

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 79 OCTOBER 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

As you will see from later in this Bulletin, the second edition of “Australian Official Perfins” is finally available. It has certainly taken a while, converting the typewritten copy to Word (and finally to a .pdf file for the printer! jhm), through software changes, computer crashes and of course adding more detail and information. Quite some way from the simple checklist I needed to take to fairs so I could see what I needed. Most of the additional information came from a large number of other collectors, some providing extra information regularly, others a bit every now and then. It is only with this type of assistance that such a book can be attempted.

Another major source of information has been the many articles published in philatelic journals including this Bulletin. A substantial bibliography is included that can be used to find more detailed information on various aspects. To include all of this information would have entailed a massive tome that would probably never be finished, as much work would be needed to achieve the same amount of detail in all areas. The aim of this edition is to provide enough detail to assist the majority of collectors. Others may wish to elucidate particular areas or aspects in greater detail, and the scope for such activity is very large.

No doubt there are some items that I have been informed about and neglected to incorporate, as I am by nature not the most meticulous person. For any errors or omissions I apologise. However, there will be many unreported items that turn up in future. For example, new local government items frequently turn up in club circuit books, which is hardly surprising as they have been neglected for so long. Reports about unreported material will be either reported in this Bulletin or in an update at some stage. I have no plans at this stage for a third edition. I hope you find this new edition of some use.

David Andersen

## NEW MEMBERS

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

#237 Stephen Mansell Glenfield, NSW  
 #238 Greg Neumann East Maitland NSW

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## CLUB MEETING at HUTTPEX 2007

Richard Smolnicki had kindly arranged a meeting venue for Perfin Club members to get together at HuttpeX 2007 on Saturday, 1 September. Unfortunately only 2 members turned up.

The PCNZA prize was awarded to Rick Oxenham for his display of Airmails of Belgian Congo, which won a Gold medal award.

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## RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many thanks to all of you who have forwarded your subscriptions to the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer so promptly. This may also serve as a (not-too-subtle) reminder for those who may have overlooked to do so.

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## PERFINS IN AUCTION

Richard Smolnicki advises that "The Royal NZ Philaletic Society is disposing a philatelic collection accumulated by the late Jim Brodie. The next auction, due to be listed in October 2007, closing 8 November, includes a number of NZ perfins and some GB NZ and NZL perfins. The auction list can be found in <http://www.rpsnz.org.nz/>."

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## EXCHANGE BOOK CIRCUITS

Any member in Australia or New Zealand who would like to be added to these circuit lists, please contact the respective circuit managers (addresses on front page of the Bulletin). Books contain a variety of material – mainly Australian private perfins and officials but also a good quantity of perfins from around the world. Covers are also included from time to time. Individual stamps range from rare to common.

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## PERFIN CLUB MEETING AT CANBERRA STAMPSHOW 2008

Canberra StampShow 2008 will be held at the Hellenic Club, Woden, A.C.T. from Friday 14 March to Sunday 16 March 2008. The organizing committee has kindly allocated time in the meeting room from 12.00 to 1.00 pm on the Saturday 15 March for a meeting of the Perfin Club. We hope to see many members there. Bring items of interest to share with others, or just come to join in the conversation.

“AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL PERFINS” by DAVID ANDERSEN – A LITERATURE  
REVIEW  
(John Mathews)

It is 20 years since David Andersen produced the first edition of “Australian Official Perfins”. Much new information has been gathered since then, both in terms of issues known with the various patterns, and of information about the production and usage of the patterns.

This second edition, which has 236 A4-size pages, includes the Commonwealth Official Perfins on issues of each of the States and the Commonwealth period, plus those found on the stamps of North-West Pacific Islands and Papua, and the “CofA” and “C/of/A” perfins used by the Australian Government in UK.

State Government Official Perfins for each State include not only the stamp issues, but also various items of postal stationery such as postal cards, aerograms, wrappers, etc. A new discovery was made on an aerogram as the final draft was being proof-read! A detailed listing of the “VG” punctures of the Victorian State Government is not included in “Australian Official Perfins”, as these have been thoroughly written up in a monograph by Neale Scott and Bryan Toop. However, David has included a detailed description of the history of the “VG” patterns and some interesting examples of their use. The other Victorian Government patterns and those of the Victorian Government instrumentalities are included in “Australian Official Perfins”.

