SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 80 JANUARY 2008

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

Over the last couple of years, a significant number of forged Australian official perfins, both Commonwealth and State, have been offered for sale in traditional philatelic auctions and on online auction sites including eBay. In response, a dedicated number of collectors including some of our members have been doing what they can to combat this situation. Sometimes advising the vendor is sufficient for them to withdraw these suspect items from sale but a few who are fully aware of the nature of what they are selling are quite a deal more persistent. One of the successful meeting places for collectors to discuss these problem items is Stampboards.com at <u>http://www.stampboards.com</u>, a discussion list mediated by the well known Australian stamp dealer Glen Stephens.

While only a small number of posts relate to perfins, some of the threads can get quite long and include a lot of interesting discussion. Participants have had some success in restricting the sales of the forged material. For example, someone might post a query about an item, others may be able to offer opinions and tell of dealings with that vendor that are relevant and a consensus can be reached fairly quickly. Further action by participants has lead to eBay vendors being suspended and withdrawal of items from sale. While miscreants on the online auction sites can re-register under another name they do get caught out quite quickly and their sales are somewhat impeded. A big "thank you" to those involved in trying to limit these forgeries.

NEW MEMBERS

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

#239 William Waterson, Ipswich Queensland#240 Chris Pollock Portland, Oregon, USA

VALE BARRY CLARKE

It is with considerable sadness that we report the passing of NZ member Barry Clarke in October 2007. Barry had been a member since the Club was formed in 1987, and had served the Club well as Assistant Treasurer in New Zealand for several years.

NEW ZEALAND PERFIN USERS

Roy Gault, the editor of the New Illustrated Catalogue of Great British Perfins, is compiling a monograph of those perfins of Great Britain used by companies with Commonwealth connections. Are there any of our NZ (or other) members who could provide a short history of the following companies:

- Bank of New Zealand
- New Zealand Insurance Co.
- New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Co. Ltd
- High Commissioner for New Zealand (including any changes of address within London)
- McLean Brothers & Rigg Ltd.

Please send contributions to the Secretary for collating and forwarding.

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.

At that time, elections will be due for Club office-bearers for the coming 2 years. A nomination form is enclosed with this Bulletin. Please give some thought as to whom you would nominate for the various positions. Volunteers are always welcome, and nominators can be found if necessary! Please return nomination forms to the Secretary by 29 February 2008.

BNA PERFORATOR

Now being issued in colour this publication has become quite infrequent due to lack of contributions, a very common problem with some Society publications. The latest and only issue of 2007, v.28 no.1 (whole number 127) consists of 4 pages. Listed and illustrated are a new Canadian pattern 'RP', a late usage of the Ontario Province 'LA' pattern, some information about the 'SP' pattern and some nice Newfoundland covers used by the Newfoundland Development Company.

AUCTION 2/2007

This has been another successful auction with most vendors and bidders among the results list. There was much interest in officials and private perfins, Australian, New Zealand and "foreign" countries. Results are enclosed with this Bulletin. Members are invited to submit material to the Secretary by early April for the next auction.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some members will notice a coloured patch on their address label on the envelope. This indicates that our records show that the member may have forgotten to forward subscriptions for 2007/2008. A number written on the patch indicates the number of years in arrears if more than the current year.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND PERFIN (B.N.Z.): A FURTHER UPDATE

In the October 1991 Bulletin we published an article by Barry Pawson listing the Bank of New Zealand perfins on British stamps. David Warren provided some additional information about the B.N.Z. (die II - smaller letters, with stops used 1890's to 1940's) issues where the pattern was inverted or inverted reversed, these being uncommon, which was published in the April 2007 Bulletin.

