

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 77 APRIL 2007

The South Pacific Perfin Bulletin is published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia four times each year. Club subscriptions (including payment for the Bulletin) are A \$10-00 p.a. for New Zealand and Australian residents and A \$15-00 p.a. for residents of other countries (including airmail postage). Back issues available from Secretary.

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## EDITOR'S COMMENT

The scope of punctured letters and designs used by postal administrations continues to widen. Now, from Hong Kong, we have 'micro-perforations' in their most recent definitive series (details later in this bulletin). Certainly the perforations are very small, though similar in size to some we are used to. In this case, they are perforating a complete sheet of stamps with a very high degree of accuracy in alignment, so what type of machine are they using? Will sheets appear with inverted patterns or out of alignment?

Given the small size of the holes and hence the large number that could be used on a single stamp we may see an increasing use of perforated designs or initials by postal administrations as a design feature or an additional security feature. If so, this may encourage more collectors to pay attention to perfins. However I hope that the term micro-perforation does not become a frequently used term, otherwise we may end up collecting micro-perfins!

We look forward to seeing those of you who make it to Sydney Stamp Expo 2007.

David Andersen

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## NEW MEMBERS

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

- #232 Mr. Owen L. White, Toronto, Canada
- #233 Nick Steenholdt, Cygnet, Tasmania
- #234 Derek Cowen, Seaford, Victoria

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

Sydney Stamp Expo 2007 will be held in the Shannon Room, Royal Randwick Racecourse, Randwick (Sydney) from Friday 15 June to Sunday 17 June 2007. The Club has been allocated a meeting room from 2.30pm to 4pm on Saturday 16 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. Also, please bring along any perfin item which may be of interest to other members.

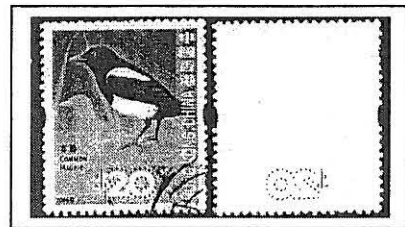
A reminder that entries for the perfin trivia quiz which was enclosed with the January Bulletin will close with the Secretary on 1 June 2007. All correct entries will go into a draw for a prize. If no completely correct entries are received by 1 June, the prize will be awarded for the entry with the greatest number of correct answers.

We would welcome suggestions for other activities to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including souvenir items, etc. Also, members are invited to suggest suitable prizes for the above competitions, or the value of such a prize. Ideas to the Secretary please.

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## HONG KONG MICRO-PERFORATIONS

Arthur Taylor sent me a photocopy of a Hong Kong \$20 bird stamp perforated with a '\$20' with very small holes. These are obviously part of the design and possibly there were other issues in the set of stamps with similar perforations. A few minutes on the Internet provide some information about this item.



Hong Kong released a new series of bird definitive stamps in December 2006. The four highest values \$10, \$13, \$20 and \$50 have what are termed 'micro-perforations' around the \$ signs and the values, presumably as some sort of security device. As these stamps are definitives, they should be readily available in due course. However, the holes are not all that obvious, as I discovered. When I arrived at work the next day, I noticed a few stamps I had saved from a parcel because of the high face value and, yes, they included two of these values and I had not noticed the micro-perforations.

There is quite a deal more information about these issues that would be of interest, including the method of production and official reason for using the micro-perforations.

## PERFIN CLUB

David Dell is wanting to get in contact with any persons in New Zealand, Australia or overseas who collect perfins (stamps containing perforated initials or designs) used in countries from the South Pacific region, to let them know about a club that in the process of formation.

The club, based jointly in New Zealand and Australia, will cater for all perfin collectors, providing a way for them to be in touch with others of similar interest, to keep up with the latest discoveries and to be able to exchange material through a regular Bulletin and auction. While some members will have wider interests, the club will be mainly concentrating on the research and publication of information relating to the perfins of the South Pacific region.

If you are interested in joining this club, then please write to: David R S Dell, c/o 9 Hildreth Street, Upper Hutt, NEW ZEALAND.

ASM Dec 86 <sup>23</sup>

## ADDITION TO THE LIBRARY

Jose (Joe) Cardona in Portugal has kindly sent us a copy of a study he did on Portuguese and Colonies perfins. It is entitled "Selos Perfurados de Portugal, Acores, Madeira, e ex-Colonias"

The text is in Portuguese but he has included an explanation sheet in English about the structure of the study. He calls it a study but it is really a catalogue as it includes a numeric listing, details of users, approvals, dates of approval and first use and images of the known patterns.

