SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 78 JULY 2007

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

As perfin users and the premises of these users come from a wide range of activities and areas it is not too hard to find some patterns of relevance to most thematic collections. I noticed one such connection in a recent TV program on the locales used in the Harry Potter films. The well known perfins "C OF A" and "C/OF/A" were originally used at one of these sites. Yes, the attractive foyer of Australia House was used in some of the interiors in these movies. Other similar connections no doubt exist!

Apologies if your article or comments did not make it into this issue of the Bulletin. More next time.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

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

#235 Stellan Swenson, Olofström, SWEDEN

#236 David Walker, Ipswich Queensland

CLUB MEETING at HUTTPEX 2007

Richard Smolnicki has kindly arranged a meeting venue for Perfin Club members to get together at Huttpex 2007, a New Zealand National Exhibition, to be held in the Town Hall Complex, Laings Rd, Lower Hutt, NZ from 31 Aug - 2 Sep 2007. The meeting time is from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday, 1 September. Members are invited to attend, meet other members, and bring perfin items of interest.

CLUB MEETING, 16 JUNE 2007

Nine members and 6 visitors attended the Club meeting at Sydney Stamp Expo 2007 held in the Shannon Room, Royal Randwick Racecourse, Randwick (Sydney) at 2.30pm on Saturday 16 June. Four States, NZ and the ACT were represented. Apologies were received from 5 members.

The Secretary reported on recent increases in membership, on the current activity in the circuits and auctions, and an update on sales of the *Handbook of Australian Private Perfins*. The Treasurer presented an interim financial statement which was accepted unanimously, and an interim statement from our NZ assistant Treasurer was also presented and accepted. Final statements are included elsewhere in this Bulletin.

David Andersen reported that the new edition of Australian Official Perfins is close to being ready for the printer. It will have about 230 pages, and the cover style will be similar to the Handbook of Australian Private Perfins. The printer's quote is about \$5,200 for 500 copies. The meeting considered 500 copies to be appropriate for the print run, and agreed that the Club should finance the publication. If anyone has a contrary opinion, please notify the Secretary (with an alternative?) by August 31, 2007.

The Perfin Trivia Quiz, which was included with the January Bulletin, was won by Harold Waite of NZ with an almost perfect score! Second place went to Tony Nobilo, also from NZ. Congratulations to Harold and Tony.

Perfin mini-displays were presented by David Elsmore (perfins on Railway and Customs Duty stamps), Lindsay Parker (South Australian pastoral companies), Harold Waite ("NZIC(o)" perfins on NZ revenue stamps and world issues) and Mark Saxby (a selection of blocks, covers and other proving documents). Those present agreed that these were all very good displays. Mark Saxby also showed (the front of) a cover with an imprinted 1d red QV with perfin pattern BHP.1 through the imprint, plus an additional 2d mauve QV adhesive affixed also with BHP.1 perfin. Dave Elsmore's display is available for viewing at

http://www.revenuesociety.org.uk/invited-displays/perf/perfin-display.html

The Secretary indicated that he would like to retrieve the space in his garage currently occupied by the "VG" perforator, which he "saved" from a second-hand machinery dealer several years ago. Members present agreed that it would be appropriate for the Club to donate this perforator to a permanent home where it could be put on display as part of a philatelic exhibition.

CLUB PRIZE AT SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2007

As usual, the Club donated some money to be used for a prize at this exhibition. The organizing committee purchased a Royal Doulton Crystal Vase with our donation. This prize was awarded to the Best exhibit in the Open Section for Traditional Philately as there were no perfin exhibits. The winner was Maurice Williams with his exhibit "Symbol of Sydney – the Harbour Bridge" which also was awarded a Large Gold medal. Among the several 5/- Sydney Harbour Bridge stamps in this exhibit was one with a perfin!