The section on Local Government Perfins covers Councils and other Government instrumentalities, including a couple which were not known at the time of the first edition.

The introductory pages include images of each of the pattern positions referred to in the tables of data, and identities of the users of each pattern to enable collectors easily to find the relevant section in the book where the issues are listed.

For each pattern, the list of issues extends to the different watermarks and edge perforation varieties, but does not include paper and colour varieties. All known pattern positions are listed for these issues.

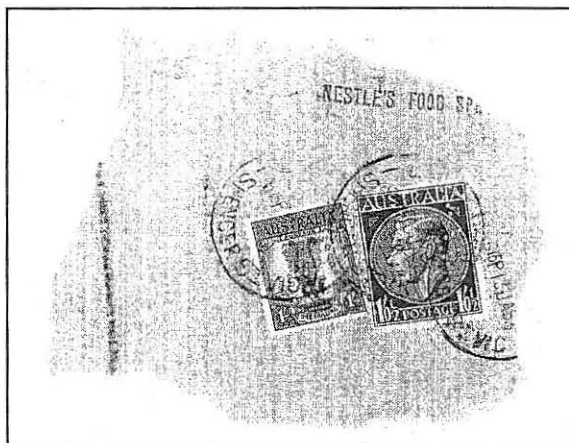
The thoroughness of David’s work is reflected in the very extensive Bibliography (over 4 pages). There are many illustrations of different examples of the usage of the various patterns.

This book is Perfect Bound, and has a similar cover style and colour to the companion volume “Handbook of Australian Private Perfins”. It has been published by the Club and is available through the Secretary.

Cost of the book will be A\$30 (with a A\$5 discount for financial Club members) plus postage. Postage is \$10 within Australia, A\$16 to New Zealand, A\$25 to USA/Canada, and A\$30 to UK/Europe. Some savings can be made on postage of multiple copies in the same package.

## NEW USER IDENTITY

John Amiet has shown the piece illustrated, and it shows how important it can be to leave stamps with perfin on even a piece of an envelope or wrapping. One of the stamps is the 1/0½d KGVI definitive, which was not a common denomination, and a stamp collector may easily have been tempted to soak it off paper to add it to a collection. Fortunately, in this case, the stamps have been left on piece as each has perfin NFS.1, and also appearing on the piece is part of a rubber stamp imprint "NESTLÉ'S FOOD SPE[CIALTIES]". This then confirms one of the possible users listed in the Handbook.




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## ANOTHER PRIVATE USE OF COMPANY PERFINS (John Mathews)

At the Sydney Stamp Expo 2007, I noticed a postcard with a NSW 1d Shield with perfin SBNE.1 used in 1904 to Auckland, New Zealand. The writer's surname was Jones (first initial unclear) and the return address was given as Spencer Road, Mosman. A check of the 1905 Sydney Directory showed about 10 residents in that street, including a "C. E. Jones". The 1906 Electoral Roll provided further information about this person – Charles Edward Jones whose occupation was given as "clerk". So H. G. H. Sandeman of Harrison, Jones and Devlin was not the only company clerk who apparently availed himself of company stamps for private correspondence, despite the use of perfins!

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## SOME PERFIN TRIVIA (John Mathews)

As I write this, an outbreak of equine influenza is seriously adversely affecting the horse-racing industry in much of Australia. Tattersall's is no doubt one organization so affected. This reminded me to report that the A.2 perfin of Geo. Adams (of Tattersall's fame) is now known used on Tasmanian stamps postmarked on every day of the month of July 1900 (the first such month). This is especially remarkable because July 1900 included five Sundays – 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Recent researching at the Tasmanian Archives indicated that Tattersall's staff probably augmented Post Office staff during busy periods, and quite probably on Sundays.

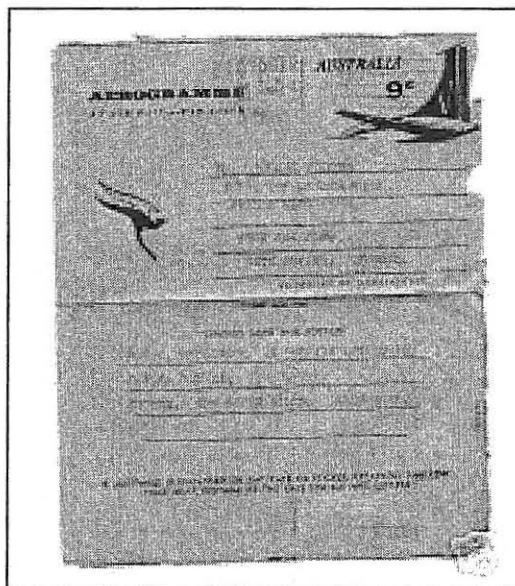
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## PERFINS ON 1927 "CANBERRA" ISSUE

Some more patterns have been reported on the 1927 Canberra issue – ED.1, FG.4, J&BS.7 and GM&COLTD.1. See Bulletin issues of January 2006 and July 2006.

## PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED AEROGRAM WITH PERFIN SOLD ON eBay

Just in time to be included in the new publication "Australian Official Perfins" by David Andersen (see details elsewhere in this Bulletin), an Australian aerogram not previously recorded as being known perfined has been sold on eBay. It is the 9c aerogram with "G/NSW" type D perfin and is postmarked 25 May 1967. The sender was the New South Wales Department of Tourist Activities. Bidding was keen for this item, as would be expected, and it sold for US\$92.



This now brings the total to 10 for the number of Australian aerograms known with this perfin.

## SUSPECTED FAKE "VG" ON HIGH VALUE ROOS SOLD AT AUCTION

We have been alerted to the sale of some Kangaroo and Map high value stamps sold in a recent auction of a Ferntree Gully (Victoria) auction house which may be fake perfins. The stamps had denominations of 5/-, 10/- and £1 and were all perforated "VG". The 5/- stamp had holes with the normal rough-cut edges, whereas the 10/- and £1 values had extraordinarily clean cut holes.

Collectors are reminded that a large quantity of fake "VG" material emanated from Queensland several years ago (the "culprits" have now all died), and is no doubt circulating in the market. The best reference for a listing of suspected fake items is in "Victorian Government Punctures", by Neale Scott & Bryan Toop (5<sup>th</sup> Edition, December 1993). One thing a viewer can do is check to see if there are traces of ink around the inside of the holes. A lack of ink would indicate that the holes were probably punched AFTER the postmark had been applied. For KGV issues, the "VG" die should be able to be matched to the position of the stamp in a row, if the latter can be ascertained from known printing flaws. For the Kangaroo and Map issue, only the first 3 "VG" dies should be possible due to the manner in which the sheets were folded before punching, and sideways strikes are highly improbable.

## AEROGRAMS SOLD ON eBay

Recently on eBay, two aerograms with perfins were sold. One was an Australian aerogram with 10d Aeroplane perf "G/NSW" type D, used by the Australian Travel Bureau in Sydney in November 1963. The other was a colourful Spanish aerogram commemorating a flight from Cadiz to Rome via Oujda (Morocco) and Palma (Mallorca) with an image of a Flying Boat with perfin "CADIZ (and the date)".

MESSRS BUTTON BROS (John Tyson)

Although the firm of Button Brothers has no perfin stamps produced like some other Tasmanian companies, the incoming mail may be of interest to other members.

Messrs Button Brothers were drapers, clothiers, grocers, ironmongers, buyers of wool and all kinds of fur skins (rabbit, kangaroo, possum, etc) with offices in Oatlands, Campbell Town and Zeehan. The business was founded by Mr H.E. Button in 1881 as a drapery at Oatlands and other branches were added later. The firm was a large buyer of wool and skins which were exported to England. Rabbiting was a large business in the area and, in the year 1899 alone, £800 to £1000 per month of rabbit skins were put through the business. His brother T.C. Button went into partnership with him in the early days of the Oatlands store and in 1891 he started the branch in Zeehan

H. E. Button and T. C. Button were natives of Gordon, near Peppermint Bay, Tasmania and were educated at the State School, Hobart under Mr. J. J. Reynolds. On leaving school H.E. Button entered the drapery establishment of Mrs McCormack of 'Manchester House' where he acquired a thorough knowledge of all aspects of the drapery business. Prior to starting the business in Oatlands in 1881, he worked in a number of businesses in different parts of Tasmania. T. C. Button also received training in the drapery business of Mr Farquhar of Liverpool Street in Hobart prior to joining his brother in partnership at the Oatlands store.

Outgoing mail

The two envelopes illustrated were sent from the Campbell Town store to the Oatlands store. One bears a return address and both are clearly sent by the same person.