He has said that we may reproduce it for members. Please contact the Librarian.

## NEW ZEALAND VOCO PERFINS

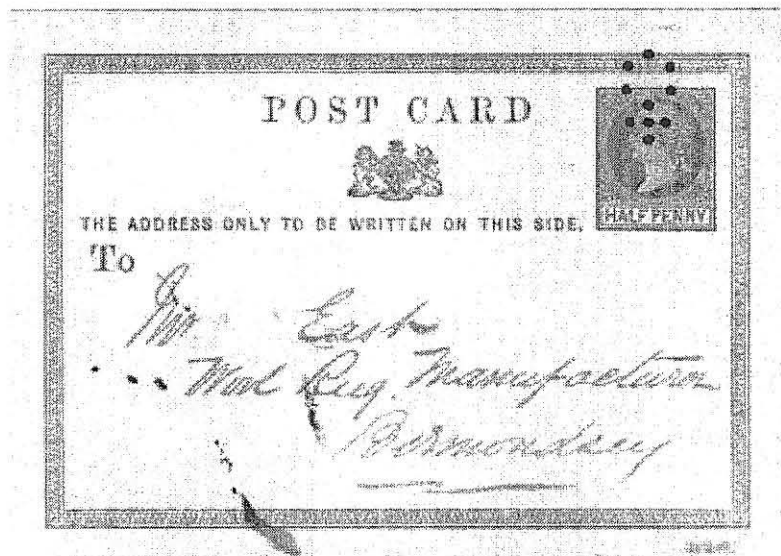
David Warren has provided a detailed list of usage of NZ "VOCO" patterns by postmark.

|              |                          |              |                         |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| PF35         |                          | PF35a        |                         |
| Ashburton    | March 1947               | Gisborne     | 1932                    |
| Christchurch | 1926 ? to 1929           | Port Ahuriri | 4-2-33                  |
| Dannevirke   | 5-4-40                   | Taihape      | July 1932 to Sept. 1932 |
| Gisborne     | April 1923 to April 1932 |              |                         |
| Greymouth    | 1935 to 25-9-46          | PF35b        |                         |
| Hastings     | 1935 to 1940 ?           | Blenheim     | 1936                    |
| Hawera       | 3-4-40                   | Dannevirke   | 1945                    |
| Lyttleton    | Jan 1947 to June 1947    | Hastings     | 1939                    |
| Masterton    | 28-1-40                  | Levin        | Dec 1945 to 1946        |
| Nelson       | 1940                     | Masterton    | 1944-Feb 1947           |
| Port Ahuriri | 1930 to 17-4-40          | Miramar      | March 1947              |
| Timaru       | Sept 1929 to Oct 1946    | Napier       | Feb 1947                |
| Wairoa       | 1940                     | Petone       | 1945                    |
| Waipukurau   | 10-4-40                  | Port Ahuriri | 26-7-46 to Feb 1947     |
| Wellington   | 1930 ?                   | Port Nelson  | 1939 to March 1945      |
| Westport     | 1936                     | Waipukurau   | 1941 ? to June 1947     |
| Woodville    | 12-4-40                  | Wanganui     | 18-6-37                 |
|              |                          | Wellington   | 1946                    |

## BOGUS ROMANIAN PERFINS

The October 2006 issue of the Bulletin of the US Perfins Club contains an article by members David Begin and Dick Scheper detailing over 60 bogus perfin patterns on Romanian stamps, including some as mirror pairs. All these patterns have the same characteristic of having been produced by pins being placed in a square grid of holes (easier than making bogus dies!..jhm). Tell-tale characteristics include multiple postmark places for the same pattern, many different patterns all with the same purple ink cancellation, and use on Official Stamps and Postal tax stamps not known with genuine perfins. None of these patterns had been seen prior to 2005. No genuine Romanian perfins are known to be of the "square-grid" style.

JOSEPH SLOPER'S EXPERIMENTAL CANCELS FOR POSTCARDS  
(John Mathews)



#### Postcards

The first postcards with imprinted stamps were issued by the Austrian postal administration on 1 October 1869. The British Post Office was initially not in favour, because the concept demanded a cheaper rate for this form of open communication.

However, the public were enthusiastic about the new idea. Exactly one year after the Austrians, Britain issued its first card imprinted with a ½d (half penny) stamp of new design. It came in two sizes, both sold at the same price of one ½d. Some 575,000 cards passed through the London Chief Office on the first day (1 October 1870) and in the first full year 75 million were posted.