POSTAGE PAID IMPRINT MYSTERIES

Although not within the category of perfins, a sheet of commercial "postage paid" imprints is enclosed. Member Arthur Taylor would be grateful if any reader can identify which company used the respective imprints on their envelopes. Data can be sent to the Secretary for collation.

MEMBERS' DISPLAYS AT SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2007

Congratulations to the following Club members for their non-perfin displays at this exhibition:

David Elsmore – "NSW Revenues" (Vermeil), and "Tasmanian Revenues" (Vermeil). Harold Waite – "New Zealand Registered Stationery Envelopes 1884–1980" (Silver). Colin Salt – "New South Wales – The Machine Date Cases of the Country and Suburban Offices (including Canberra and the A.C.T.)" (Silver).

WANTED

New member Stellan Swenson is interested in perfin covers from Sweden, and perfin covers of Australian firms which were agents for Swedish companies (do any readers know of such Australian firms?).

Member Colin Clark Hutchison is keen to acquire an official Tasmanian Government cover with a 1927 1½d Canberra issue perf "T".

If any members have any such material on offer, they may contact Stellan or Colin via the Secretary.

POLISH PERFINS IN BRITAIN

The Polish Canadian Coin and Stamp Club "Troyak" website www.troyakclub.com allows access to their Club Bulletin online. Included in Bulletins no.47 and 48 is an extended article on the commemorative perfins used by a significant number of Polish organizations in Britain entitled "Short History of Perfins from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II" by Jan Korrzeniowski. Quite a useful article as it brings together information from quite a few sources.

These Polish organizations are an interesting if fairly expensive originator of a wide range of perfins and associated covers. Most are found mainly on the souvenir covers they have prepared

PERFIN EXHIBITS on "VIRTUAL EXHIBITION" web site

There are some perfin exhibits on the following web sites:

http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0116/index0116a.htm; http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0036/index0036a.htm; http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0033/index0033a.htm; http://www.japhila.cz/hof/0009/index0009a.htm.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

Statement of Receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2007 (New Zealand account).

Receipts (NZ\$)	Expenditure (NZ\$)			
Bank Balance 1.7.2006	164.85			
Circuit book sales	2357.05	Auction vendors	257.55	
Subscriptions	12.00	Transfer to Aust. A/c	2279.49	
Interest	16.75			
Auctions	272.60	Bank balance 30.6.07	286.21	
Total	2823.25	Total	2823.25	

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

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Statement of Receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2007 (Australian account).

Receipts (A\$)		Expenditure (A\$)	
Bank balance 1.7.06	12722.00		
Subscriptions	265.00	Bulletins	904.35
To members' credit	157.30	By members' credit	1000.00
Bank interest	1.11	Bank & Govt charges	15.00
Exchange Branch	16324.15	Exchange Branch	18864.35
Auction 1/06	12061.50	Auction 1/06	10985.40
Auction 2/06	3235.50	Auction 2/06	2582.80
Transfer from NZ a/c	2000.00	Postage & Stationery	892.70
Interest, Term Deposit	714.00	T'fer to Term Deposit	7000.00
Handbook sale	110.00	Stamp Expo 2007	150.00
		Bank balance 30.6.07	5190.96
Total	47590.56	Total	47590.56

<u>Term Deposit</u> - Balance 1.7.06 \$14,000 Added 7,000

Balance 30.6.07 \$21,000

Our thanks to David Coath for his good work in managing our Australian account.

SWAN RIVER STAMP SHOW 2007 SOUVENIRS

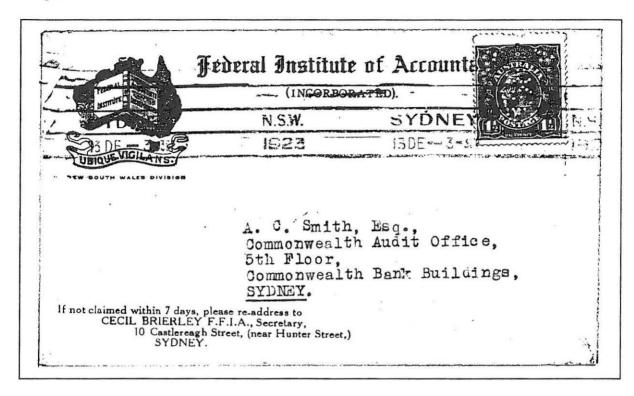
Once again souvenir covers with perfins will be issued for the Swan River Stamp Show to be held in October later this year.

