2	1	3	4	5	-					
Total	66	97	101	94	86	110	117	107	122	199	110	91

Table 1 – Number of dates per month in which “A” perfins have been recorded.

NEW PATTERN ON AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS DUTY STAMP

An Australian Customs Duty Stamp was recently sold on eBay and had a GB perfin pattern not previously recorded on such a stamp. The hand date stamp reads (?)1 MAR 1922. The pattern is provisionally identified in the New Illustrated Catalogue of GB perfins as having been used on GB stamps by the National Radiator Company of London during the period 1910-1918.



GR TYPE A ISSUE WITH POSITION 4

The GR type A perfin used by the New South Wales Government Railways is usually found in position 1 (reading normally), position 3 (inverted), position 5 (reversed) and position 7 (inverted reversed). The only issues recorded with any other position are with Position 4 (reading down) on the 1/2d QV 1892 Wmk crown/NSW p. 11 x 12 and the 1/- Kangaroo 1899 Wmk Crown/NSW p.12 x 11.5. A new issue with this position was discovered in a Club circuit book recently.



The new find is a 1d carmine Wmk Crown/NSW p.12 x 12. Having not seen any of these issues previously, they are probably fairly scarce and other issues might be expected. Have you any others to report ?

AUCTION WATCH

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

		Est.
a.	PL&B.5 on 4 shillings Victoria Duty Stamp (eBay, May 05)	sold for US \$ 26
b.	DWMLTD.2 on 6d blue Tasmanian Railway Stamp (Cygnet Philatelics sale, Mar 05)	\$ 42
c.	LLG.3 on 1/- green Tasmanian Duty Stamp (Cygnet Philatelics sale, Mar 05)	\$ 15
d.	AACO.3 on 1/- green Tasmanian Duty Stamp (Cygnet Philatelics sale, Mar 05)	\$ 22
e.	DWMLTD.2 on pr 2d Tasmanian Duty Stamps (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 32
f.	LLG.3 on 6d Tasmanian Duty Stamp (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 9.50
g.	1922 cover of James Moore & Sons (artistic return address details) with 2 x 2d KGV perf M.1 to USA. (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 58
h.	1940 window env of W. H. Blackham Pty Ltd, with 1d Queen perf WHB.1, plus OHMS env (School user) with 2 stamps perf 'VG'. (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 18
i.	NZ 6d Kiwi perf "USSCO" (eBay, Jun 05)	unsold at GB £ 5
j.	"Australian Official Perfins" (Andersen, 1987) (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for \$ 16
k.	NZ 1937 OHMS cover from NZ High Commission, London, to USA with 3 x 1/2 d KEVIII stamps all perf "NZ" (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 53
l.	NZ "AWF" on 1d Universal (D. Ion auction, May 05)	NZ \$ 10
m.	NZ "W&T/LD" on 1d Universal (D. Ion auction, May 05)	NZ \$ 10
n.	NZ "N" on 1d Universal (D. Ion auction, May 05)	NZ \$ 5
o.	1924 window env of Thomas Brown & Son (GPO return address) with KGV 1 1/2d perf TBS.2. (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 7.50
p.	1920 cover of "Finney's, the Drapers of Queensland" with 1 1/2d KGV perf FINNEYS.1 (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 23
q.	Queensland NZL perfin on receipt. (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 58
r.	1950 cover of New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency, Rockhampton, with perfin 'NZL' on 3 1/2d Victoria sesquicentenary. (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 78
s.	1920 cover of John Spicer & Sons, Melbourne (ID on flap), with 1 1/2d KGV perf JS&S.12. (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 18
t.	"Commercial Perfins of Australia" (1992). (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 21
u.	Tasmania - unused 1d postal card perf "T" through stamp image (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for US \$ 52
v.	£1 Roo perf large "OS", used (reinforced tear) (eBay, Jun 05)	sold for GBP 318