

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Recently I purchased an accumulation of decimal G/NSW perfins on paper and not surprisingly there are a large number of presentable postmarks. This is an area that I have not bothered all that much about until now. Postmarks seem to be of somewhat more interest with commercial patterns as most usage comes from one or a small number of places usually where the business or its offices are located. Any usage from other places is unusual and could be of interest. Could be a travelling salesman, the manager on holiday or other unauthorized usage.

Usage by governments also follows a similar pattern but in the case of Australian State governments there can be many hundreds of such offices including schools and police stations. G/NSW or OS/NSW issues are found with postmarks from many small and exotic sounding places such as Nungarin, Wandandine and Gulargambone. Over the years usage will change as offices open and close and towns or suburbs grow or die. Maybe the postmarks of the State officials is an area that could bear some attention though how one deals with the changes over time could be challenging. Any suggestions?

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

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

#252	Birger Mortensen	Helsingør, Denmark
#253	Terry Dixon	Atiamuri, New Zealand
#254	Branden Holmes	Two Rocks, West Australia

VALE KEN AWS

Ken Aws passed away on 30 December 2008. Ken, of St. Paul, Minnesota, USA, was the only non-NZ/Australian member of the original 17 who formed the Club back in 1987, and had membership number 1. A message of condolence has been sent to his family on behalf of members.

TARAPEX 2008

A club meeting was held at TARAPEX 2008 New Zealand National Exhibition on Saturday 8 November. Richard Smolnicki and Harold Waite have reported that 5 members, including our President Derek Pocock, and 2 visitors were present. One of the visitors has joined as a new member.

Richard adds "We had a general discussion about perfin, what perforating machines still existed and who had them.

"A request was made to members to submit a one frame perfin exhibit for the Launceston 2009 show. An end result of the discussion was a recommendation that: 'The Perfin Club prize is awarded to the best Perfin entry at the exhibition, instead of being used at the judges' discretion'.

This is to encourage perfin entries from club members.

"We had a discussion regarding the NZ perfin project to record the perfin pattern against the different issues of stamps. The consensus from the group is to provide a list on a simplified basis, without regard to perfin orientation, watermark, perforation, etc. A quick check of existing publications, from Allan Berry's hand book, to identify what perfin books have been published indicated that a book of this type did not exist".

The Club had donated money for a prize at this exhibition and the committee purchased a wall hanging. This was awarded to Barry Scott for his display of World War II Prisoner of War Air Letter Cards 1941-1945.

MELBOURNE STAMPSHOW 09

This National level exhibition will be held from Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th July 2009. The Club is hoping that the exhibition committee will be able to offer us a meeting room for a gathering of Club members, preferably on Saturday 25 July. Details will be included in the April 2009 issue of the Bulletin.

EXCHANGE BRANCH CIRCUIT BOOKS

Members, especially new members, are reminded that a wide variety of good perfin material (Official / private, Australasian / "foreign", singles to covers) is offered in our circuit books. If you wish to have your name added to the distribution list, please contact the Secretary. If you wish to make up books of your perfin material for the circuit, empty books are available on request from the Secretary.

AUCTION 3/2008

This was another successful auction despite there having been an extra auction this year. A list of sold lots is enclosed. Material for the April auction catalogue (1/2009) can be accepted by the Secretary up to the end of March.

LAUNPEX 2009

Launpex 2009 will be held in Launceston from 30 October to 2 November 2009, and will include a National level one-frame competitive exhibition. Members are strongly encouraged to consider entering a one-frame (15 sheets) display of perfin material. Entries close on 7 August 2009, and the entry fee is \$30 per frame. Details are available on the Australian Philatelic Federation website (www.apf.org.au) - click on the "Exhibition Timetable" button at the top of the home page and then on the Launpex 2009 item.

TIMPEX

The TIMPEX competitive exhibition will be held in Timaru (South Island, NZ) from 16 to 18 October 2009. The Club will seek a meeting venue at this exhibition.

MEMBER'S REQUEST

Member Mike Hert is interested in obtaining perfins from Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Bulgaria, Russia, and Yugoslavia. Mike can be contacted at P.O. Box 864, Bankstown, NSW 2200, Australia, or by email at mikehert@hotmail.com.