Barry has had another look at this material and has a number of other issues also with this pattern that are inverted (Position 3), reversed (Position 5) or inverted-reversed (Position 7).

| 1902 KEVII 2/6 purple | Position 4 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1935/36 KGV 3d violet | Position 5 |
| 1935/36 KGV 1/- brown | Position 5 |
| 1935 Silver Jubilee 1 1/2d brow | wn Position 5 |
| 1935 Silver Jubilee 2 1/2d blue | Position 5 |
| 1936 KEVII 1/2d green | Position 5 |
| 1937 KGVI 1/2d green | Positions, 3, 5 and 7 |
| 1937 KGVI 1d red | Positions, 3, 5 and 7 |
| 1937 KGVI 1 1/2d red-brown | Positions, 3, 5 and 7 |
| 1937 KGVI 2d orange | Position 5 |
| 1937 KGVI 2 1/2d ultra | Position 5 |
| 1937 KGVI 3d violet | Position 5 |
| 1937 KGVI 6d purple | Position 5 and 7 |
| 1940 Postage Stamp Centenary | 2d orange Position 5 |



5

With the exception of the KEVII 2/6 and three items reported by David, two of which were before 1900, the inverted, reversed and inverted reversed copies are all from the period 1935 to 1940. As perforating stamps was usually done by a junior member of staff it is likely that the operator of the puncturing machine changed quite often. Possibly a new operator started in 1935 and the practice of perforating remained similarly inconsistent for the remainder of the perforator's use. This is a good example illustrating the influence of the operator on what we collect.

CIRCUIT BOOKS

Members, especially newer members, are reminded that the Club operates an exchange circuit with books circulating with perfin material, official and private, Australian, New Zealand and "foreign". Contact the Secretary if you would like your name added to the distribution list for the circuit. Members can also get empty books from the Secretary to fill with their own material for sale. It is a very good alternative to the Club auctions for selling a large number of individual items.

CLUB WEB PAGE

Member Dave Elsmore has kindly offered to link a Club web page to his own web site, and we hope to get it up and running very soon. Members who may have items of interest to add to this page are invited to forward them to the Secretary.

The web site is at

http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/dave1/perfin/perfin-club-new-zealand-australia.html or you can find it by a Google search on Dave Elsmore's name, and look for the link near the bottom of his index page.

TASMANIAN TRIANGLE PUNCTURE

An interesting entire from the H.L. White Collection with this rare puncture is illustrated in <u>Sydney Views</u> no.97 November 2007. Like the other covers known with this perfin the cover was used at Campbelltown and is dated 31^{st} May 1854.

A pencil annotation on the cover "Triangular hole in lieu of OS" if applied by Henry White seems to indicate that he had information that suggested official usage. It would be interesting to find out his source of this information as it would no doubt provide us with information about this issue. As the handwriting on the two covers I have seen illustrated is different it appears that it was used by a number of people but whether it is an official in the normal use of the term or just used by officials I think it is difficult to be certain. Official mail during this period did not normally need to bear stamps at all.

The H.L. White collection is housed in the New South Wales State Library, being a magnificent collection of Australian State and Colonial stamps donated in 1917 by Henry Luke White. Sections of the collection will be displayed during 2008 and the remainder can be viewed by appointment. Contact Arthur Easton (Phone 02 92731414) for an appointment. This collection including many official perfins is certainly reputed to be worth a visit.

SWAN RIVER STAMPSHOW 2007

Once again the Western Australian Stamp Promotion Council perfin W(swan)A was used to produce souvenir covers for the exhibition. Covers dated 20th October 2007 and 21st October 2007 with 50c P-Stamps were prepared. Publicity about this issue in the philatelic media in Australia was much improved from past years which was pleasing.

COLOURFUL TRADE CARD WITH PERFINS SOLD ON eBay

In June 2007, the trade card shown of Aulsebrook and Sons Ltd, Camperdown (Sydney, NSW) sold on eBay for US \$38-50. Unfortunately, the black-and-white reproduction does not do justice to the colourful illustrations of the biscuits!