Exhibition covers with a single 50c P-Stamp with the Western Australian Philatelic Council W(swan)A perfin will be serviced for each of the two days of the Exhibition @ \$2.50 for each envelope.

Contact Glen Stafford, SSRS 07 Souvenir Manager, PO Box 1285 Mandurah WA 6210. Email Stafford@southwest.com.au. Prepayment is required.

UBIQUE VIGILANS - ALWAYS VIGILANT

Harold Waite has shown the cover below which provides a confirmed identity for perfin B&B.1.



The Handbook of Australian Private Perfins had 2 possible identites for this pattern, one of which was Brierley and Brierley, Chartered Accountants, 82 Pitt Street, Sydney. Cecil Brierley has used one of his company's perfinned stamps on a cover of the Federal Institute of Accountants, of which he was a Fellow and also Secretary.

Harold found this cover at the recent Sydney Stamp Expo ahead of other PCNZA members! "Ubique Vigilans" indeed!

"HSLD" PERFIN PATTERNS - A DETAILED STUDY (David Coath)

Firstly, let me say that this is the greatest challenge I have faced in my perfin collecting. Several of these patterns are very similar to each other, and to sort them I have had to take tracings of each one and then compare the next stamp to that tracing. In this process, I frequently had to re-check piles that I had sorted and confirm that they were different to the new tracings that I had just made. Once I had sorted them, I then randomly cross-matched stamps from one pile against the tracing of another pile to ensure that all the piles I had were indeed different. Only once I had the distinct piles of a pattern did I look at the postmarks to confirm that they were from the same usage location. While on this point, the usage stretches all across Australia and right up the coast of Queensland. It is unlikely that they had central machines and issued stamps out to dispersed areas, and this is generally supported by the postmark evidence, but there are exceptions. In all I have sorted about 500 HSLDs to the following conclusions.

There are 5 distinct layouts for the HSLDs

HSLD.1, .2, .10, .11, .12, and .13 - The 'D' starts between the last 2 holes in the foot of the 'L'.

HSLD.3 - The 'D' starts after the end of the 'L'.

HSLD.4 - Is taller and easy to spot.

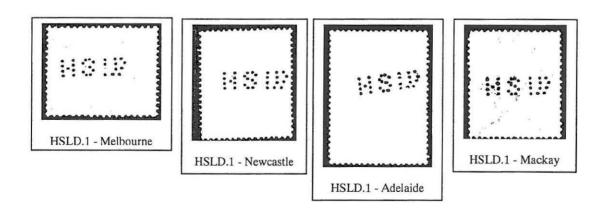
HSLD.5, .6, .8, and .9 - The 'D' starts over the last hole of the 'L'.

HSLD.7 - Has a distinctive S with 3 holes across the top in lieu of the 4 holes in most of the others.

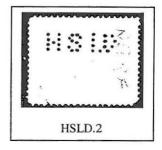
Layout 1 – HSLD.1, HSLD.2, HSLD.10, HSLD.11, HSLD.12 and HSLD.13

These patterns are all very close to each other, even more than normal for this user, and in sorting them out I have looked to find the subtle variations in the positioning of the various letters and at times merely the locations of holes within a letter in order to get the different patterns. Having found that some identical patterns were used in remote locations I have revisited the sorting of each of these patterns with the usage location in mind and in most cases found consistent variations that indicate a different, albeit near identical, machine. In this instance I have referred to them as types.

