

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 73 APRIL 2006

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## EDITOR'S COMMENT

Received a comment from another Cub member about his experience in a recent auction. Despite bidding on a significant number of lots, none were successful and all lots sold at least 25 % above estimate. With so many auctions (including traditional auctions) being available online it is quite easy for a couple of individuals with deep pockets to purchase the majority of better items available and they can be anywhere in the world. From my observations on eBay, in a number of areas there do appear to be a small number of collectors in each area who bid high and more often than not are successful in buying most of the scarcer material. Not much one can do about this except diversify a bit and collect some areas where there is lots of material for sale. Also bear in mind these people do miss a fair number of poorly described lots including those consisting of multiple items.

It seems to me that much scarce Australian and New Zealand perfin material is heading overseas and there are some very good collections being formed in the northern hemisphere. Much information is being supplied by a number of members outside of the antipodes and this trend is likely to continue and we may need to work harder to attract and encourage other international members.

David Andersen

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## VALE KEVIN BLISS

It is with much regret that we have been advised that member Kevin Bliss died in December 2005. Kevin had been an active member of PCNZA since 1990.

## CLUB MEETING, CANBERRA, MARCH 2006

Nine members and two visitors attended the meeting at Canberra StampShow 2006 at the Hellenic Club in Canberra on 18 March. Those present represented 5 States (Qld, NSW, Vic, SA and ACT) plus New Zealand! There were three apologies received.

There were only single nominations for each of the Club's offices, and the meeting approved them all, so the present incumbents are all re-elected! Thanks go to each of them, plus our circuit managers and librarian who are appointed by consent.

The Secretary reported that membership is currently four more than at January 2005; that the circuits and auctions are still running at 75-80% sales level; and that the Club loan for the cost of production of the Handbook has now been repaid with a small profit (there are still more copies available).

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer both reported that their respective accounts were well in the black, putting the Club in a very healthy financial position which means that we can keep subscriptions at the same level, and also retain the 5% commission rate on circuit books and auctions.

Congratulations are due to Harold Waite (NZ) for a Vermeil award for his display of NZ perfins at Northpex 2005, and to Dave Elsmore, Gordon Monk, Derek Pocock and Dingle Smith for their respective awards for non-perfin displays at Canberra StampShow 2006.

Several items of interest were shown – Lindsay Parker showed a 1d red KGV with two different private perfin patterns; Bill Harley showed a KGV 1d die III perfined; Arthur Taylor showed a 1d green KGV die II with private perfin and a GB 2½d 1883 issue overprinted "I.R./OFFICIAL" and perfined; and your Secretary showed some correspondence relating to the introduction of the Tasmanian "T" perfin (see article elsewhere in this Bulletin).

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### THIS MONTH'S CLUB AUCTION

Being offered in this month's auction (enclosed) is a major collection of Australian private perfins from the States and Commonwealth period (see lots 15, 150, 151, 152, 153). This collection was one of the main sources of information for the catalogue and handbook on Australian private perfins. The vendor has indicated that he might be prepared to consider "payment by installment" for these lots.

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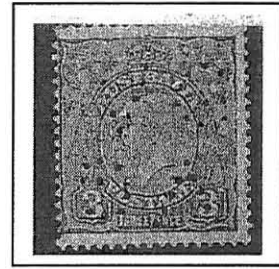
### A SELDOM SEEN VICTORIAN STATE STAMP WITH PERFIN

Member John Waugh has (via a third party) reported a Victoria one pound KEVII stamp with perfin VOCO.12. It is not a rare perfin, but on this stamp, any perfin is truly "seldom seen". Another State stamp rarely seen with perfin is the South Australian 5/- "Long Tom" which is known with perfins FHS.1 and GRW.1.

## A “VG” WITH DOUBLE STRIKE (John Mathews)

One of our members has reported buying at auction the item illustrated and has asked me if I thought it was suspicious.

On checking Neale Scott’s work on “VG” punctures, I found a match for the upright strike with the second die of the Second Head used on the “VG” perforator, meaning that this must have been the second stamp in the row. There was not enough room under the punch head for the last row to be perforated in the upright position, and it was common practice to turn the sheet around (or over) in order to perforate the last row.



In this case the sheet has been turned around, but this previously punched row has also been perforated again after the sheet was turned, resulting in a second strike on stamps in this row. This is based on the match of the inverted strike with the 11<sup>th</sup> die of the Second Head – that is, the second die from the right.

