# **SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN**

# NO. 75 OCTOBER 2006

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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 & Librarian : David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, Victoria 3095, Australia				
Email – davidcoath@onthe.net.au				
Assistant Treasurer (NZ payments):Richard Smolnicki,19 Oakleigh Street, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt,5010 New				
Zealand				
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, 7940 New Zealand				
Australia John Mathews, 21 McConnel Cres, Kambah ACT 2902, Australia				

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

There was a very good response to my plea for additional information about the OS issues of Queensland, South Australia, Victoria and NWPI to update "Australian Official Perfins". Much additional information was provided which should enable me to finish the new edition. The help of those supplying this additional information is much appreciated.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

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

#231 Frank Gericevitch, Como, West Australia.

## OUR PERFIN CLUB'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

We are planning to have a meeting at Sydney Stamp Expo 2007 in June. As part of this, members are invited to display a mini-exhibit of perfin material, say 6 to 10 pages. We will give a prize for the one voted best by those present. We would welcome suggestions for other activities to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including souvenir items, etc. Ideas to the Secretary please. A "perfin trivia" quiz, and an "Identify the Mystery (partial) Perfin" competition have been put forward, and these could be conducted any time during 2007.

## ... AND TALKING OF OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Your Secretary recently came across a clipping from the December 1986 edition of "Australian Stamp Monthly" magazine, in which Rev. David Dell originally invited interested collectors to get in touch with him with the idea of forming what was to become our Club.

## MEMBERS' SUCCESS AT ADELAIDE STAMPEX 2006

Congratulations to the following members who won awards at Adelaide Stampex 2006 in August 2006:

David Elsmore – Gold (5 Nations Challenge) Gordon Monk – Gold (Traditional class) Harold Waite – Large Silver (Postal Stationery) Dingle Smith – Large Silver (Thematics) Allan Berry – Large Silver (Open class) and Large Vermeil (Literature) Craig Chappell – Vermeil (Open class) Richard Peck – Large Vermeil (Australia Post Cup) Allan Cowan and Terry Dell – Large Vermeil (Literature)

## FINLAND PERFINS WANTED

If any member has any Finland perfin stamps/covers that they do not know what to do with, and are willing to sell them... member John Root is willing to give them a good home in his collection! John's email is jroot@black.clarku.edu

## NEW EDITION OF FRENCH PERFIN CATALOGUE

The Association Nationale des Collectionneurs de Timbres Perforés (ANCOPER) has produced a 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the French perfin catalogue, "Timbres Perforés de France", by R. Dedecker, M. Herbert, R. Janot (†) and G. Leger. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition contains 55 pages of general history of perfin production, summaries of perfin usage, many colour illustrations of postal items with perfins, and details of known types of perforating devices. Fifteen pages of text are also repeated in English.

The catalogue section follows the previous format, showing each pattern in both normal and reverse positions, pattern details such as height and number of pins in each letter, user details (where known), and known period of usage. The cataloguie section contains 290 pages.

The catalogue is A4 in size and this  $3^{rd}$  edition is hard-bound. The catalogue is available from Robert Dedecker who is a member of PCNZA. His address is

Robert Dedecker, Lycée Mirielle Grenet, 13, Av. De Huy – BP 8023, 60321 COMPEIGNE, FRANCE (email: dedeckerr@yahoo.fr)

#### A MODERN NEW ZEALAND "PERFIN"?

Harold Waite (NZ) has shown examples of the 45c denomination (sheet stamp) of New Zealand's stamp issue of January 2006 for the "Year of the Dog". The 45c stamp features the Labrador Retriever breed in Guide Dog harness. The stamps also have raised "dots" in Braille style. Our American members would probably classify these as "dimpled chads".

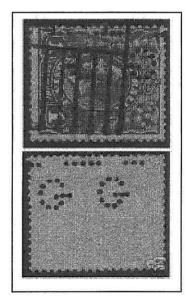
A similar feature was incorporated into the GB £10 definitive stamp issued in the early 1990s, which introduced several innovative security measures.