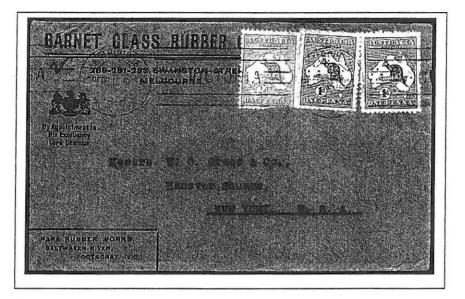
Diane Sip Kindly note that car Roprosentative, Mr. J. L. Aulsebrook ... will have the pleasure of onlying upon you on or with Samples 3.K. Katterns of our various Bacuits, Including Three New Line SHREDDED WHEAT, RAWSON CREAMS, 0.110 Etore MALTED MILK. Your orders shall reading our very best stiention. Yours faithfully, Cowra. AULSEBROOK & SONS LTD.. Bladuin Manisfastarian, Gamperdown, Sydmuy Soda Courbon Mak Amoratere

CATALOGUE OF PERFINS ON U.S. REVENUE STAMPS

Tony Nobilo advises that the first edition of this handbook is now complete. It has 882 pages and weighs about 2.5 kg. It should be available in January 2008 from the US Perfins Club Publications Sales Manager, David Lightle, 10616 Cielo Vista del Norte NW, Corrales, NM 87048, USA. Cost will be about US\$50 + postage. David's email is perfinpaul@msn.com.

"BG" PERFINS - BARNET GLASS RUBBER COMPANY (John Mathews)

The 1914 cover shown was offered in the Charles Leski auction in December 2007. It sold for \$120.00.



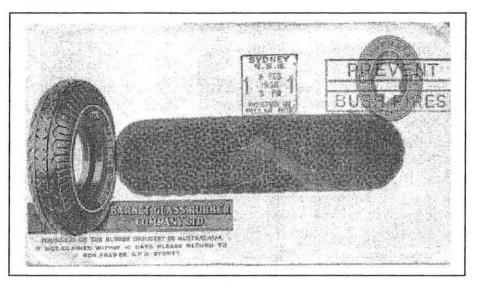
The 2 x 1d Kangaroo and Map stamps each have perfin pattern BG.1 (one upright, one inverted), whose user identity had not been previously known. The cover gives the user as "Barnet Glass Rubber Company, 289-291-293 Swanston Street, Melbourne", and adds "By Appointment to His Excellency, Lord Denman" (Governor-General of Australia, 1911-1914), and "Para Rubber Works, Saltwater River, Footscray (VIC)".

Barnet Glass was born in March or April 1849 in Walkivich, Russia (Poland), and died on 18 March 1918 at St. Kilda, Victoria. He entered the waterproof clothing business in 1870 in Manchester, England, and in his first big order, supplied waterproof groundsheets to the French Army, then engaged in the Franco-Prussian War.

He came to Melbourne in 1876 and founded the rubber industry in Australia. He began manufacturing waterproof clothing in Carlton, Melbourne, in 1878, trading as the Pioneer Rubber Company. In 1894, he opened an office in London, and a branch factory in Adelaide which was run by a nephew and son-in-law Phillip Joseph Glass. In 1899, they opened a new factory at Kensington, Melbourne, and by 1905, with his two sons Jacob (Jack) and Ezekiel (Ernest) in the business also, the company was known as Barnet Glass & Sons Pty. Ltd. when it was bought by Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company.

In 1908, with his two sons and two sons-in-law, he started a public company, Barnet Glass Rubber Co. Ltd. which manufactured tyres at Footscray, and was also agents in Australia for Michelin tyres. Within 10 years, he had established branches in every Australian State and New Zealand. In 1929, when they were making 9,000 tyres per week, this company merged (as a subsidiary) with the Dunlop Rubber Company, for which it had been the main rival. In 1941, Barnet Glass Rubber Company Ltd was fully absorbed by the Dunlop Rubber Company.

The PTPO advertising cover shown was used in 1936 by the Sydney branch of Barnet Glass Rubber Co. Ltd.



My thanks to member Lindsay Parker for alerting me to the listing of the perfin cover.

"THE GOOD OLD DAYS" (John Mathews)

David Coath has sent me a copy of a letter from The State Library of Victoria to a collector of perfins, which begins

"In reply to your enquiry concerning postage stamps known as 'perfins', we have made a search of the Library's files and published material, including reports of the Victorian Post Office and Telegraph Department between 1890 and 1900, but have not been able to find a complete list of companies which were allowed to perforate stamps with their initials in this way."