## A SMALL WORLD ...

Ken Killeen recently sent some items to the Secretary for comment. Among them were two “private use” perfin items. One was a postcard with the HJD.1 perfin used by Harold G. H. Sandeman to Miss Ann Smith in Bath, UK. Harold seems to have been the clerk (occupation listed for him in electoral rolls of that time) at Harrison, Jones and Devlin. There are several such postcards known used over a 4-year period. One wonders if anything permanent came of the friendship?

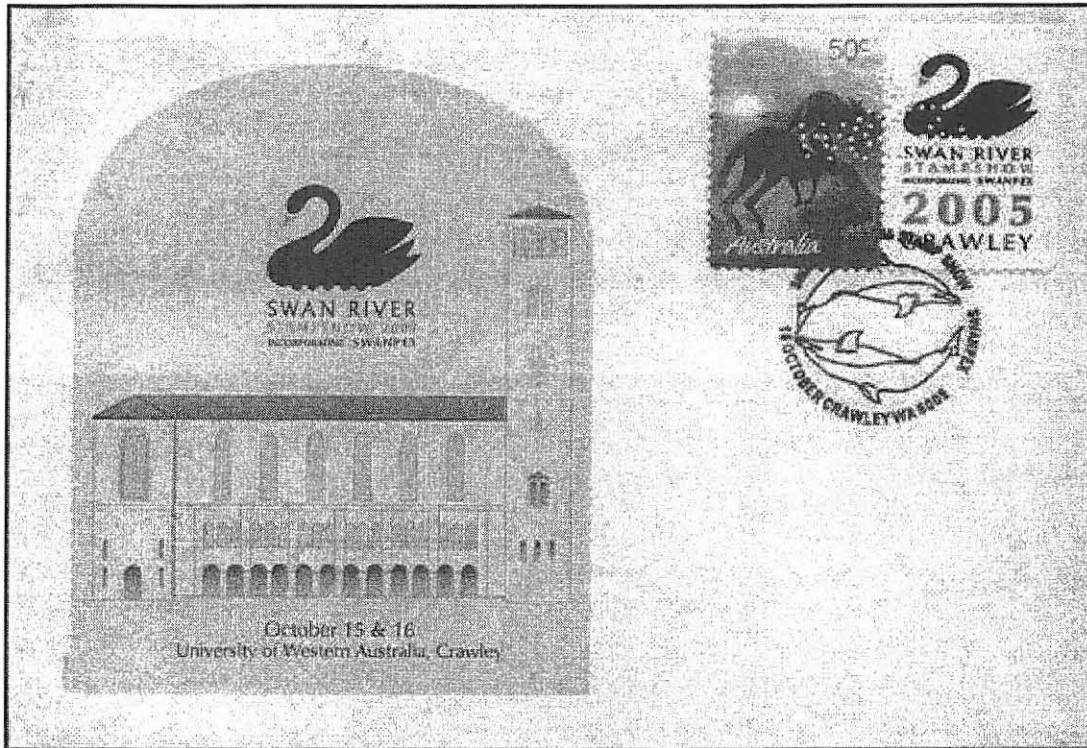
The other item was a postcard using the perfin JSS.4 of Justus Scharff of Sydney, the second such item your Secretary has seen. Like the first one, this contains a message in German to an addressee in Germany. One of my fellow staff members came from Germany and was able to translate the message which was one of greetings, and a comment about how cold Sydney was in June (but not as cold as Germany in January??) But the translator was amazed when he saw the address on the card – a house in the same short street where his grandparents had lived at about the time the card was sent! Incidentally, the message on the earlier card told of Christmas celebrations in Sydney and thanking the addressee for a nice chocolate cake.

## AUSTRALIA POST JOINS THE TREND TO PERFINS?

The new Commonwealth Games set of stamps from Australia Post (50c, \$1.25 and \$1.85) include in their design the characters “>2006” in the form of white “holes” to make them look like a perfin, in a similar style to the printed “OS” holes on some early Australian Postal Stationery. It was considered appropriate that these stamps be used for the souvenir covers (enclosed to members) for Canberra StampShow 2006 – with the Club perfin added.