In a *Circular* of 10 October 1870, postmasters were informed:

**"The postage stamps on some of the Post Cards will be obliterated by means of a punch instead of by the ordinary obliterating stamp".**

In London the punch cancellation was of perforated holes in the form of an orb and cross, with a punch supplied by Joseph Sloper. The example shown here is the earliest known example of the London perforation, 22 November 1870. Sloper's machine was trialed in different formats in London and Liverpool. In June 1871 four machines were ordered (three for London and one for Liverpool) at a cost of seven guineas each.

Other methods of punching the cards included clipping (Manchester) and single central holes (Birmingham, Edinburgh, Liverpool and Bradford). This use of punching for cancellation ceased in 1876.

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The above illustration and text are © Royal Mail Group plc. 2006, and reproduced by kind permission of The British Postal Museum & Archive from their web site [www.postalheritage.org.uk](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk).

Rosemary Smith, immediate past Editor of the Great Britain Perfin Society's Bulletin, has studied these cancels, and published her research on them as supplements to that Society's Bulletins number 267 (December 1993) and (update with) number 273 (December 1994). The other design of cancel provided by Joseph Sloper was in the form of an arrow. An example of the arrow cancel used in Liverpool is illustrated below, this example having been sold on eBay several years ago.



#### BANK OF NEW ZEALAND PERFIN

A listing of the Bank of New Zealand perfin on stamps of Great Britain, provided by Barry Pawson, was published in the October 1991 issue of the Bulletin. David Warren has provided some additional information about these issues.

Most of the issues with Die 2 (small letters, with stops) are encountered with the letters in the normal position. A small number are found with the "B.N.Z." pattern inverted (position 3) or inverted reversed (position 7). The issues he records are:

##### Inverted (position 3)

- 1883 QV high values 10/-
- 1887 QV Jubilee issues 2d
- 1912-22 KGV 5d
- 1937 KGVI 1½d



##### Inverted reversed (position 7)

- 1937 KGVI 1½d

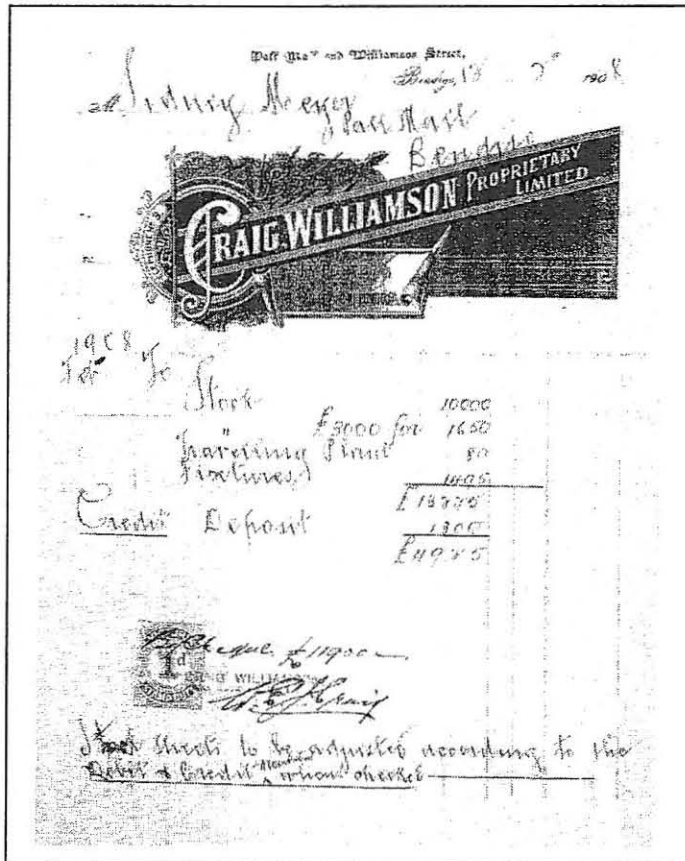


SIDNEY MYER AND A PERFIN CONNECTION (John Mathews)

As far as is known, The Myer Emporium of Melbourne did not use perfin stamps but they used duty stamps with pre-printed overprints which may have been a form of security measure as well as providing the necessary name cancel required by regulations. The following shows a link between Myer and some known perfin users.