The letter then continues to cite three articles on perfins from the journal "Philately from Australia", two by Purves and one by Derek Pocock, with an offer to photocopy them for a total of \$1. It then lists those companies with bold type-face listings in the 1905 Victoria Post Office Directory which match 11 sets of perfin initials, a total of 18 companies. Only two sets of initials do not have listed companies which are now known as the user identities! Having spent much time searching directories for such matches, I know how much time this must have taken the library staff to compile.

The letter is personally signed by the Acting Librarian, and is dated in 1981. Ah, those were the days, although I must say that from my experience Readers' Advisors in libraries still offer the highest level of customer service you can find.

NZ KODAK PARCEL TAG

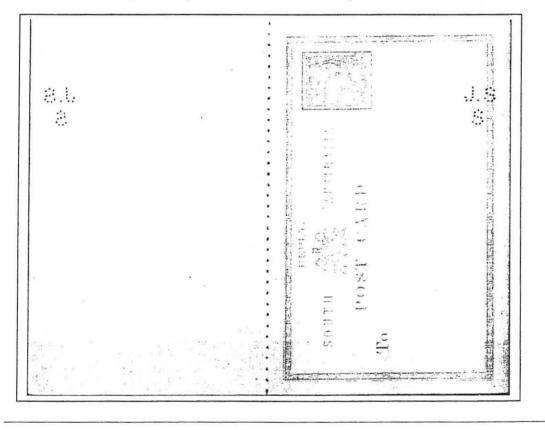
The tag shown was offered recently on eBay. Typically, the punched numerals are reversed as seen from the stamp side, indicating the stamp was not the target.



ANOTHER POSTAL CARD WITH JSS.4 "PERFIN"

Colin Clark Hutchison (Scotland) has shown a copy of a South Australian reply post card with the perfin pattern JSS.4. The card was sold (to another collector) at the Philatex stamp show in London in November 2007.

Previously, in this Bulletin, similar cards from Western Australia (January 2002, page 7) and New South Wales (April 2004, page 12) have been recorded but this is the first one your Secretary has seen from South Australia. All these cards have the pattern in a similar position, with the right side close to an edge of each card, suggesting that the head was positioned sideways on the perforator (with the "stop" position regarded as the back). The pins on this device must have been quite robust, as the South Australian card appears to have been perforated in the "closed" position with the pins going through a double thickness of card. By comparison, our Club perforator does considerable work just doing two thicknesses of stamps at one time!

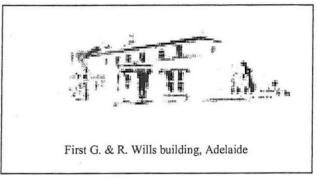


G. AND R. WILLS & CO. LTD and GEORGE WILLS & SONS (John Mathews)

These two firms were part of an extensive family of companies which also included George Wills & Sons Ltd (UK buying agents), George Wills (Inc.) (US buying agents), and George Wills (India) Ltd (buying agents in India). G. & R. Wills and Co. Ltd operated as warehousemen, importers and manufacturers of textiles and softgoods, while George Wills & Sons were ship-owners operating coastal shipping and ships on the Australia – England trade route, and merchants in Australia and New Zealand.

George Wills was born in the small village of Bridford, about 10 km west of Exeter, Devon, England, in 1825 to Thomas and Susanna Wills, and his twin brothers Henry and Richard were born in 1828. George and Henry came to South Australia in the ship "Minerva", arriving on 19 December 1849, bringing with them a number of packages of drapery and set up in business in Rundle Street, Adelaide. They unpacked their goods in an allotment largely covered with scrub. Henry died in Adelaide on 22 February 1850, and George was subsequently joined by Henry's twin, Richard, who had been apprenticed to a drapery firm in Exeter, England, and the firm became G. & R. Wills.