## SWAN RIVER STAMPSHOW 2005 PERFIN

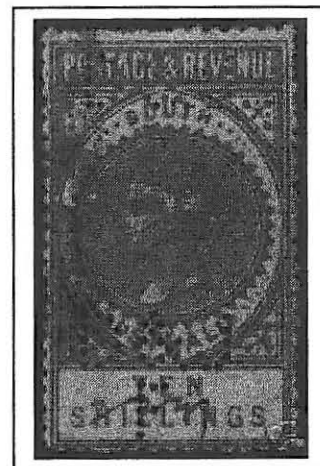
Once again the W(swan)A perfin of the WA Stamp Promotion Council was used on souvenir envelopes at the Swan River Stampshow (incorporating Swanpex ) held October 15 & 16 2005. A nice annual philatelic usage of this perfin albeit not widely advertised.



## A TRULY "SELDOM SEEN" SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STAMP WITH PERFIN

This month on eBay, a truly "seldom seen" stamp with perfin was sold. The stamp was a 10/- "Long Tom" (first series) inscribed "Postage & Revenue". It was perfined with both heads of the pattern D&JF.1 of D. & J. Fowler. It sold for US \$22.

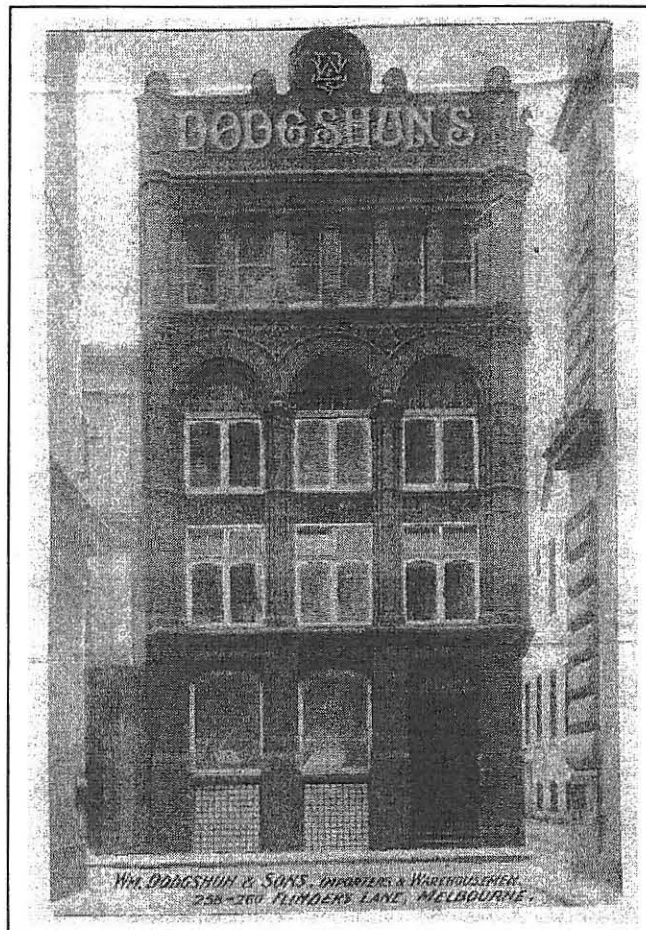
At about the same time, two other seldom seen State stamps with perfin also sold on eBay. The first was a Tasmanian 5d overprint on £1 overprinted "Revenue" with perfin DWMLTD.2. The other, which was included in a lot with 3 other perfins, was a Tasmanian £1 overprinted "Revenue" with perfin RICOLD.1. Both these lots sold for about A\$50.