Top:

Postmarked: Campbell Town DE 2 03

Backstamped:

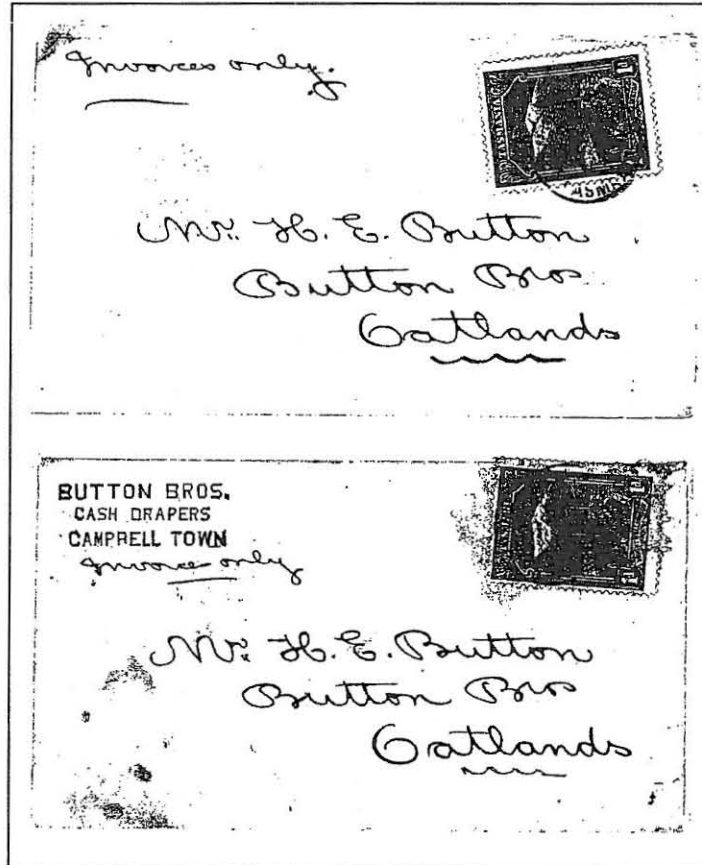
T.M.L. Ry No 3 DE 2 03  
Oatlands DE 3 03

Bottom:

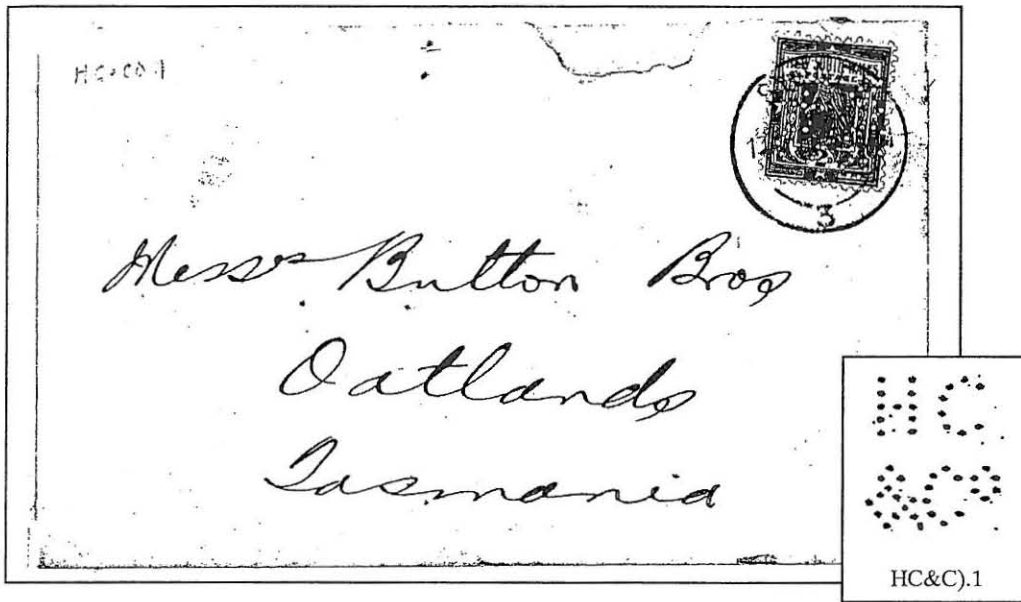
Postmarked: Campbell Town DE 5 03

Backstamped:

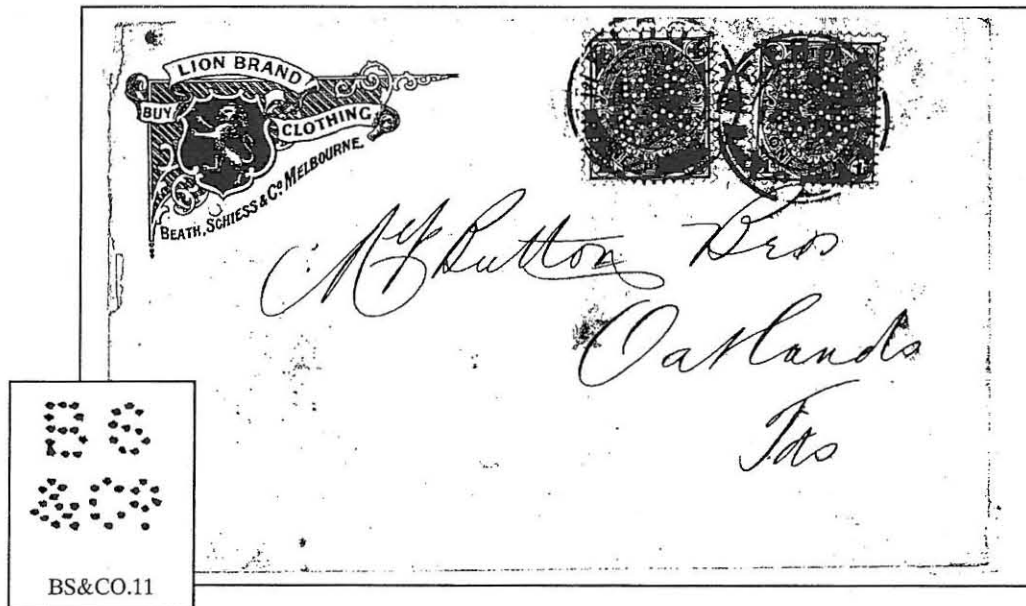
T.M.L. Ry No 3 DE 5 03  
Oatlands DE 6 03



Incoming mail



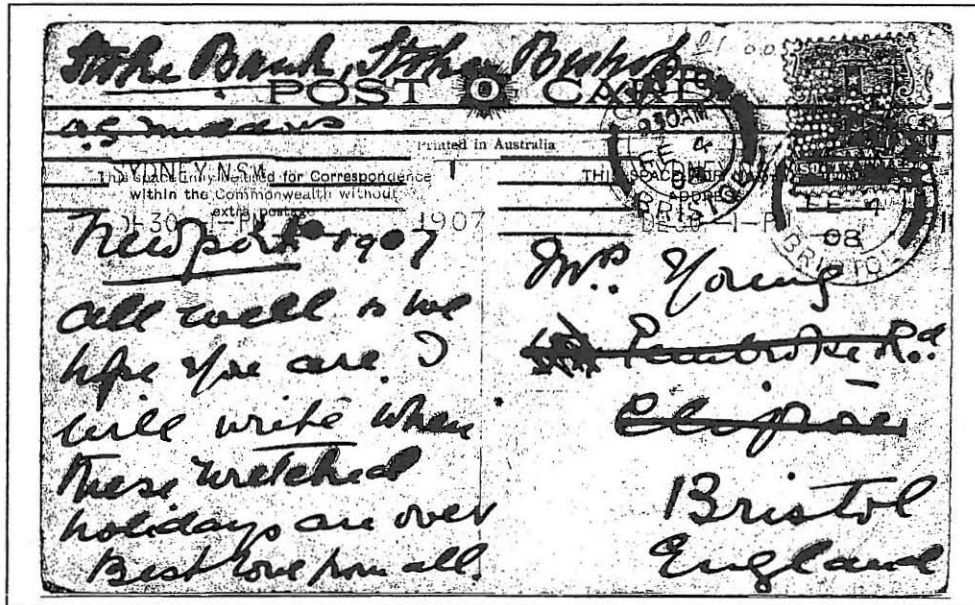
This envelope was sent by Hill Clark and Co., stock and station agents Sydney bearing the HC&Co.1 perfin. The user identification is printed in blue on the flap "Hill Clark & Co Auctioneers". Postmarked Sydney 12 MY 06 5 P.M. Back-stamped Launceston 7 – A 14 MY 06 and Oatlands MY 15 06.