Sidney Myer (born Simcha Baevski on 8 February 1878 at Krichev in the Russian province of Mogilev) migrated to Australia in August 1899 to join his elder brother Elcon who had arrived in Melbourne three years earlier. For a while, he joined Elcon in Slutzkin's underclothing business in Flinders Lane. Several months later, adopting the family name of Myer (the second name of their eldest brother Jacob), the brothers moved to Bendigo and opened a small drapery shop, with Sidney being the traveling representative of the firm. In 1900, the brothers became partners in new premises in Pall Mall, Bendigo, but the partnership soon foundered on Elcon's strict orthodox opposition to Saturday trading, and he returned to Melbourne to establish a business in Flinders Lane. Sidney bought him out and remained in Bendigo.

Sidney introduced a series of innovations to give his firm an edge over his competitors. He always had special bargains to offer people to keep his shop full of sightseers and bargain seekers, and he instilled in his staff that "the customer is always right". By 1907, he had purchased several adjoining premises and knocked down the dividing walls.



Invoice/receipt dated 12 February 1908 for the sale of stock of Craig, Williamson Pty Ltd, Bendigo, to Sidney Myer.

One of Myer's competitors in Bendigo was Craig Williamson Pty Ltd which, with the Beehive, had been the major traders in Bendigo prior to the arrival of Sidney Myer. They had a rather stately brick building with a two-storey frontage to the Mall and a three-storey frontage to Williamson Street. By 1907, Craig Williamson Pty Ltd could no longer compete with the Myer store and its proprietors resolved to retire. A Mr. C. E. Bulley of the firm Beath, Schiess & Co of Melbourne heard of this decision and informed Sidney Myer. As Myer's funds were fully tied up at that stage, Mr. Bulley encouraged Sidney Myer to visit his firm's head office in Melbourne, and this resulted in Beath, Schiess & Co agreeing to advance half the £22,000 necessary to purchase Craig Williamson's Bendigo store if Myer could come up with the other half of the finance. Again with Mr. Bulley's assistance, Sidney Myer obtained agreement from Robert Reid & Co for the remainder.

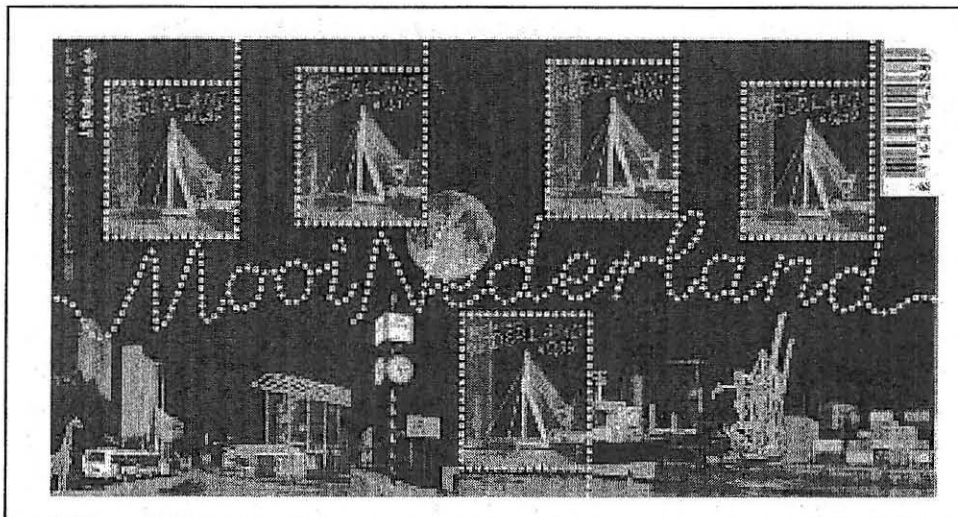
Three days after the take-over, Myer's held a "hurricane sale" of the entire stock at cut prices. At the end of the sale, Myer was bale to completely repay the loans made by the two Melbourne firms, and he was firmly established as the biggest merchant in Bendigo. In later years he was to repay these firms by giving them the bulk of his orders.

In 1911, Sidney Myer bought a small drapery store in Bourke Street, Melbourne, and Melbourne experienced its first Myer sale. In the following years, he purchased other properties nearby, and in 1914 opened a new eight-storey building with a hugely successful gala sale. While the Lonsdale Street store was being extended in 1930, Myer bought out the firm of tableware merchants, Thos. Webb & Sons, who were possibly the users of perfin TW&SLD.1.

(This article was inspired by, and partially sourced from, an extract from the book "Sidney Myer : a life, a legacy" by Stella Barber, published by Hardie Grant Books, Prahran, Victoria, 2006, which had been sent to me by Bryan Magee.)

#### ANOTHER PERFINNED MINI-SHEET FROM THE NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands recently issued another mini-sheet with a "perfinned" message, 2 copies of which were offered on eBay (but did not sell).