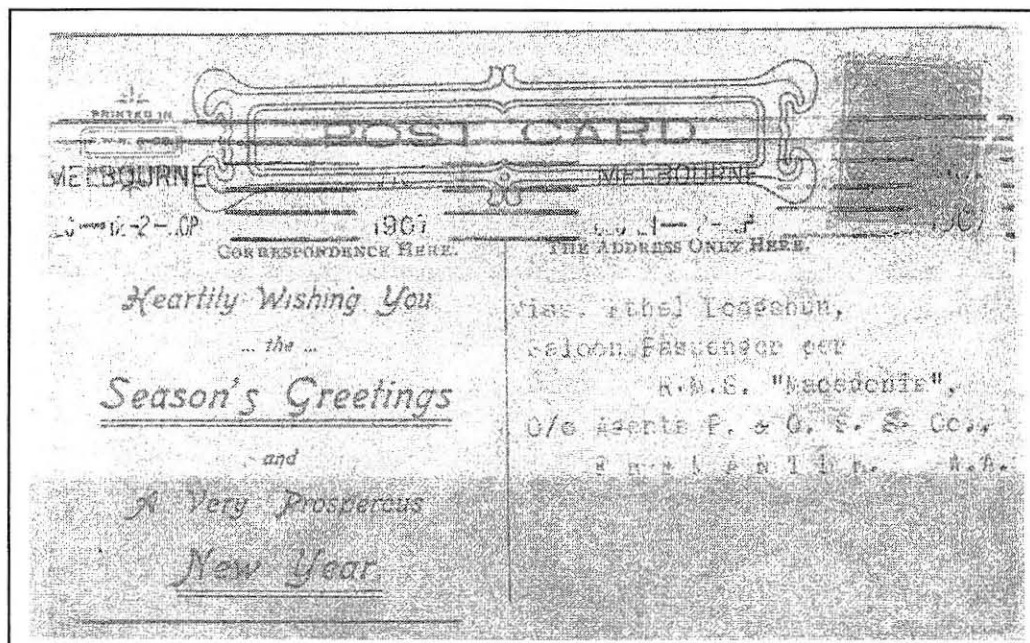


## WILLIAM DODGSHUN &amp; SONS - A SEQUEL

Richard Peck has shown the illustrated item in response to the article in the previous issue of the Bulletin. It is a beautifully coloured (unfortunately the B&W copy does not do it justice) trade postcard showing the company premises at 258-260 Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Fortunately for the photographer, the building, which is on the western corner of Cumming Alley (now Centre Place), is also directly opposite Degraives Street so the photographer could get back a sufficient distance to include the whole frontage of the building. As anyone who knows Flinders Lane (now called "Little Flinders Street") can testify, it is almost possible to stand in the middle of the road and touch the building frontages on both sides at the same time!



Incidentally, the buildings in the foreground on the corners of Degraives Street, the corners of which can be seen in the view, are those of D. & W. Murray (left) and Brooks, McGlashan and McHarg (right), both perfin users.

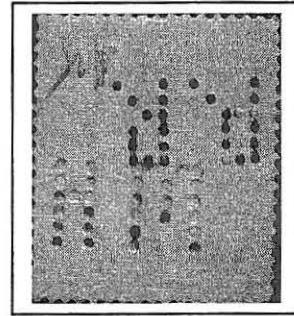


The addressee of the card is Miss Ethel Dodgshun. This could be one of two possible people. One would be the daughter of James Dodgshun (Mayor of Melbourne in 1882-1883), youngest brother of William Dodgshun. She would have been 34 years old when the card was sent. The other Ethel Dodgshun was the daughter of John Edward Dodgshun who was a son of William. She would have been 17 years old when the card was sent.

The perfin used is WD&S.6.

#### A STAMP WITH TWO DIFFERENT PRIVATE PERFINS

At the Club meeting at Canberra StampShow 2006, Lindsay Parker showed the item illustrated. The two perfins are MH.30 and a new "RR" pattern. A sheet of stamps perforated for one firm may have been in excess of the amount requested, or accidentally mixed with unperforated sheets, and been perforated a second time in a batch for the next customer. Menzies Hotel and Robert Reid & Co were both known users of Edward T. Moulden's perforating service in Melbourne.



#### AN INSIGHT INTO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE OFFICIAL "T" PERFIN (John Mathews)

A search of the Tasmanian Archives web site revealed a file entitled "Perforation of Postage Stamps", and a photocopy of its contents was requested. It turned out to be a Tasmania State Government Treasury Department file from 1902. The first item on file, dated 13 October 1902, is a telegram from the Tasmanian Treasurer, Stafford Bird, to the Postmaster-General (PMG) in Melbourne seeking permission, in accordance with Section 36 of the Posts and Telegraphs Act of 1901, for all stamps used in State Departments to be perforated with the initials "T.S" for "Tasmanian Service". The reply on 15 October 1902 indicated no objection to this being done, and that the deputy PMG in Hobart had also been advised of this decision.

The Tasmanian Treasury then asked if they could overprint the letters instead, as the Tasmanian Government Printer had not the means to perforate the stamps with initials. The PMG reply stated that it was difficult to waive the objection to overprinting as specified in the Act, and then suggested perforating two lines, one across and one up and down to form letter "T", such perforating being approved.