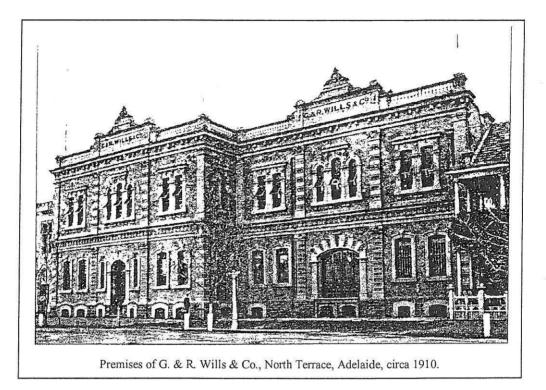
By about 1854, the business had expanded to the point where they needed to set up their own buying house in London. George returned to London at this time, got married there, and returned to Adelaide with his wife, Lucy, the following year. Their first two children were born in Adelaide before the family again returned to London in 1858 or 1859. In 1862,

Richard died in Adelaide at the age of 33 years, shortly after the birth of his only child, a son.

The 1881 Census of England lists George and his wife, Lucy, two daughters, four sons, two Australian-born nieces and five servants living in North London. Three of George's sons, George Tarlton Wills, John Henry Wills and Charles Percy Wills joined the firm and eventually became an integral part of the management team in London. George's fourth son, Arthur, became a barrister in London.

Rapid expansion saw branches in most other Australian States, including at Fremantle (1866), Hay Street, Perth (1896), Kalgoorlie (early 1890s), Broken Hill and Flinders Lane, Melbourne. Abroad they were associated with branches in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Paris, New York, San Francisco and Morocco. In 1881, they formed the shipping department into a separate company as George Wills & Sons. In 1884, G. & R. Wills & Co. joined a syndicate proposed by Anthony Hordern & Sons of Sydney to build the Great Southern Railway from Perth to the port of Albany, West Australia. This was later taken over by the West Australian Government.

For a while, the company's main premises were in Grenfell Street, but a new sixstorey headquarters was built on North Terrace in 1914, extending through to Rundle Street and with a total floor space of 3 acres. At the same time, it was found that the importing was too slow to keep up with demand, and then the Depression meant rapid turnover was needed to maintain profits, so they turned to local manufacture. A clothing factory was established in Pulteney Street, and a factory for boots, shoes and leather goods started in Pirie Street. They specialised in shirts, pyjamas, and industrial gloves, and the branch in India produced sheets, towels, etc. The name had become G. & R. Wills & Co. in 1913.



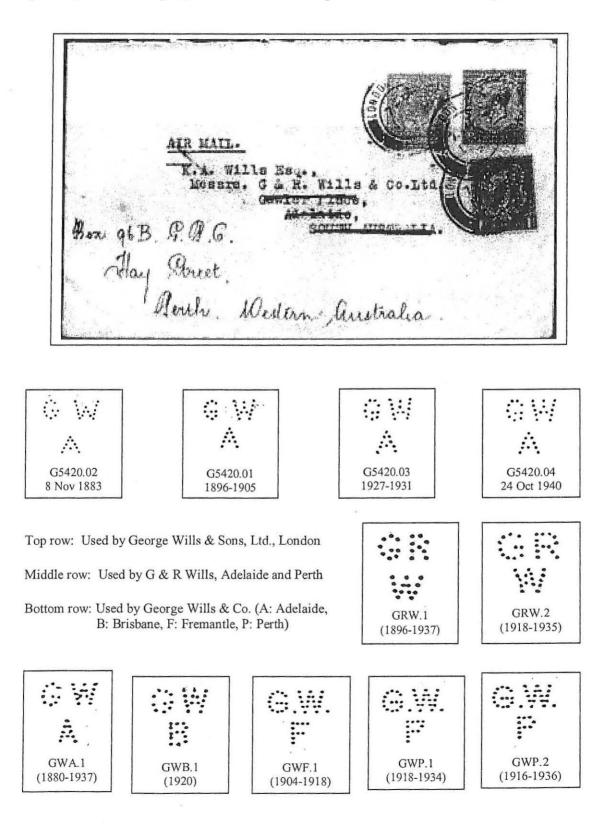
The shipping company, George Wills & Sons, traded in coke, iron, etc and exported lead, zinc and silver concentrates from Broken Hill to UK and Europe. During World War I, they shipped grain to UK for the British Government, and later also wool as well as wheat. One of the shipping lines represented by this firm was Lund's which grew into the Blue Anchor Line, which in turn was later acquired by the Peninsular & Orient Steam Navigation Company.