## "LL/G" PERFINS (John Mathews)

One of the families of perfin patterns which give collectors some trouble to distinguish are the "LL/G" patterns. In most cases, the number of holes in the letter "G", or a postmark, is sufficient to enable the collector to correctly identify the pattern. However, there are also cases where the number of pins is the same as a listed pattern, but the arrangement of the pins is very slightly, but discernably, different. These patterns with such slight differences are not always listed separately in the catalogue unless the editor was convinced that they came from different perforators.

Dave Elsmore has recently shown a stamp with what at first looks like a double strike of an "LL/G" pattern. Closer inspection, however, shows very slight differences in the positions of some pins in the two letters "G". They match up with patterns LLG.7 and LLG.8 in the catalogue. This example would indicate that they were both produced by the same perforator, which must therefore have been multi-headed.

In the illustration, the main difference which can be seen is the alignment of the horizontal bar on the "G". The left-hand one has lower position for the left pin of these three, while the three pins are in a horizontal line in the other strike. Also the left-hand "G" is slightly wider than the one on the right. There are other less obvious differences in spacing between neighbouring pins.



The right-hand strike must have come from the left-hand punch head, and vice versa. There may have been more than two heads. Does any reader have examples of strikes which are very close to these (especially, the same number of pins), particularly on strips or blocks of stamps? This could help identify the number of punch heads.

#### RAILWAY TICKET WITH PERFIN (John Mathews)

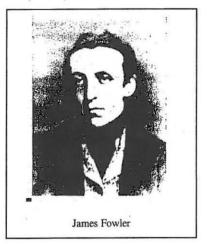
In August 2006, eBay offered a 1922 British railway ticket through several pages of which was punched the characters "27 F.I.S/22/LON 12". Such patterns were often made by Joseph Sloper & Co. of London for non-postage stamp purposes. It was item number 260019658324 if you would like to see it.

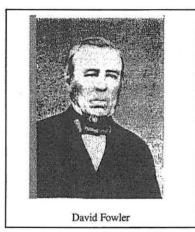
#### D & J FOWLER LTD. (John Mathews)

David and James Fowler were born in the village of Kilrenny, Fife, Scotland in 18 January 1827 and 18 January 1831 respectively. They came from a family with a strong sea-faring tradition, but this was broken by their father who became a grocer in Fife. James came to South Australia in 1850, at the age of 19 years, arriving on the "Anna Maria" with his 30-year-old sister Margaret, and friends David and William Murray. At this time, the fledgling Colony was only 14 years old. The main

commercial area was in Hindley Street which was the road to the port from the centre of the city.

James opened his first grocery store in Rundle Street which was just starting to be developed. Soon afterwards, as if there was not enough difficulty to establish a trade in competition with existing merchants, there was a severe exodus from the Colony when gold was discovered in Victoria, and many men-folk left to seek their fortunes.



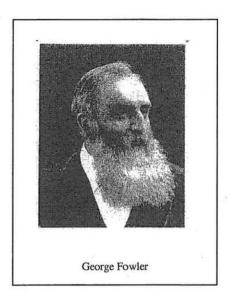


David Fowler emigrated to join his younger brother in 1854, bringing with him £2,300 worth of goods. David brought his wife and two children with him, and initially stayed with James. Prospects in the Colony were just starting to improve at that time as many of the prospectors were returning with the gold they had found in Victoria. The population had then reached about 80,000. The Aboriginal Corroboree grounds were still at the back of what later became the Botanic Gardens.

The two brothers formed a company and decided that the Rundle Street location was not favourable for the development of the company. Instead, they secured premises in King William Street, almost opposite that of D. & W. Murray, at a rent of  $\pm 3/7/6$  per week. This store opened as a retail grocery on 30 November 1854, with a shop of 20 feet frontage and a depth of 30 feet, plus store room at the back and cellar underneath. As well as importing goods from England and their native Scotland, they also bought country produce from the farmers in the Colony. One hundred years later, their head office was still in King William Street.