A telegram to the Tasmanian Treasurer on 16 October 1902 stated that the Tasmanian Government Printer could arrange to perforate the letter "T" as suggested as a temporary measure. The Tasmanian Government printer also suggested that the Melbourne office ascertain how perforating was done, as he thought that a "proper machine" might be obtained from Roeszler in Little Collins Street.

The last correspondence on the file is an enquiry from the Deputy Postmaster General in Hobart on 24 October 1902 to the Treasury as to whether the Tasmanian stamps were being perforated with letters "T.S", so that the necessary instructions could be issued to all officers in the Post and Telegraph Department. The Treasury reply the following day confirmed that stamps would be perforated "T", as the Government Printer was unable to obtain in time a machine to do the letters "T.S" as originally intended. The "T" and "T.S" on the file note are done as a series of dots!

One wonders if such a lengthy correspondence could be completed in this time scale 100 years later?

#### PERFINNED POSTAL STATIONERY COVER FROM DENMARK

Perfined postal stationery covers are probably quite rare. There are two known Australian ones – those of Harrison, Jones and Devlin, and of Hill, Clarke & Co. (any others known?). There are several perfins known on GB postal stationery covers and newspaper wrappers. Such an item from Denmark was recently offered on eBay. The perfin is "J.M." and the cover has a cachet of the user, J. Moresco of KJØBENHAVN (Copenhagen). The cover was used in 1886.



(The black is background, not a mourning cover border)

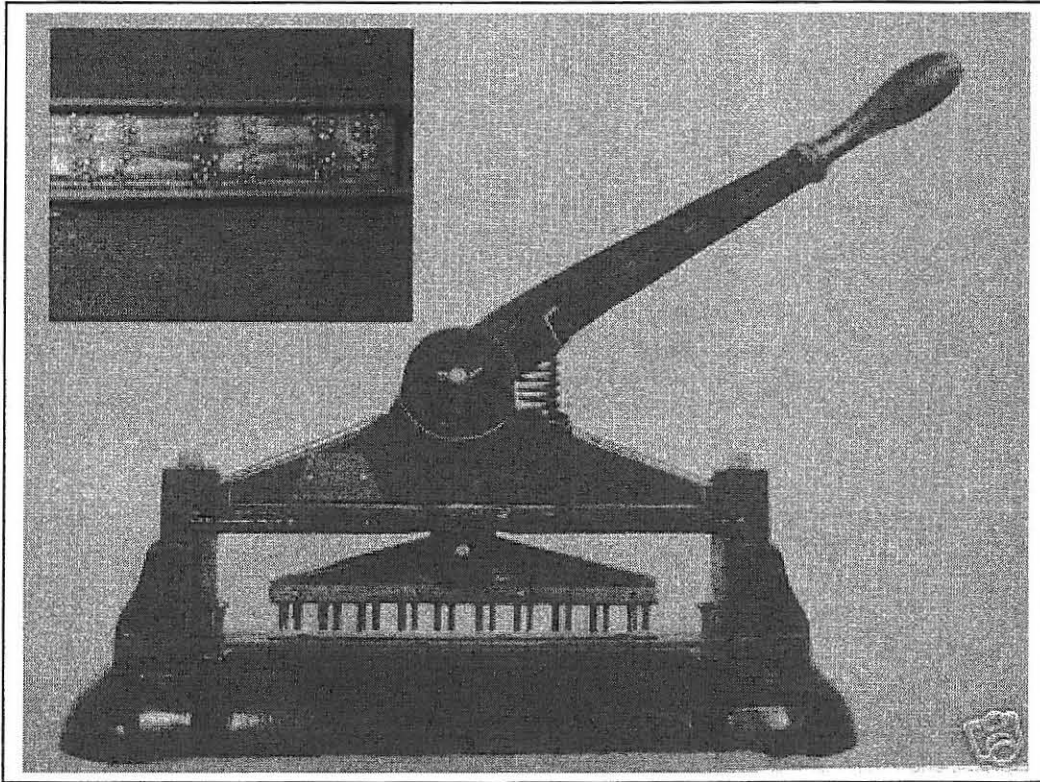
#### LARGE BLOCK OF PERFINNED CUSTOMS DUTY STAMPS SOLD ON eBay

Recently, a block of 9 unused Australian Customs Duty Stamps, 3 cents on 2 pence, perfined CTCO.1 were sold on eBay for US \$57+. The block showed parts of 5 heads. The first head was only a partial so the complete die probably has 10 heads.