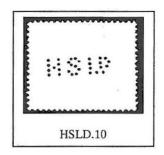
HSLD.1. To me the distinguishing feature of HSLD.1 is the slight bow in the back of the 'D'. There are separate types that are from machines in Melbourne (1920-1931), Newcastle (1927-1947), Adelaide (1916-1950) and Mackay (1934-1951). The Mackay type is easy to see and the Adelaide type has distinct spacing in the middle of the leg of the 'L' that would almost make it a separate pattern. But the Melbourne and Newcastle types (if they are different types at all) are so close that they can only be reliably distinguished by the postmarks. I cannot find evidence to support any Cairns use.



HSLD.2. This is the Fremantle machine but the pattern in the Handbook is not quite right. There is no Newcastle use that I can find for any pattern that matches the pattern that carries the Fremantle postmark. The only date I have is 1926.



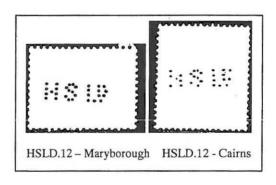
HSLD.10. This pattern is consistent but usage is shown from Melbourne, and Newcastle as well as Sydney. Melbourne usage is 1923 – 1924, Newcastle from 1916 – 1923, and Sydney from 1917 - 1921. Perhaps these and the HSLD.1 "types" will show a machine on the move rather than 3 machines.



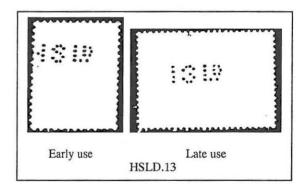
HSLD.11. This machine is certainly located in Innisfail, and interestingly almost all the duty stamps that I have found with HSLDs carry this pattern. I have not found any Townsville postmarks in the ones I have. I have found the early usage in 1915, but also there is a period of later use from 1941 to 1951, including on Duty Stamps.



HSLD.12. I have found 2 types for this pattern. From the postmarks they were used in Cairns (1932-1940) and Maryborough (1915-1940). The Maryborough type has a consistently slightly larger hole size, and a slightly narrower 'D' than the Cairns pattern. Early usage starts in 1915.

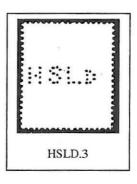


HSLD.13. This machine was used in Rockhampton and is distinguished by its partial 'H' and its small 'D'. I have some with the bottom of the 'H' intact but none with a complete 'H'. The postmarks are all Queensland TPO No. 5 N.C. (from 1915) and Rockhampton (mainly 1930s-1940).



Layout 2 – HSLD.3

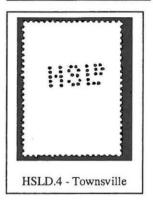
HSLD.3. This pattern is unique in the HSLDs in that the 'D' follows the 'L' on the same level rather than being over the 'L'. I only have 2 of these and they are 1d red KGV stamps with Brisbane postmarks. My findings do not support the use on Queensland issues but the pattern is so easily identifiable that I have no reason to suspect that the Queensland use is not correct.



Layout 3 - HSLD.4

Again this is an uncharacteristically easy HSLD.4. HSLD to identify. It is much taller than all the other patterns. Queensland postmarks are predominant, in particular Townsville and Brisbane, but I have some nice Melbourne cancels as well. There is a subtle difference that is suggested to the eve in terms of the location of the inner hole at the base of the 'H' that is different. The Queensland ones have the hole kinking in and the Melbourne ones are straight. But when you lay the patterns over each other they seem to match perfectly and they both match to fresh tracings of each other. Given the argument above regarding machine hole locations giving types then you could present a case for a Melbourne type but it is not strong. Melbourne usage is from 1915 to early 1920s. Townsville use is from the 1920s to 1946. This suggests a possible 2-head device initially located in Melbourne, and later sent to Townsville.