As if there was not enough hardship establishing their business through the difficult early years of the Colony, including several drought years which brought poor harvests, David and his wife also had the personal tragedy of losing their three sons, including an infant born after their arrival in South Australia, within a short span of time. The quality of imported goods was also mixed, with several shipments deteriorating on the voyage and being too bad to sell. James also had some ill health. David became the dominant partner. But things slowly began to improve. In 1856, many Chinese landed at Port Adelaide (and Robe) and bought supplies before walking across to the gold diggings in Victoria. (Victoria had imposed an immigration toll on them if they landed in Victoria). The brothers also exploited the country trade by becoming wholesalers, and in this they found a good profit. The following year, there were good wheat exports and copper was discovered at the head of Yorke Peninsula, bringing much needed wealth to the Colony.

James finally succumbed to ill health in 1858, prompting their younger brother George to come to Adelaide in 1860 as a 21-year-old to join David in the business. Not long after that, they decided that the retail side of the business did not produce a profit worthy of the effort put into it, so they sold that part of the business and concentrated on the wholesale trade. They were soon in a position to open an office in England and David and his family returned to London in 1873 to run that branch. Expansion continued as the Colony grew to a population of 210,000 by 1877. It was in September of that year that the company got permission from the South Australian Post and Telegraph Department to perforate their postage stamps - the first Australian company known to receive such permission, according to records so far discovered. David died in London in 1881.



Back in South Australia, George instituted diversification of interests for the company and in 1887 founded the Lion Preserving Company in the Barossa Valley to manufacture jams and preserved fruits. In the same year, they bought a jam factory in Wattle Street, Fullarton, and nearby orchards, and continued this operation also under the name of the Lion Preserving Company. At Fullarton, in addition to jam making and fruit preserving, they carried on the manufacture of olive oil, pickles, sauces, vinegar, etc., all of which commanded a good position in the local market, while large quantities were exported to the neighbouring colonies. (Those collectors of perfin covers of this company will be well aware of the "Lion" brand of goods they sold).

The 1890s brought further expansion with flour mills and the Kalimna vineyards being added to their interests. The Kalimna vineyards concentrated on dry reds. At this time George's son entered the business. The mining town of Broken Hill, in the far west of New South Wales, had been neglected by the government of that Colony and South Australia had taken the initiative of extending their railway system to the border adjacent to that town, from where the Silverton Railway Company spanned the final few miles. This allowed South Australian companies great opportunity to trade with this area, and D. & J. Fowler opened an office there as their first branch outside Adelaide. The gold rush to Western Australia later in that decade saw the opening of another branch in that Colony. Part of their expansion was in the area of dried fruits using produce from the fruit-growing areas along the River Murray.

Another favourable venture was an agreement for D. & J. Fowler to become the Adelaide agents for the coastal shipping company of Huddart, Parker & Co. In

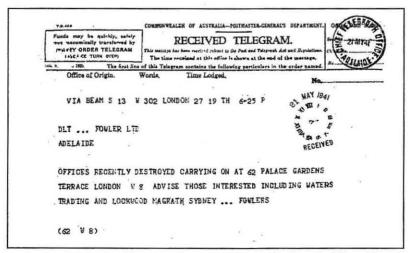
particular, they used to handle the vessels which plied their trade between South Australia and Western Australian ports.

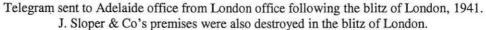
In 1896, George Fowler died at the age of 57 years. He was the last of the three brothers who founded the company.



D. & J. Fowler's main factory, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia

The company continued to prosper and by 1905 it had out-grown its existing factory, and a move was made to premises on North Terrace. From the 1930s, D. & J. Fowler also sold the well-known (at least to those who grew up in Adelaide!) "Amgoorie" brand of tea. The company was nurtured through the Depression years and the War years, and when it celebrated its centenary in 1954, it was being run by the third generation of the family in Australia.