## STAMP PERFORATOR SOLD ON eBay

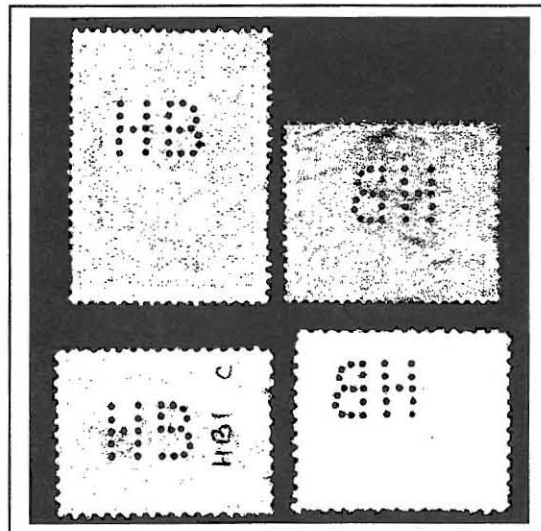
In February, a Cummins model 53 stamp perforator was sold on eBay for US \$199. Model 53 has 10 heads in a straight line. The pin pattern on this perforator is "US/MC".



## PATTERN HB.1 – MORE THAN ONE PERFORATOR? (John Mathews)

On closer inspection of my copies of this pattern, I noticed postmarks of Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. When separated into the three groups, there appears to be distinguishing features of each. In the illustration at right, the top two stamps have Melbourne (left) and Brisbane (right) postmarks, while those on the bottom row have Sydney (left) and Brisbane (right) respectively.

In the Melbourne example, the top row of the "B" is bowed noticeably upwards, whereas in the other two patterns it is virtually flat. Also, the





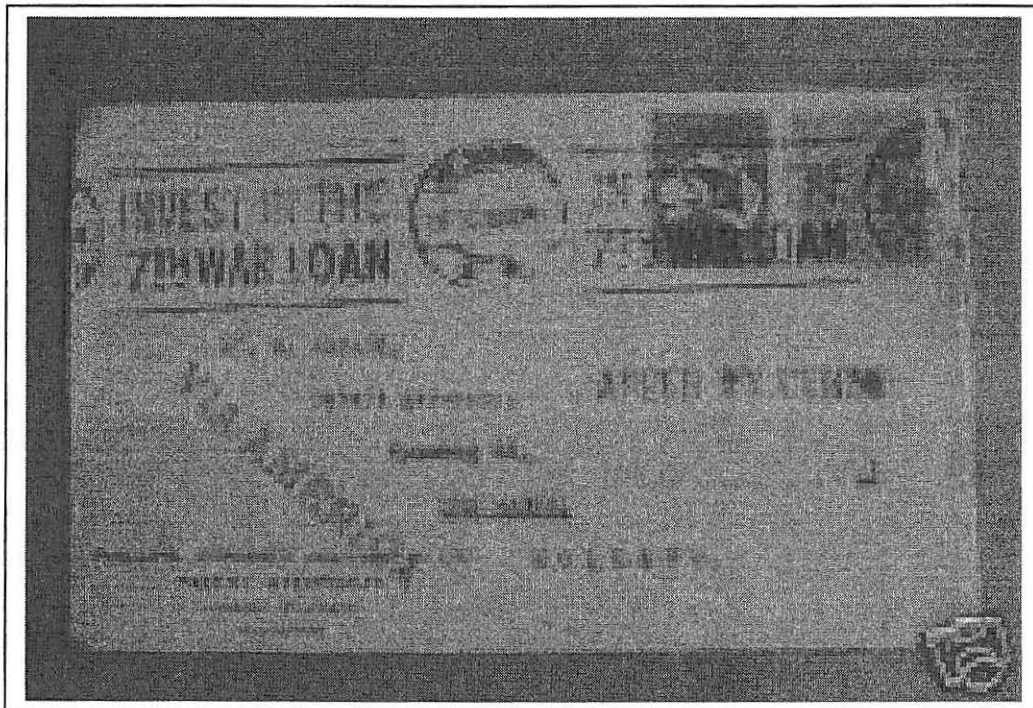
bottom row of the "B" is flat in the Melbourne pattern and curves upwards in the others. The lower right leg of the "H" is also slightly different in the Melbourne pattern compared with the other two.