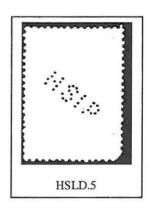


Layout 4- HSLD.5, HSLD.6, HSLD.8 and HSLD.9

Again these patterns are very similar. In particular, HSLD.5 and HSLD.6 are very close to each other (both 7 hole 'D'), and HSLD.8 is likewise very close to HSLD.9 (both 6 hole 'D').

HSLD.5. The HSLD.5 and HSLD.6 patterns are essentially the same except that the HSLD.5 has smaller holes and there is a bulge in the second bottom hole of the left hand leg of the 'H'.

I have found that almost all of what I had noted as HSLD.6 are best described as HSLD.5. This is certainly a Sydney machine and I can only find these postmarks. Usage was from the early 1920s (1921) until use on the KGVI definitives of 1937.



HSLD.6. This pattern is essentially a HSLD.5 (without the bulge in the leg of the 'H') but has larger holes and this is why the images in both of the books show the holes running together. It is a Sydney machine (like HSLD.5) and the usage is later, starting with the first KGVI definitives and going up until the commemorative issues of the early 1950s. What's more, I can find some early ones of these that have what could be called normal-sized holes but do not have the bulge of HSLD.5. These date from 1915 to 1951 and again all have Sydney postmarks.

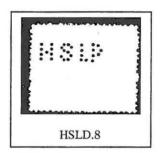


Are HSLD.5 and HSLD.6 the same machine? From the postmarks, it is clear that these are Sydney machines and the usage of them does not seem to overlap. A case could be made for them to be considered as 3 manifestations of the same machine as follows:

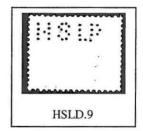
1915 to 1920-ish	Normal sized holes with no bulge in 'H'
1921 to 1937-ish	Normal sized holes with bulge in 'H' (repair to machine or
	replacement of pin?) HSLD.5.
1938-ish to 1952	Larger holes with no bulge in 'H'(subsequent repair or new
	machine made to same pattern) HSLD.6.

Just as the case could be made for them to be considered as one pattern, you could also argue that they could be 2 or 3 patterns, 1 if you consider the position above to give 3 types; 2 as per the current Handbook but show early use of HSLD.6 or consider it to be 2 types of HSLD.5; or 3 if you call each a separate pattern.

HSLD.8. This is a Melbourne machine from all the post mark evidence and I cannot find anything that looks like any Adelaide use. The usage is interesting, going from about 1915 until the middle of the 1930s and then restarting in about 1946 - 1951.

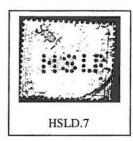


HSLD.9. All the postmarks for this pattern that I have are Port Pirie (early) or Adelaide (late). Usage is from 1917 up until 1948.



Layout 5 - HSLD.7

HSLD.7. Like HSLD.3 and HSLD.4, this is a distinctive and easy to identify pattern. The postmark evidence supports a machine in Melbourne.



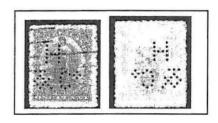
[Note by John Mathews. David has done a great job with this survey, and I most grateful for the checking of dates, postmarks and pattern details which he has done. As far as postmarks are concerned, one must keep in mind that the company ran many ships which plied their trade around the Australian coast. It is possible that ships' captains were given stamps when they called in to a port but did not post letters until the next port. Hence, there may be some cases where a particular pattern occurs on a stamp with a postmark which does not agree with David's overall findings in this article.]

NEW ZEALAND PERFINS: A NEW DISCOVERY (Stephen Jones)

Compared with Australia, the pool of perfin types found on New Zealand stamps is very small, probably less in total than the recorded varieties of some official perfins of the Australian States. Of the approximately forty identified types, eleven of these are known from fewer than six examples with some of them being unique, and with a number of others that would be considered very scarce. To my knowledge, examples of all the known patterns were found in the late Robert Samuel's collection, many of which were sold by Paul Wales through his auctions in 2005 and 2006.