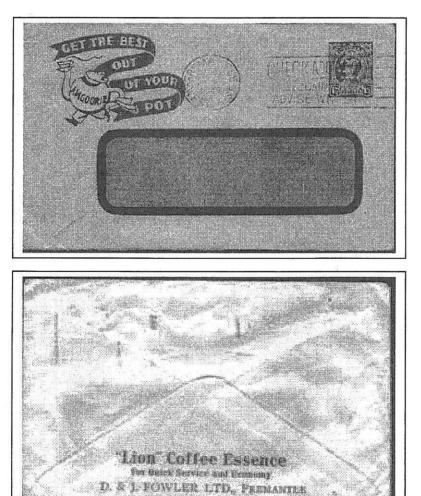


(This article is based on material in "Years to Remember, 1854-1954: a Record of the First Hundred Years of D. & J. Fowler Limited", published by the company in 1954.

A picture gallery of the village of Kilrenny, Fife, Scotland, can be found at the web site <u>http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/anstruther/kilrenny/index.html</u>

#### PROVING COVER FOR DJF.1 (John Mathews)

No doubt many members will have seen D&JF.1 perfin covers of D. & J. Fowler, Adelaide, with their characteristic advertising in the top left corner for their stock products "Lion" brand groceries and "Amgoorie" brand tea. Now the cover shown has been seen on eBay, with the perfin DJF.1 used by the Fremantle, West Australia, office of the company. The "Amgoorie" and "Lion" brands are also featured on this cover.



ITALIAN DRIVER'S LICENCE WITH PERFINS (John Mathews)

In August 2006, eBay offered a 1941 Italian driver's licence on several pages of which were revenue stamps perforated "R.A.C.I. / 1941" by the Reale Automobile Club d'Italia. It was item number 250015236629.

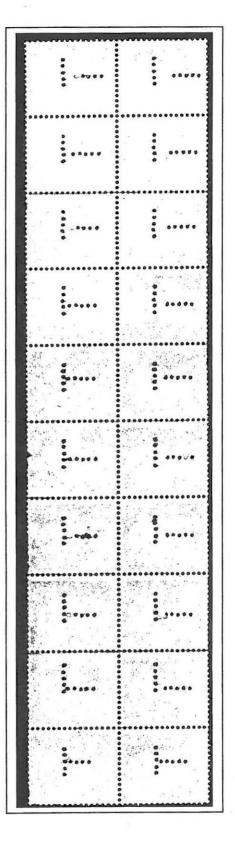
## LARGE BLOCK OF 'T' PERFIN SHOWS 10 HEADS

The illustration shows an item from this month's auction. It is a block of 2 rows each with 10 stamps of the 4c red Queen issue of 1966. It shows the same 10 groups of 5 pins across each row, with noticeable "waves" in the line making each group distinguishable from each other. One interesting feature is that the second group from the left (as seen from the reverse) is "misplaced" to the right by one pin position from the regular spacing (which matches the stamp width almost exactly).

#### SWAN RIVER STAMP SHOW 2006

The annual Western Australian State Stamp and Postcard Exhibition is being held at the University of Western Australia Guild Function Centre from 21<sup>st</sup> October to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2006. Once again the Western Australian Philatelic Council is producing special covers for each day with a W(swan)A perfinned stamp from the "Personalised Stamps" sheets produced for the exhibition. The most recent issue of Australia Post's Stamp Bulletin Australia indicates that covers are \$2.50 each and can be ordered from Glen Stafford, SRSS 06 Souvenir Manager, PO Box 1285, Mandurah, WA phone 0402 174 032. email 6210 stafford@southwest.com.au.

This perfin is used each year for souvenir covers for the Swan River Stamp Shows with the perfin being punctured in a wide range of types of stamps over years. They provide an interesting and inexpensive series of philatelic perfin usage.