Of the Sydney and Brisbane patterns, the only difference seems to be the consistent missing pin in the lower half of the upright of the "B". Of my copies, the Sydney ones are all before about mid-1920s, while Brisbane ones date from early 1930s. The Melbourne examples cover both these date ranges.

So it seems that Sydney and Melbourne had separate perforators, and that some time in the late 1920s or early 1930s, the missing pin in the Sydney perforator was replaced and the device sent to the Brisbane office. Can anyone provide a more exact "latest date" for Sydney usage (either dated postmark or issue date of stamp), and "early date" for Brisbane usage (from dated postmark only)?

#### DID I MISS SOMETHING? (John Mathews)

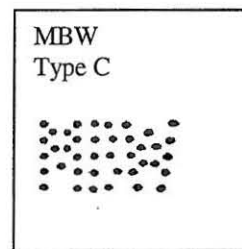
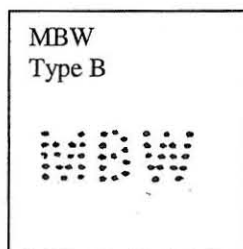
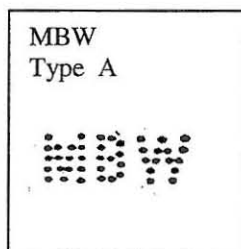
A cover was offered this month on eBay which attracted my attention and I had contemplated bidding on it until the bids went above my estimate for it. The cover had a return address of Phillips Ormonde (Inc) Pty Ltd, Patent Attorneys, Lombard Buildings, Melbourne, and was addressed to Holland. Postage was paid with a 2½d Roo and a ½d green KGV both perf PO&C.1. Postal markings on the front are a World War I "Passed by Censor/.....(?)" and a "Via America". The final bid price was a staggering US \$110. Perhaps the perforated stamps were not the main attraction (although there were at least two perfin collectors among the bidders), and that one or both of those postal markings is (unknowingly to me) rather scarce.



MELBOURNE AND METROPOLITAN BOARD OF WORKS Part 1 [David Andersen]

This article updates information previously published in Australian Official perfins and the South Pacific Perfins Bulletin.

The Board was established in 1891. From the 1890s till the 1920s the Board used a range of perfins apparently concurrently which suggests usage at different offices. MBW Type A is reported used from 1895 to 1918, MBW Type B from 1904 to 1931 and MBW Type C from 1914 to 1924.



MBW Type A	Positions							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	
<b>Victorian issues</b>								
1d orange brown 1890-1896 series p.12.		X						
1/2d QV rosine 1896-1899 series			X					
1d “ rosine “				X		X		
1d “ brown “	X			X			X	
2d “ mauve “	X	X			X	X	X	
1d red QV 1901 series		X		X		X	X	
2d mauve QV “				X			X	
<b>Commonwealth issues</b>								
1/2d Kangaroo green 1 <sup>st</sup> wmk		X		X		X		
1d “ red “				X		X		
2d “ grey “				X		X	X	
2d “ grey 3 <sup>rd</sup> wmk				X		X	X	

MBW Type A	Positions							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	8	
1/2d KGV green single wmk		X						
1d " red "				X		X	X	
1d " green "					X			
2d " orange "		X						
1/2d " green large multi wmk		X				X	X	

The tables for MBW type B and C will be included in a future Bulletin.

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#### BNA PERFORATOR #126 April 2006

After a considerable gap the April 2006 issue of the BNA perforator has been published. Articles include Southern Pacific Railway Co. by Conrad Tremblay and New pattern LVC/Sco(US 158) found on Canadian stamp.

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#### KING GEORGE V SILVER JUBILEE WEBSITE

Neil Donen has developed a very comprehensive and interesting website on the 1935 Silver Jubilee omnibus stamps of Great Britain and British Commonwealth. Included are sections on perfins found on the issues of different countries issues including Australia.

This is a very well developed website with a great deal of information included (some 400 pages) and shows what can be done. Well worth a look at the URL [http://www.philatel2.com/jubilee/index\\_m.htm](http://www.philatel2.com/jubilee/index_m.htm)

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#### HELP NEEDED PLEASE

Arthur Taylor would like to know the earliest date of use of the "G/NSW" perfin type C. Any information may be passed to your Secretary who will forward it to Arthur.