I have been collecting New Zealand perfins for some years and had never considered the possibility of a completely new pattern being discovered, so I was very surprised to see what looked to be a new pattern in a small group of perfins offered in a lot on an Internet auction. Unfortunately for me, another collector had also spotted the item and was rather reluctant to let it go for a price that didn't bring tears to my eyes!!

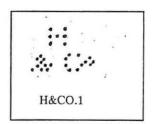
However, it was all worth it once I had received the lot and had a chance to have a closer look at the stamp. From the front of the stamp, the perfin is in two lines and reads as "H & Co" with the "H" being centrally located over the "& Co". The perfin is punched in a 1d "Universal" stamp but the cancellation provides no clue as to the date of



use or the Post Office where it was posted. As the stamp is printed from the Royle plate, it would date the printing and its probable use, from around 1906 - 07.

There are three known New Zealand perfins that include the letter "H" as part of the design: HB, HD & Co, and HMC & Co. The HB perfin is for Henry Berry and combines the two letters together and does not include the ampersand. The very few (less than 3) examples of the HD & Co perfin, attributed by Samuel to H Davis & Co in Nelson, are dated considerably earlier, in the 1870's, and although the "H" crossbar has two holes in it, the ampersand is different so it is unlikely to be a variation of this pattern. The HMC & Co perfin for HM Chisholm and Company in Auckland is scarce and according to Samuel is found used in the period 1908 – 09. This is a three line pattern and the "H" has only a single hole for the crossbar. I am confident that this new perfin it is not a variation of any of these patterns.

There are a number of companies that had offices in both New Zealand and Australia so I considered the possibility that the stamp may somehow have been perfinned at an Australian branch of the company. A check through the "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins" revealed that there was a two lined "H & Co" perfin known (H&CO.1), but there is sufficient variation to be certain it is not a strike of this punch.



In a 1958 publication by R Startup, "New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Insignia", he indicates that three companies, Guardian Assurance Co Ltd, Famous Lasky Film Services Ltd and Turners & Growers Ltd were given authorisation to use a perfin but would seem not to have done so. None of these would have incorporated an "H" in the pattern and their authorisations were granted much later than the apparent period of usage for this stamp. While there is little likelihood that the company will ever be

identified, a glance through perfin reference material will show that this is not an unusual occurrence.

There others usages for stamps in New Zealand that would provide the opportunity for the stamp to be perfinned. Collectors of New Zealand revenues would be familiar with practice of using a perfin punch as part of the cancelling process of these stamps. However, this pattern is quite different from that used in this stamp, these didn't come into use until the early 1930s, and this stamp is postally, not fiscally, used. New Zealand stamps have on rare occasions been applied to documents that have subsequently been sent to the UK, and probably other countries, and perfinned as part of the servicing process of the parent document, but again the postal cancellation rules this out.

I believe that some bogus perfins have been created by drilling the holes through the stamp rather than by punching, but I am not aware of any NZ items done in this manner. Under magnification, there are paper fibres extending into one or two of the holes and, to my understanding, this indicates that the holes were punched in the paper.

One unusual feature of the pattern is the shape of the ampersand but whether this is of any significance, I cannot say. With only one exception that I could find (there may be others), the typical shape of the top of the ampersand in Australasian perfins is a diamond but in this new example, the top is triangular. The one exception I noted was an Australian pattern, SH&CO.2.

It is most surprising, to say the least, that a new pattern could appear after nearly 100 years, but given the nature of the origin and purchase, I am as confident as I can be that this is a genuine new pattern. For me, it is items like this that keep me looking for the next bit of "buried treasure" with the knowledge that something always turns up.