#### "OS" PERFIN USED IN PAPUA

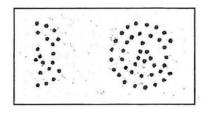
An item recently sold on eBay was an "OHMS" cover used from Port Moresby to England with 2d purple and black bi-colour Lakatoi perforated "OS". The postmark date from Port Moresby was 17 December, 1908, and the vendor stated that a note in the album from which the cover was taken indicated that this was the earliest known date of use of this perfin.

#### NEW PATTERN REPORTED ON AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS DUTY STAMPS

## (John Mathews)

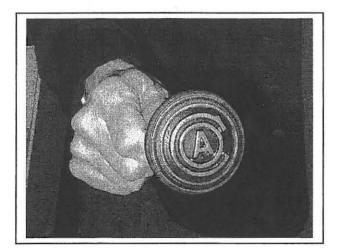
A non-member recently sent me a scan of some Australian Customs Duty Stamps with perfins, having heard of my interest in tracking the stages of degradation of the "CTCO" perforator used in England. His "CTCO" examples provided 9 new states of degradation of this perforator, and confirmation of one adjacent pair, which had previously only been seen as 2 slightly overlapping examples. His overprinted examples (used in USA) seemed to confirm that no pins were ever lost from this other perforator.

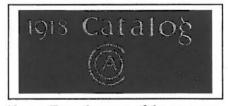
Included in his scan was a 5d value used in London with a pattern not reported before, as illustrated. There are many fortunate aspects of this example. First, it is cancelled with a date stamp (2 July 1916) which seems to be rare for these stamps. Second, it contains a full strike and part of a second strike, the separation of which



(20.5 mm) is exactly the same as the width of the GB definitive postage stamps, indicating that it was a multiple-head perforator and therefore possibly of American manufacture.

The pattern is "A within O within C", and a search of the GB perfin catalogue failed to find this pattern listed (for postage stamps) under any sequence of these letters. The next step was a search of the Post Office London Directory for 1916. Fortunately, I decided to search alphabetically and with the assumption that the "C" was probably for "Company". I quickly found the American Optical Company, located at 39 Hatton Garden, London EC, with their chief office stated to be at Southbridge, Massachusetts, USA. A Google search for the name of the company brought up many web sites, one of which had an image of a company share certificate with a logo as the perfin pattern, another had a picture of a wooden lens box also with the same logo, and the illustrations shown are from the web site www.dickwhitney.net/AOLogos.html.





Above: From the cover of the company catalogue.

Left: A doorknob from the company's former chief office.

(both items are in the company museum)

#### PERFINS AND STAMP DISPENSING MACHINES (David Coath)

Some time ago, I was sorting through some "V" patterns and found a small envelope of VO.1 of Vacuum Oil Company, all on 1d KGV stamps. I noticed that they almost all had consistently short side perforations as if they had been cut or trimmed rather than separated by tearing. Then, to my surprise, I found one which had a "tab" on the rear of the top portion of the stamp, indicating that it was from a vertical coil strip. In addition, the VO pattern had been punched through the tab as well as the stamp, so the perforating must have been done after the coil join was made. The VO.1 pattern is consistently placed at the top of all the stamps.

Why was the pattern applied to a coil stamp? When and how had the pattern been made? I made some enquiries and was provided with some articles about coil stamps and their use during that period.

#### From "Stamp Bulletin", December 1973/March 1974:

"Coil Stamps and Vending Machines.

As early as 1903, the Postmaster-General's Department experimented with coil vending machines, but a limiting factor was the different sizes of the colonial stamps still current. The introduction in 1913 of the uniform stamp series enabled standard coils to be made and ½d and 1d Kangaroo and Map stamps in coils of 960 were available in July 1913. Later in the year, the Department arranged tests of three different vending machines.

A large machine, made by British Electric Machines Ltd. was attached to a letter box in front of the town Hall, Melbourne, on 11 December, 1913, vending 1d stamps. Other vending machines were tested, one at Stock Exchange Post Office, Melbourne and the other at the GPO Melbourne. Both were soon withdrawn.

In 1914, two other vending machines attached to letter receivers were tried. One was at the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets, Melbourne, from February 1914 until July 1918; the other was in Flinders Street, from September 1914 until October 1918. As 1d postage was then current, it seems likely that 1d stamps were sold form these machines."