## EDWARDS DUNLOP &amp; COMPANY LIMITED (John Mathews)

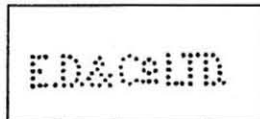
James Matthew Dunlop (1867-1949) and William Philip Dunlop (1877-1954) were the eldest and second sons of John Sym Dunlop (1844-1912) and his wife Margaret of Edinburgh, Scotland. Their uncle, William Philip senior (1842-1906) came to Australia from Scotland in 1861 and was salesman in the paper firm of Alexander Cowan & Co. Ltd. About 1867 he returned to Edinburgh and took George Murray as partner: the firm traded in Sydney as Murray, Dunlop & Co.

About 1873 he and Frederick Lewis Edwards (1828-1906), law stationer and bookseller, founded Edwards, Dunlop & Co. Ltd, paper merchants and wholesale stationers, of Sydney and London. On May 1, 1886 the company was incorporated in New South Wales as a public company, the consideration paid being £107,000 in fully paid £1 shares. Edwards managed the London buying office while William Dunlop senior and his brother John took care of the Sydney distributing side.

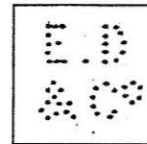
After attending George Watson's College, Edinburgh, James Matthew arrived in New South Wales with his family in 1879 and, on completing his education at the Coorwull Academy, Bowenfels, joined the firm. On his father's death in 1912, James became chairman and managing director of the Australian operations. A branch had been opened in Brisbane in the 1880s and through careful and conservative management the firm survived the depression, a disastrous fire in 1906 and paper supply and shipping shortages in World War I. Operations were extended to Melbourne in 1920 and to Perth in 1937-38. James died unmarried on 21 August 1949 at his home Munro Park, Sutton Forest, near Moss Vale, NSW.



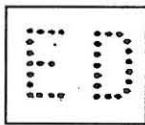
ED&CO.1  
Sydney 1901-1927



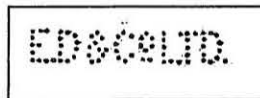
ED&COLTD.2  
Sydney 1913-1930



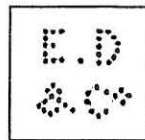
ED&CO.2  
Sydney 1921-1957



ED.1  
Brisbane 1904-1940



ED&COLTD.1  
Melbourne 1926-1939



ED&CO.3  
Melbourne 1942-1947

William Philip, junior, was educated at Sydney Boys' High School and at 16 joined the company; appointed a director in 1903, he was vice-chairman for thirty-seven years until 1949 when he became chairman and managing director. He was the driving force behind the growth of the firm which until 1944 concentrated on wholesale merchandising. He was fond of saying that 'Not a wheel turns inside these doors', but that year the firm bought Galwey & Co. Pty Ltd, a manufacturing stationer. He died on 2 August 1954 at his home at Edgecliff, Sydney.

After 1959 the firm expanded vigorously throughout Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea and played a leading role in the development of the newspaper and printing trades; among its agencies for newsprint and other papers is Stora Kopparbergs of