The second example was sent by Beath Schiess & Co, Melbourne bearing the BS&CO.11 perfin. Postmarked Melbourne A.M. 4:30 14 3 03. Back-stamped Launceston A MR 16 1903 and Oatlands MR 17 03.

## MIDDOWS BROTHERS, SYDNEY (John Mathews)

Ken Killeen (from the Isle of Wight, UK) sent me a photocopy of the card shown which has apparent private use of a stamp with perfin MBS.1, known to have been used by Middows Brothers, Sydney. Near the top left corner is the name "A. S. Middows" and Ken asked me if that was one of the Middows brothers.



Ken (and I) thought that the annotation "Newport 1907" indicated the address at that time of the writer, presumably A. S. Middows, but a check of the Electoral Rolls and Sydney Directories failed to find such a person living at Newport. Newport is a northern Sydney suburb now, but in 1907 it would have been relatively isolated on the peninsula north towards Palm Beach. So the writer's reference to "these wretched holidays" probably indicates that he/she was on holiday at Newport and lived elsewhere. Entries for "Middows" in Sydney directories between 1900 and 1907 include the company, and also 2 private entries, one for "L. A. Middows" and one for "F. Middows".

The 1881 England Census shows Frank Middows (a merchant's clerk, 17 years old) and his 6-year-old brother Lionel Arthur living with their (widowed?) mother, Favourette Amelia Middows, who was the proprietress of the Cathedral Hotel in Park Street, Bristol. She re-married in 1892. Official BD&M records show that she had married Henry Lionel Middows (born 1831) at Hackney, London, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 1861. Births are shown for children Frank (1864), Sidney (1866), Hubert (1869) and Lionel Arthur (1875). I could not find Sidney or Hubert on the 1881 Census, but the death is recorded of a 21-year-old Hubert Middows at Paddington in 1890. At the 1891 England Census, F(avourette) Amelia Middows (widowed) was a boarding-house keeper at Paddington, London. None of her children were listed on that Census.

So it would appear that Frank and Lionel Arthur Middows came to Sydney, New South Wales, before 1891. From 1891, Sydney Directories list "H. M. Middows" as an agent for Wiggins, Teape & Co. of London. From 1894, Frank Middows is also listed. In



1894, Frank is shown as an agent for Hughes & Kimber Ltd (printers' engineers, of London), and from the following year, as a printers' furnisher in Ash Street, off 342 George Street, Sydney. H. M. Middows was at the same address and may be related to Frank, although I can find no other records of him. From 1901, the business is listed as Middows Brothers Ltd., distributors of motors, printing machines and photo processing materials. A motor with the company's name plate is held in the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney.

Frank Middows was a strong supporter of the Master Process Engravers Association of New South Wales from its inception in 1908 at a meeting on 29 May at the Criterion Hotel, Sydney. He became an Honorary Member of the New South Wales Association. Similar Associations existed in other States and they merged in 1923 to become the Master Process Engravers Association of Australia. Later this went through several name changes and in the 1990s was known as the Graphic Arts Services Association of Australia. A son of Lionel Arthur Middows, also Lionel Middows, of the same company was also active in the Association from the late 1950s to the mid-1970s.

Another member of the staff of Middows Brothers during the early years was Richard (later Sir Richard) Linton. He was born in Palmerston North, New Zealand, in 1879, and moved to Australia about 1899. Shortly after, he joined Middows Brothers, and managed their branches in Brisbane and Perth, and, from 1907, Melbourne. He later became Managing Director before retiring from the company in 1924. In 1927, he entered the Victorian Legislative Assembly. During the Depression, he devised several schemes including unemployment relief stamp tax. He resigned from Parliament in 1933, having been appointed agent-general for Victoria in London. His appreciation of tennis together with his interest in the welfare of young people led him, in 1923, to initiate an interstate junior teams' competition – the Linton Cup.



A group from the Master Process Engravers Association of New South Wales at Royal National Park, Sydney, 1921.  
Frank Middows is at left in front row.

This 1912 advertisement for a rotary perforator manufactured in Chicago, USA, lists Middows Brothers, Sydney, NSW as the Australian selling agents.