Further, I was informed that coils had not been produced exclusively for the stamp vending machines that used to be located outside some Post Offices, but also for private stamp-affixing machines that companies used to reduce time spent processing mail. The Stamp Bulletin continues:

"Meanwhile, coils continued to be bought for use in stamp-affixing machines then in vogue, and coils were sometimes made up with content other than 960, e.g. March 1915 records show that stamp vendors also made up 1d coils for customers with stamp-affixing machines.

Demand for stamps in coils lessened, and the April 1920 Post Office Guide indicates that 'postage stamps in coils or rolls may be purchased at post offices where the demand justifies the supply'. The note was continued in Guides in May 1927. Other records show that in 1920, <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d and 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d coils were available and in September 1920, all three values in coils could be obtained with stamps punctured 'OS'. Detailed records were not maintained of supply of 'OS' coils stamps".

So, in the period after WWI, we have coil stamps being made and issued by the Post Office, including ones punctured "OS".

At this time, the use of these coils seems to have been limited to the use in stamp affixing machines. It seems that these machines were used by some Government departments and hence the perforated "OS" coils. However, it is logical to assume that they would have been used by private companies with large mail volumes, and conceivably this could have included perfin users.

Information on stamp-affixing machines can be found in many places. The limited edition publication "Coil Stamps – Introduction, Development and Use", by Charles D. Rudd (Selway Stamps, Christchurch, NZ, 1995) lists a series of machines that existed from as early as 1884 in the UK and from 1885 in USA up to the "Lightning" machines used in New Zealand in the 1930s.

Another excellent article written for the GB Perfin Society by Society member Dave Hill is at <u>http://www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc/articals/Feb2003/FEb2003.html</u> If you haven't got access to the Web, I can supply a paper copy.

So it seems to indicate that Vacuum Oil Company used a coil-based stamp affixing machine which perforated stamps, as they were dispensed, with the pattern VO.1, in the same manner as the Michelius (POKO) machines and others. Are there any other Australian perfins applied by coil vending machines? Perhaps the back of some of your perfinned stamps might carry a tab which would indicate this.

[Bill Harley has reported a VO.1 perfin with Geelong postmark. jhm]

## NEW ZEALAND EARLIEST AND LATEST DATES

David Warren reports a significant number of new earliest or latest dates for New Zealand perfins. These dates update those supplied by Robert Samuel in his series of articles on New Zealand perfins in the 1991/2 Bulletins.

AWF (PF2) Australian Widows Fund - Latest date 27.1.10

C&G (PF5) Cuff and Graham - Earliest date15-10-86

K (PF14) Kodak (fiscally used) - Latest date 31-12-27

**R.G./W.** (PF23) Ross and Glendining Ltd , Wellington & Wanganui - Postmarked Blenheim - OCT- 21 an unusual usage for this pattern

**RI/Co/LD** (PF25) Royal Insurance Co. – Postmarked Hastings Earliest date 26-7-38 **S.S.E.** (PF29) Sargood Son & Ewen, Dunedin Latest date Nov 1900. Robert assumed an earliest date of 1882 but could not confirm. David's earliest reported is ? –7-85

**VOCo.** (PF32) Vacuum Oil Co. Port Ahuriri 3-4-22, Wanganui 5-11-23 **VO/CO** (PF33) Vacuum Oil Co. – Latest date Wellingtom June 1923 VOCo (PF35) Vacuum Oil Co. - Port Ahuriri 12-3-40, Greymouth 25-9-46
VOCo (PF35B) Vacuum Oil Co - Waipukurau June 1947, Port Ahuriri 26-7-46
VOCo (PF35D) Vaccum Oil Co. - Port Ahuriri 4-1-41
W&T/LD (PF36) Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd - Latest date Wellington 30-12-06
W.T (PF38) Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd - Earliest date October 1889.