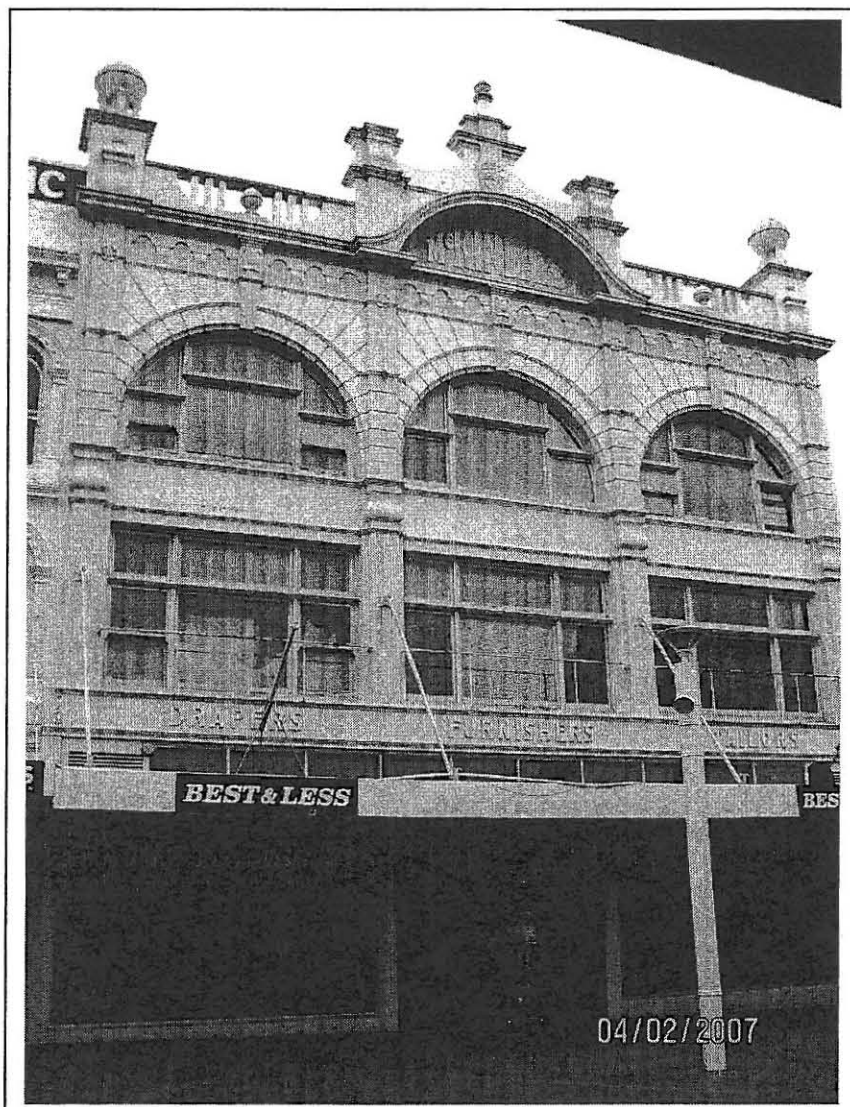
Sweden, the oldest known company in the world. In June 1982 the company advised that through its subsidiary PicsAustralia, it had diversified into the retail area with high-speed photo processing mini-lab and photo shops. Following a successful takeover bid by Brown & Duneau Ltd (Ampcor Limited) the company was removed from the Australian Stock Exchange on April 26, 1989.

[Most of the material for this article is from G. P. Walsh, 'Dunlop, James Matthew (1867 - 1949)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 8, Melbourne University Press, 1981, pp 370-371, via their online web site. The article was inspired by a newspaper clipping sent by member Mark Saxby.]

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#### PREMISES OF McKAY, SAMPSON AND McKINLAY

In the October 2005 issue of this Bulletin (page 11), John Tyson gave us a history of this firm. Now we can add a photo of their premises at 129 Brisbane Street, Launceston, built in 1912.



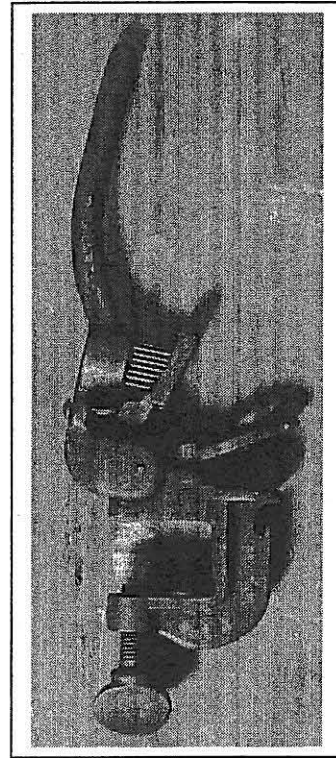
### UNUSUAL PUNCH/PERFORATOR (John Mathews)

In February 2007, the item shown was offered for sale on eBay, and sold for US\$47. The vendor described the device as possibly a “perfin punch” for stamps, banknotes, etc.

Its design is unlike any other stamp perforator I have seen. Although the pins are set into a rectangular “grid” formation, the base plate has slots rather than holes because the part holding the pins pivots rather than move vertically downwards. In fact, the base plate and another part underneath (whose purpose eludes me for the moment) both pivot too, all being spring-loaded.

The pins are bevelled to a point and are straight sided except for a slight “neck” above the points.

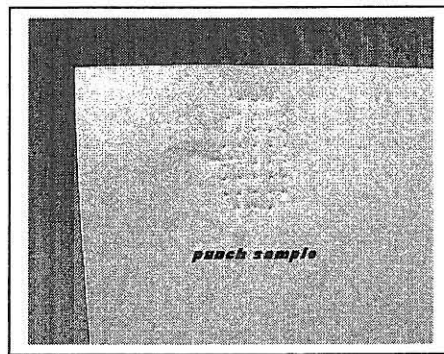
The sample provided by the vendor does not show the holes punched completely through the paper. Indeed, the pins would not give a clean hole in paper. It possibly was used on a thicker material, for example leather. Any thoughts from readers?