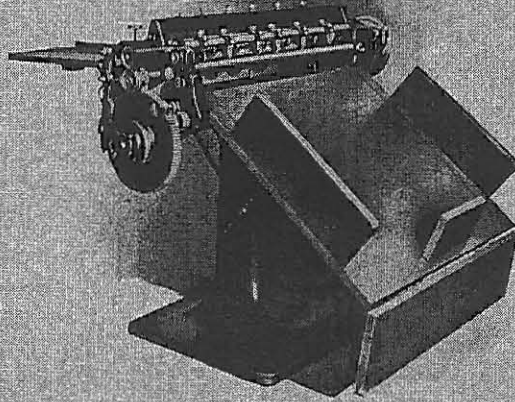
1912 A G Burton's Son Peerless Rotary Perforator Ad

## New Features Insure Increased Efficiency

The value and efficiency of the original "Peerless," already having a world-wide reputation, is greatly improved and will be known as the

### Universal-Peerless Rotary Perforator

It will be built in three standard sizes to take sheets 30, 36 and 42 inches wide, and each size will be equipped with six perforating heads and one scoring head.



These heads may be adjusted to perforate at parallel intervals of from five-eighths of an inch up to any desired width and the skipping cams may be adjusted to skip any interval from one and one-half inches up. Knife cut perforating heads, slitting heads and loose-leaf creasing heads may be attached if desired.

#### A FEW DISTINGUISHING FEATURES

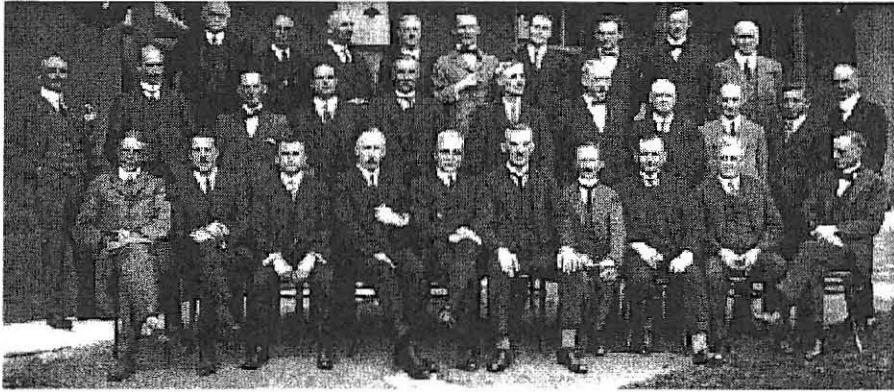
The frame is an artistic column that supports the perforating mechanism.  
There are no rubber bands or tapes used in the construction.  
All feed rolls are of metal.  
The bearings are oilless, and will never require lubrication.  
The feed-gauge is adjustable to either right or left hand feed.  
The burr-flattener is of a new design.  
The gearing is all protected.  
The finish is the very best.

We know that we have not overlooked a single feature in making this new model the most perfect mechanism for its purpose.

Manufactured by **A. G. BURTON'S SON** 118 to 124 South Clinton St.,  
CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

#### SELLING AGENTS

HANE BROS. & CO.	CHICAGO, ILL.	MIDDOWS BROS.	SYDNEY, N.S.W.
J. W. & E. SHERIDAN	CHICAGO, ILL.	J. C. FULLER CO.	NEW YORK
S. KOPHANSKI	LONDON, ENGL.	THE J. MERRISON CO.	TORONTO, CANADA
	BERLIN, GERMANY	JOHN DICKINSON & CO.	Agents for South Africa and India
	MULLER & RICHARD	WINNIPEG, MANITOBA	



A 1925 meeting of the Master Process Engravers Association of Australia, at Wentworth Falls, near Sydney.  
Frank Middows is at left in front row (without moustache or beard!).

The company was a respondent involved in the 2002 variation to the Graphic Arts Award 1977, when they were known as Middows Bros. Pty. Ltd., 103-107 Foveaux Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000.

Frank Middows died in Sydney on 4 May 1940, and Lionel Arthur Middows died in Toorak, Victoria, in 1953.

As a footnote, I could find no record of an “A. S. Middows” in either Australia or England. As a last resort, I looked for Frank’s family. According to New South Wales BD&M records, he married in 1902 in Sydney to Annie Greenway. No such person is recorded among New South Wales births, but an Annie Selina Greenway was born at Kensington, London in 1867 and was not married in England. She would seem to be the wife of Frank Middows and the writer of the postcard. She died in Sydney on 11 July 1946. However, the marriage record, Electoral Rolls and her death notice in the Sydney paper all show her simply as “Annie”.