Three sons of Charles Percy Wills served with George Wills & Co. in Australia, Percy Lionel Bethune Wills and Philip Aubrey Wills from 1926 to 1927, and Richard Lloyd Joseph Wills from 1931 to 1935. All returned to England and became directors of the firm George Wills & Sons Limited.

The cover shown was sent from the London buying house of George Wills & Co. in 1931 to Mr. K. A. Wills at the Gawler Place, Adelaide, headquarters of the company, and was subsequently re-directed to him at the Perth branch. Kenneth Agnew Wills, born in 1896 in Adelaide, was a grandson of Richard Wills. After his father died in 1901, his mother returned to England with the four children. In World War I, Ken served in the British Army in Europe and the Middle East, rising to the rank of Captain. After the war, he started work with the family company, George Wills & Sons Limited, canvassing for cargoes between London and Australia. In 1921, the company sent him to Australia and by 1928 he was managing director in Adelaide. In World War II, Ken joined the Australian Imperial Forces and saw service in the Middle East and Greece. Near the end of the war he was promoted to temporary Brigadier. Back in Adelaide after the war, he resumed working with G. & R. Wills & Co. which he floated as a public company in 1946. He was chairman of the company until 1976. He was also a board member of Advertiser Newspapers Ltd., and sat on the council of the University of Adelaide. He was a benefactor who made possible

the new staff club at the university in 1950, and also raised funds for the construction in 1958 of the new University Union buildings. The Wills refectory at the University of Adelaide is named after him (where your Secretary learned to play cards over lunches!!). He was knighted in 1960.

The cover bears three stamps with perfin "GW/A" (G5420.03 – "New Illustrated Catalogue of Great Britain Perfins", by Roy Gault, in draft). Other GB "GW/A" perfins, and the company's Australian branch perfins are shown for comparison.



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.

| | | | LSL. |
|---|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| a. NZ 2d KGV fiscally used with perfin "M&Co/L | d" (David Holmes sale, De | c 07) | NZ \$ 50 |
| b. 10/- 1 st wmk Roo & Map perf small "OS" | (eBay, Nov 07) | sold for | \$208 |
| c. Share transfer cert. with Victoria 10/-, 2/6 & 3d | revenues perf M&B.1 | | |
| | (eBay, Nov 07) | sold for | US \$ 32 |
| d. NZ "GNB/Ld" on 1d Universal. | (eBay, Nov 07) | sold for | US \$ 39 |
| e. Noyes Bros' cover with 1d KGV, 2 x 2d Roo per | rf"NB.1" (eBay, Nov 07) | sold for | \$178 |
| f. KGV SJ 2/- perf PAC.1. | (eBay, Dec 07) | sold for | GBP 73 |
| g. WA 5/- perf WA.1 s/w | (eBay, Dec 07) | sold for | US \$ 82 |
| h. Mint block of 6 GB KGV 1d perf "C/of/A" | (Stanley Gibbons sale, No | ov 07) | \$150 |
| | | | |