Side view



View showing base plate with slots



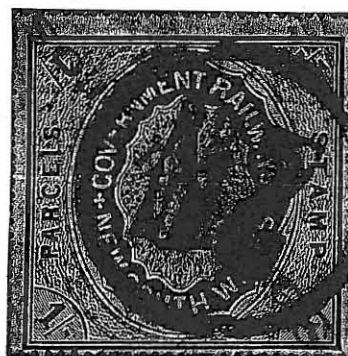
Sample strike on paper

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### OVERPRINTS ON NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS STAMPS

Arthur Taylor sent a photocopy of a New South Wales 4d Railway stamp (First series, fourth issue 1918, wmk NSW/R p.11.5) with a very faint purple “DAVID JONES/LTD” overprint. A quick check turned up a 1/- value from the same series overprinted diagonally “Sargood Bros”. Elements of more than one copy of the overprint were evident on both of these issues.

Both of these firms were prolific perfin users so it appears likely that the overprints were applied for some security purpose much as some companies applied perfins to later New South Wales Railway Stamps. Presumably also these overprinted issues are somewhat scarce as are the perfin issues.



Can anyone add additional overprints or values ?

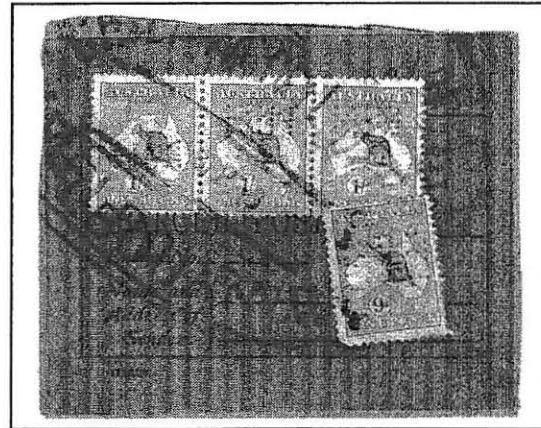
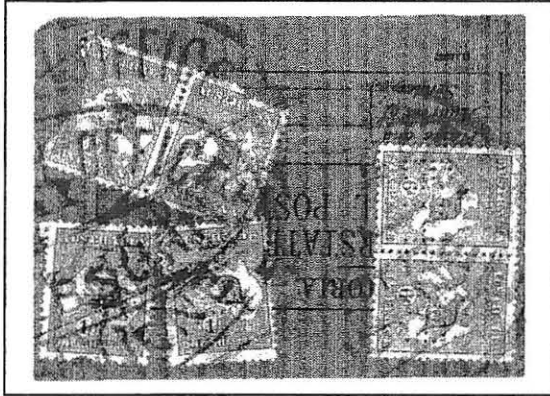
## AUCTION WATCH