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#### WANTED - GIO OVERPRINTS

The editor is still hunting for a number of the higher face value decimal New South South Wales stamp duties with the GIO overprint. Contact information on the front page.

## AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest from auctions/direct sales since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobilo, John Amiet, Bryan Magee, Geoff Legge and David Coath for passing on their spotting of perfin lots in auctions. Several have told of a 5/- SHB with F.2 perfin which sold at the last PHILAS auction. Prices in A\$ unless indicated.

	Est.
a. Queensland 1/- Railway Parcel Stamp with perfin FINNEYS.1 (eBay Feb 06)	sold for US \$ 89
b. 1941 Harringtons' window env with 1d green Queen perf HLTD.1. (eBay Feb 06)	sold for US \$ 22
c. 1916 cover of David Jones Ltd with 2d Roo and ½d green KGV both perf DJLTD.2. (eBay Feb 06)	sold for US \$ 52
d. Queensland 10/- QV Duty Stamp perf NZIC.4 (eBay Mar 06)	sold for US \$ 12
e. 10/- Roo wmk "narrow crown over A" perf "OS", used Melbourne. (eBay Mar 06)	sold for GBP \$ 31
f. "G/NSW" cover of Newcastle High School (1978). (eBay Mar 06)	sold for US \$ 7.50
g. NZ 1929 cover to USA with 1d Admiral with perfin "W.T./W". Slightly roughly opened. (eBay Mar 06)	sold for US \$ 54
h. 10/- 3 <sup>rd</sup> wmk Roo perf "VO/CO", used. (Status auction Feb 06)	sold for \$ 350
i. Queensland £5 Duty Stamp perf NZIC.4. (eBay Mar 06)	sold for \$ 45
j. NZ 2/- QV Duty Stamp with perfin "NZ/ICo", postally used. (eBay Mar 06)	sold for \$ 43
k. NZ "DB/&CO" (large letters) on 2d SSF, used. (NZ Stamp auctions Apr 06)	NZ \$ 40
l. NZ "DB/&CO" (small letters) mirror pair on pr. 1d Terraces, used. (NZ Stamp auctions Apr 06)	NZ \$ 40
m. NZ "HMC&CO" on 6d KEVII, fiscally used. (NZ Stamp auctions Apr 06)	NZ \$ 65
n. NZ "HMC&CO" on 1907 6d red Kiwi, fiscally used. (NZ Stamp auctions Apr 06)	NZ \$ 75
o. NZ "GNB/LD" on 1d Universal tied on piece. (NZ Stamp auctions Apr 06)	NZ \$ 125
p. NZ "S.B./I.CO" on 1d SSF. (Classic Stamps Sale Mar 06)	NZ \$ 200
q. NZ "GNB/LD" on 1d Universal. (Classic Stamps Sale Mar 06)	NZ \$ 75
r. NZ "W&T/W" on ½d KGV and 1d Dominion on advertising cover. (Classic Stamps Sale Mar 06)	NZ \$ 100
s. A much-travelled 1917 registered OHMS cover from Perth, WA, with strip of 4 x 1d red KGV perf "OS", unclaimed and returned to Office of Titles. (Ashford Stamps, NZ, auction Apr 06)	NZ \$ 175
t. 2 Queensland Railway Parcel Stamps with perfins TCB&CO.1 and L.2. (eBay Jan 06)	sold for US \$ 81
u. 1928 receipt of George Hudson Ltd with 2d NSW revenue perf GHLTD.1. (eBay Feb 06)	sold for \$ 20
v. 1943 Toohey's advertising cover ("Club Lager") with 2½d red KGVI perf TYSLD.1. (eBay Jan 06)	sold for \$ 55
w. 1943 Toohey's advertising window env ("Pilsener") with 2½d red KGVI perf TYSLD.1. (eBay Jan 06)	sold for \$ 29
x. Tasmania 10/- Stamp Duty perf RICO.2 (eBay Apr 06)	sold for US \$ 52
y. 1/- black ANZAC perf B&N.15. (eBay Apr 06)	sold for GBP 5.50
z. Sturt set (2 values) MNH, perf "OS". (eBay Apr 06)	sold for EUR 26.50

## INVITATION TO SUBMIT ITEMS OF INTEREST/ARTICLES

Articles for inclusion in the Bulletin are actively encouraged. If you feel uncertain how an interesting item might be written up, don't hesitate to send a scan or photocopy to the editor or Secretary to ghost write it for you.