In addition, Richard Smolnicki has advised the following prices realized from the November 2007 Royal NZ Philatelic Society auction (all prices in NZ\$):

| Lot 106 | Description AUSTRALIA & STATES PERFINS x 200 c.1880-1960, minor duplic, & loose GU-FU many QV, Roos~(6), KGV (20) incl. LYALL, BW&Co, VOCo (on 10/- and £1 arms), ES, etc. cat £250 w/o perfins | Res. \$85 | sold \$100 |
|-------------------|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1083 | NEW ZEALAND PERFIN x 85 in L4/8 album, on QV SSF. 1d Univ, 1d Dom, KEdVII. KGV & 2nd Pictorials, ½ d - 3/- incl. A.W.F., C&G, EWM/W, F.B/Ld, N, N.Z.F., RI/Co/LD, R.G./N., S.S.E., USSCo, VOCo, W.T, W&T/W, MGM on 2/- Cook & 3/- Egmont singles& pairs, + some incomplete, part impressions, missing & blind holes etc. G-FU, some dated, variety galore | \$100 | \$170 |
| 1084 | NEW ZEALAND PERFIN 28, all diff. on Hagnar page on QV SSF KGV, 1/2d -1/-, incl. A.W.E., on 2d Pembroke purple; C&G on 1d Univ. x6 positions; FBJLd. on 1d Univ 10 JE 03; HB on 1d Univ; MGM on 2/6 QV long type; N on 1d Univ. ChiCh 4FE 04; N.Z.F. + Beecham's Pills on 1d SSF 24 OC 93; N.Z.F. dbl. strike on 1d SSF; R.G./W. on 9d Terraces, S&S/W on 1/2 d green Mt. Cook; VO/Co. extra hole to O etc. all G-FU [PW] | \$75 | \$85 |
| 1085 | NEW ZEALAND PERFIN B.G./EC. on 6d KEdVII FU superb | \$30 | \$30 |
| 1086 | NEW ZEALAND PERFIN DB/&Co (DUNEDIN 3 OC 98 cancel) & | \$10 | Not |
| | DB/&/Co. (part DUNEDIN R cancel) on 2d SSF, fine pr. | | sold |
| 1087 | NEW ZEALAND PERFIN DB/&Co mirror pair, positions R1 &F1. complete | \$25 | \$25 |
| 1088 | but for cpl holes of O, on 1d Terraces, DUNEDIN cds 17 SP 00 v. fine NEW ZEALAND PERFIN HB on id. Universal, part LICHFIELD St | \$15 | \$15 |
| 1000 | (Christchurch) cds, FU | \$85 | \$325 |
| 1089 | NEW ZEALAND PERFIN M.B/N.Z. on 1d. Dominion FU (machine cancel) superb, rare [P] | 402 | \$525 |
| 1090 | NEW ZEALAND PERFIN USSCo on 1d. Universal, FU (machine - cancel) fine Item | \$10 | Not sold |
| 1091 | NEW ZEALAND PERFIN USSCo on 8c Rose (Josephine Bruce) block [6] | \$25 | \$44 |
| 1051 | UHM, gum spot 1 stamp | 420 | • • • |
| 1092 | NEWZEALAND PERFIN W&T/LD on 1 ¹ / ₂ d. Boer War, light W'ton cds 27 DE 05. Light fold & cpl spots | \$15 | \$15 |
| 1263 | NZ/AUSTRALIA PERFIN NZ/IC (complete, pos. P2) on Q'land 1d Adhes. Duty stamp (Mathews NZIC.2) | \$10 | \$10 |
| 1266 | NZ/GB PERFIN NZL on QV x7: 1d lilac (SG 170) 6d dull green (SG194) Jubilee ½d (SG 197) cds MR93, 2d (SG200) 290C 92, 2½d (SG201) -30 92, 5d (SG207a) diamond 97, G6d (SG 208) DE 24 92; all G-FU | \$25 | \$28 |
| 1268 | NZ/GB PERFIN N.Z.L on QV Jubilee prs; l0d (SG210). 105 dupl. & 1/- (SG211), hooded circle 290C92 (v. late use) both prs FU | \$25 | \$28 |
| 1269 | NZ/GB PERFIN NZ (4 types) on GB KG V-early QEII defins 50 (15 difft), singles & multiples to [6], G-FU, loose & on piece, incl. on fine KGV 2/6d Seahorse (SG 450) & KGVI 2/6d green (SG 476a) + superb double strike on 2½d dk. blue KGVI on piece & war time prov. (E to Z) on 2½d KGVI | \$75 | \$75 |