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

|    |   | Est.              |
|----|---|-------------------|
| a. | Approx 180 perfins, "OS", "T" and different sorts of "A", + 4 OHMS envs, also a small postmark study, and a little relevant reading material.<br>(Cavendish Philatelic Auctions (UK), Sep 06) | sold for GBP 130  |
| b. | West Australia set of 8 to 10/- all perf "WA".<br>(eBay, Dec 06)  | sold for US \$162 |
| c. | West Australia 5/- perf "WA".<br>(eBay, Dec 06)   | sold for US \$ 31 |
| d. | West Australia 10/- perf "WA".<br>(eBay, Dec 06)  | sold for US \$103 |
| e. | 5/- Roo sm mult wmk, perf "J.K/S"<br>(Status auction, Feb 07)   | sold for \$ 60    |
| f. | Western Australia £1 perf "OS" CTO.<br>Prestige Philately auction, Mar 07)  | sold for \$1250   |
| g. | Western Australia £1 perf "WA" used + others, + several "Commissariats".<br>(Prestige Philately auction, Mar 07)  | sold for \$5750   |
| h. | NZ 1905 cover of E. W. Mills & Co. Ltd, Hardware, Metal & Machinery merchants, Wellington, to Hobart, Tasmania with 2 x 1d "Universal" perf "EWM/W".<br>(eBay, Mar 07)                        | sold for US \$145 |
| i. | 9d Roo sm mult wmk perf "OS" (12-hole 'S')<br>(Burstamp sale, Mar 07)   | \$ 80             |
| j. | 1/- Roo sm mult wmk perf "OS" (12-hole 'S')<br>(Burstamp sale, Mar 07)  | \$ 80             |
| k. | 2/- Roo sm mult wmk perf "OS" (12-hole 'S')<br>(Burstamp sale, Mar 07)  | \$150             |
| l. | 1946 Canadian Pacific Communications telegram env with 3c perf "CP", and telegram enclosed.<br>(Ashford Stamps auction, Apr 07)   | NZ \$ 20          |
| m. | NZ 1905 cover of E. W. Mills & Co Ltd, with 2 x 1d Universal perf "EWM/W".<br>(eBay, Mar 07)  | sold for US \$145 |
| n. | WDC.1 on a Victoria 1d Stamp Duty<br>(eBay, Mar 07)   | sold for US \$ 20 |
| o. | TCB&CO.1 on Queensland 3d Railway Parcel Stamp<br>(eBay, Mar 07)  | sold for \$ 50    |
| p. | NZ "VOC" perfins on strip of 3 x 2d Whare.<br>(Mowbray auction, Mar 07)   | NZ \$ 50          |
| q. | (NZ) "BNZ" on QV 10/-.<br>(Mowbray auction, Mar 07)   | NZ \$200          |
| r. | 5/- Roo (3 <sup>rd</sup> wmk) perf VOCO.12.<br>(eBay, Mar 07)   | sold for \$ 66    |
| s. | 5/- Roo (CofA wmk) perf VOCO.6.<br>(eBay, Mar 07)   | sold for US \$ 77 |
| t. | 1935 2/- KGV SJ perf PAC.1.<br>(Mowbray auction, Apr 07)  | NZ \$ 40          |
| u. | West Australia £1 CTO perf "WA".<br>(eBay, Mar 07)  | sold for US \$310 |
| v. | 1931 airmail cover Darwin - Sydney with 1d green KGV, 6d brown Roo and 2 x 1929 3d green Air Mail issue, all perf "OS".<br>(eBay, Mar 07)   | sold for US \$ 76 |

## OVERLAPPING USE OF DIFFERENT VICTORIAN SERVICE PUNCTURES

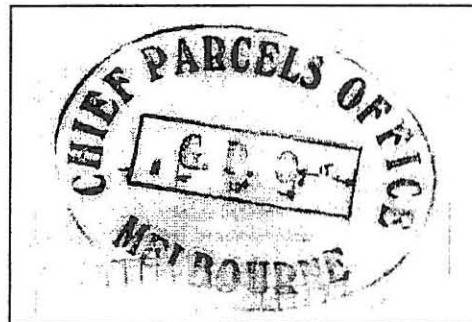
Brian Fuller has shown two Victorian Parcel Post labels used by Buckley & Nunn with several stamps which have different perfin patterns



Both illustrations are reduced to 60% of size. In the one at left, the perfins are (clockwise from top left) B&N.11, BN.5 and BN.2 and the date appears to be “..AY ..”. In the one at right, they are B&N.11 on the 1/- stamps and BN.5 on the 9d stamp and the date appears to be “..EP ..3”. Known date ranges for these perfins are 1912-1913 (B&N.11), 1912-1915 (BN.5) and 1911-1920 (BN.2), so 1913 usage looks likely for these pieces.

These combinations clearly illustrate that firms obtained these Victorian Service Punctures (from E. T. Moulden, in the case of Buckley & Nunn) in batches as required, resulting in them having stocks of different denominations with different patterns on hand concurrently.

Brian is also seeking help from anyone who may have whole or part copies of these Victorian large oval parcels hand stamps. They were used at the Chief Parcels Office, GPO, Elizabeth St., Russell St., Collingwood and Prahran post offices. Most places, except possibly Collingwood and Prahran, had two or more of each type in simultaneous use. Some have seriffed letters, some sans-serif.



Brian is keen to get information on the size of the hand cancels and their period of use. Earlier cancellers appear to have been made of leather so each canceller will be unique. Hence, even part of the cancel data would be of great assistance. Usage of these cancels includes Victorian postage stamps, Inland and Interstate Parcel labels, PP1s (CofA Parcels Post labels), blocks of KGV, Kangaroo, Large Lyrebird and other stamp issues from 1900 to 1950s. If you can also identify the earliest date of issue of your stamp that is cancelled, that would be of assistance. Contact Brian at [bifuller@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bifuller@optusnet.com.au) or messages can be left on (03) 9802 8802, or mobile 0400 532 400.