References:

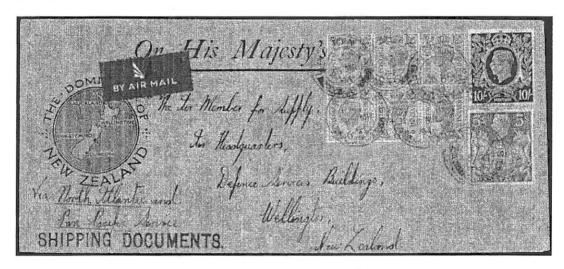
An Exhibition Display of New Zealand Stamps With Perforated Initials (the Robert Samuel exhibit), 1994 Published by Shades Stamps Shop Handbook of Australian Private Perfins, 2003 Edited by J Mathews New Zealand Stamps with Perforated Insignia, 1958 RM Startup

[Notes by John Mathews:

- 1. This item appears to be the one Robert Samuel once sighted see SPPB, January 2001, page 4.
- 2. The Australian perfin pattern H&CO.1 is an example of a Victorian Service Puncture, and was probably used by a relatively small Melbourne company with no New Zealand branch.
- 3. The style of the ampersand in this new NZ "H/&Co" pattern is the same as that in a "standard" GB perfin alphabet, the ampersand being designated "Type I". However, of the 11 "H/&CO" patterns listed in the old GB perfin catalogue, none has this type of ampersand.]

"NZ" PERFIN AIR MAIL COVER

In the June 2007 issue of the Bulletin of The G.B. Perfin Society, Michael Millar reports the cover shown being sold in the Vance Auctions (Canada) sale of 7 May. The 1941 Air Mail cover is franked with KGVI definitives - a block of 6 x 6d, a 5/red and a 10/- dark blue, all perforated. Because it was posted during World War II (but before the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour), it was sent "via North Atlantic and Pan Pacific Service" as indicated in manuscript. The cover also bears a rubber stamp "SHIPPING DOCUMENTS" – they must have been rather heavy to warrant 18/postage. The cover was estimated at CDN\$50, but the final price was CDN\$375.



(illustration reduced in size)

AUCTION WATCH

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

				Est.	
a.	1/- black Victoria Centenary perf BLTD.1	. (eBay, Jan 07)	sold for	\$ 10	
b.	5/- SA "Long Tom" perf HS&CO.1	(eBay, Jan 07)	sold for	\$ 10	
c.	5/- Roo perf GDCOA.1	(eBay, Jan 07)	sold for	\$ 22	
d.	5/- SA "Long Tom" perf GWA.1	(eBay, Jan 07)	sold for	\$ 13	
e.	. 1969 10c aerogram perf "G/NSW", used by NSW State Fisheries Laboratory				
	(6	eBay, Jan 07)	sold for	US \$31	
f.	Corner horizontal pair of £1 Robes with Jo	ohn Ash imprint (mint)			
	(6	eBay, Jan 07)	unsold at	GBP 70	
g.	NZ "DB&CO" (2 line) on pr 1/2d green Mt	t Cook, 1 strike inverted			
	(/	Auckland City Stamps auction, May	07)	NZ \$ 75	
h.	"RR/&CO" on Victorian 2d mauve QV on cover of Robert Reid & Co to Tasmania.				
	(1)	Launceston Phil. Soc. Sale, May 07)		\$ 20	
i.	1913 £2 Kangaroo perf large "OS" (reported in the May 2007 issue of The Perfins Bulletin			in	
	of the US Perfins Club)		sold for	\$46,000	
j.	NZ "NZF" perfin on 1d SSF with advert on back ("Truebridge, Miller & Reich,				
	Wellington") (6	eBay, Apr 07)	sold for	US \$ 17+	
k.	NZ "C&G" perfin on 1d SSF with advert of	on back ("Beecham's Pills")			
	(6	eBay, Apr 07)	sold for	US \$ 19+	
1.	NZ "C&G" on 2d SSF (I	David Holmes Sale, July 07)		NZ \$ 25	