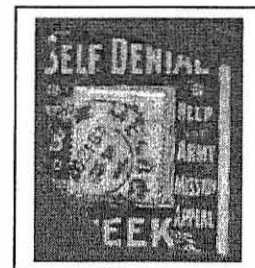
Of the English addresses on the card, Pembroke Road, Clifton (a suburb of Bristol), is only half a kilometre NW of Park Street and the Cathedral Hotel. The card was re-addressed to Stoke Bishop which is a further 2 kilometres north of Clifton.

[The photos in this article are from the web site <http://www.gasaa.asn.au/history.asp> ]

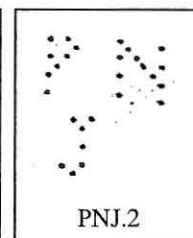
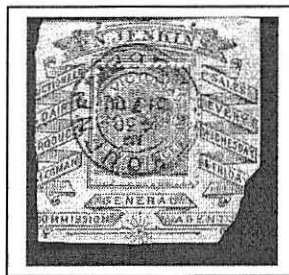
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## TWO INTERESTING PROVING PIECES

One of our members recently offered a group of perfin on eBay which included the item shown. The pattern was stated to be SA.1 of the Salvation Army, Melbourne. The “collar” around the space for the stamp reads “SELF DENIAL” across the top, “[W]EEK” at the bottom, “[OC]TOBER / [?]8 / [T]O / [?]OCTO]BER” at left, and “HELP / the / ARMY / MISSION / APPEAL” down the right side.



A few days later, Judith Sidaway (NZ) sent the second item, which also has an advertising “collar”. The pattern is a new “PN/J” perfin which will be PNJ.2. It shows the user to be P. N. Jenkins (scroll across top), which had been listed in the handbook as a probably identity for PNJ.1. In the scroll at left are the words “Auctioneers & Dairy Produce Salesman”, at right is “Sales Every Wednesday & Friday”, and at the bottom is “General Commission Agent”.



An earlier report of a similar item was in issue number 28, July 1994, page 5 – pattern WCB&CO.1.

## AUCTION WATCH

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

	Est.
a. Trade card of Aulsebrook & Sons with NSW ½ d Queen perf A&SLD.1 (eBay, Jun 07)	sold for US \$38+
b. Third wmk 10/- Roo perf “OS”, CTO/FU. (eBay, Jul 07)	unsold at \$45
c. 1934 cover of Gollin & Co, Sydney, to Hawaii with 4d olive KGV perf G&COS.1. (eBay, Jul 07)	sold for US \$45+
d. Share certificate of CSR Co Ltd with strip of 3 Vic £1 revenues perf O&M.1 (eBay, Jul 07)	sold for US \$24+
e. NSW railway parcel stamps – 6d perf SH&CO.5, 1/- perf SH&CO.2. (eBay, Aug 07)	sold for \$53+
f. Victoria £5 revenue perf O&M.1. (eBay, Aug 07)	sold for \$212+
g. NZ 9d Terraces perf DB/&CO, Dunedin 1908 date stamp. (Ashford Stamps auction, Sep 07)	NZ \$ 20
h. NZ 4d Taupo perf DB/&CO. (Ashford Stamps auction, Sep 07)	NZ \$ 20
i. Long env of Elder, Smith & Co, Adelaide with 1d and 3 x 1½d KGV all perf ES.1 to USA. (eBay, Aug 07)	sold for US \$44+
j. NZ 3d SSF with DODGSHUN’S advert on back. (David Holmes Sale, Sep 07)	NZ \$ 20
k. NZ 9d Terraces perf RG/W. (David Holmes Sale, Sep 07)	NZ \$ 40
l. 3 Finland perfins. (eBay, Sep 07)	sold for US \$ 61
m. Australian 9c aerogram perforated “G/NSW” type D (see article this issue). (eBay, Sep 07)	sold for US \$ 90
n. NZ “F.B/Ltd” perfin on 1d Universal, and boxed “F.Bros./Ltd” cachet cancel on 6/- long QV Duty Stamp. (eBay, Sep 07)	sold for US \$ 11
o. NZ “R.G./N.” on 3d 1898 Pictorial. (Classic Stamps sale, Oct 07)	NZ \$25
p. NZ “SSE” on 1d SSF pair. (Classic Stamps sale, Oct 07)	NZ \$20

**CLUB AUCTION** – the catalogue is enclosed with this Bulletin. Bid early and bravely to avoid disappointment!!