## LARGE "DJLTD" PATTERNS ON NSW DUTY STAMPS

In January 2005, John Amiet reported a copy of a NSW Duty Stamp with pattern DJLTD.5. Now, on eBay, a 2d blue Duty Stamp of the 1920s series with pattern DJLTD.3 has been offered. These are 2 heads of a  $2 \times 2$  die, so no doubt it may be possible to find DJLTD.4 and DJLTD.6 also on these Duty Stamps. The  $2 \times 2$  die seems to have been made for the larger KGV definitive stamps.

#### 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 Amiet for passing on their spotting of perfin lots in auctions. Prices in A\$ unless indicated.

			Est.	
a. DJLTD.2 on 6d Engraved Kooka	(eBay, Jun 06)	sold for	\$ 12+	
b. 1935 cover with 2d Tasmanian Cable perf JKS.3	(eBay, Jun 06)	sold for	US \$ 23	
c. Tasmania Duty Stamps, 1/- Numeral & 9d Platypus, perf "LL/G" on insurance				
policy document	(eBay, Jun 06)	sold for	\$123+	
d. WA Railways parcel revenue with partial WS&C	O.1 perfin.			
	(eBay, Jun 06)	sold for	\$ 20	
e. 1918 advertising window env of J & B Sniders with 1d red KGV				
perf "J&/BS".	(Tasmanian Stamp Auction	ons, Jul 06)	\$ 40	
f. 1954 10/- green Tasmania Numeral duty stamp perf "MM"				
	(Tasmanian Stamp Aucti	ons, Jul 06)	\$ 80	
g. NZ "DB/&/Co" on 1d 1898 Taupo.	(Classic Stamps Sale, Au	g 06)	NZ \$ 40	
h. NZ "M&C/LTD" on 2d KGV.	(Classic Stamps Sale, Aug 06)		NZ\$ 40	
i. British South Africa Company £10, fiscal use, perf "BSA/C" (these are usually perfed				
with a date or with "USED".	(eBay, Jul 06)	sold for	US \$ 13	
j. NZ High Commissioner cover 1927 with KGV perf "NZ" to Germany.				
	(Len Jury Auction, Aug (	)6)	NZ \$200	
k. Queensand 3d Railways Newspaper & Parcel Stamp perf TCB&CO.1.				
	(eBay, Aug 06)	sold for	\$ 51	
<ol> <li>1908 advertising cover of The Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society Ltd</li> </ol>				
with 2d mauve QV perf AWF.2.	(eBay, Aug 06)	unsold at	GBP 35	
m. WA £1 orange-brown perf "OS". FU.	(Robin Linke sale, Aug 0		\$510	
n. NZ "FB/LD" on 1d Universal.	(eBay, Aug 06)	sold for	US \$ 10+	
o. Advertising cwindow env of D & J Fowler, Adelaide, with 2 x 1d green KGV both				
perf D&JF.1.	(eBay, Aug 06)	sold for	\$ 30	
p. 1913 OHMS window env of Inspector-General's Office with 5d Laureate				
perf "OS/NSW".	(eBay, Sep 06)	unsold at	US \$ 35	
q. Victoria KEVII £2 blue perf "OS". CTO.	(David Holmes Sale, Oct		NZ \$360	
r. £1 brown & blue Roo 1 <sup>st</sup> wmk, perf small "OS".	(David Holmes Sale, Oct 06)		NZ \$4200	
s. £2 black & rose Roo 3rd wmk, perf small "OS".	(David Holmes Sale, Oct 06)		NZ \$4200	
t. NZ 3/- Mt Egmont with "M/G/M" perfin.	(Mowbray auction, Oct 06)		NZ \$ 30	
u. 1948 advertising cover of Royal Insurance Co, Adelaide, with 21/2d red KGVI				
perf RICOLD.1.	(eBay, Oct 06)	sold for	\$ 20	
. Insurance policy relating to 10 bales of sheepskins going to France, with 3d and 6d				
WA duty stamps perf "LL/G".	(eBay, Oct 06)	sold for	\$36+	