GB PERFIN SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

The Club has recently purchased 2 CDs which contain the following GB Perfin Society publications:

- Bulletin Nos. 1 - 351 (1957 - 2007)
- Simplified catalogue (not the new version currently in progressive production)
- Tomkins catalogue of GB Perfin user identities (to 6th edition)
- New Identities 1995-2007
- "Sloper History" by John Nelson
- "Officials Catalogue" by Thornton
- "Perfin Abstracts" by Brian Birch
- "Councils Catalogue" by Bowman
- "Hospitals Perfins" by Rymer-Young
- Auction catalogues to 2007

These CDs will be placed in the Club's library holdings and may be requested for loan for short periods from the librarian. Your Secretary has also bought his own private copy and is willing to do a search of the Bulletins on the CD for specific topics to see if there is any article which is relevant before a loan is requested.

“CANCELLED” PUNCTURE (John Mathews)

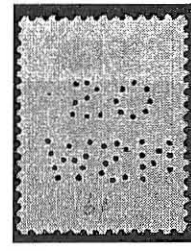
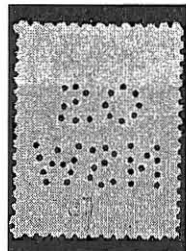
The full word puncture “CANCELLED”, seen on Victorian Duty Stamps, usually incomplete and positioned diagonally across the stamp, was not included in the catalogues of Australian Private Perfins, as it was always deemed to be a cancelling punch applied after the stamp had been affixed to a document rather than a perfin applied to mint stamps as a security measure.



Now, an example has been offered on eBay which adds strong evidence for this assumption, and identifies the Government office which used this punch. The 5 shilling Duty Stamp also has a partial oval cachet which reads “CANCELLE[D] / [L]AND OFFI[CE]”

OS/NSW TYPE B ON KANGAROOS (David Andersen)

A number of Kangaroo issues with the OS/NSW Type B have been reported, all on 3rd watermark values - 6d brown (SPPB #66 p.11), 1/- (SPPB #51 p.5) and 2/- (SPPB #59 p.4). The 6d bore a Cordalba Queensland 22OC29 postmark. Two additional copies have surfaced from a Netherlands source - another 6d brown and a 9d violet, both 3rd watermark. Both bear Western Australian postmarks, one Perth but date unclear and the second Moo? 25JE29. The holes in both of these issues are smaller than usually encountered with this pattern on State issues and they appear to be the same die. The vendor was unable to provide any useful information about their provenance except that they were included in a collection purchased in the Netherlands.



The majority of these issues have come from overseas, either Netherlands or Canada, are on higher values, not recorded prior to 2000 and bear postmarks outside of New South Wales. Usually this would lead to the conclusion that these are these are all obvious fakes. However comparison with the illustration of the previously reported 6d clearly shows a different die to that on these newly discovered issues and it seems unlikely that more than one die was used to produce such a small series of fakes. Comparison with the same puncture on state issues show many of the features of these dies though a perfect match eluded me.

Could these items have been produced in 1929 using the old OS/NSW Type B pattern after the OS/NSW Type A machine was taken out of service and New South Wales started to use the Federal ‘OS’ issues? Until further information and copies surface, however, these must be regarded as suspect.

VG EARLIEST USAGE

The latest edition of Victorian Government Punctures by Neale Scott and Bryan Toop gives 24/4/1933 as the earliest dated postmark for the first VG head. Keith Small has shown me a 2d KGV CofA wmk issue with the earlier date 5/AP/33.



SA "LONG TOM" BI-COLOUR WITH PERFIN

Member Murray Lawson has provided some additional information regarding this stamp which was reported in the October 2008 edition of this Bulletin. The stamp is listed in Stanley Gibbons' "Commonwealth and Empire Stamps 1840 - 1952", 2004 edition, as SG275c, with a SG catalogue value of £600 for either mint or used copies. The colour of the "POSTAGE" and value is listed as "red-brown".

THE "NZ" PERFINS

(David Andersen)

The Office of the High Commissioner of New Zealand and other New Zealand Government organisations used perfins with the initials "NZ" from 1922 to the late 1960's. These were used by a number of organisations in a similar way to the "CoFA" and "C/OFA" perfins used by Australian Government officials in Britain. A good amount of information is published about these perfins - the two most up to date listings are in "Postage Stamps of New Zealand", volume 8, Chapter XV p.479-480 which was updated by Robert Samuel, and in the British catalogue "Perfins of Great Britain". The information below is based on these references and hopefully will encourage further information to be reported.

A range of patterns were used by J.Sloper & Co. Ltd to produce the "NZ" perfins. The first pattern, Type 1 with letters 5 holes in height, was produced from 1922 until around 1939, though copies are recorded postmarked into 1945 as stocks of stamps were used up. Presumably when stocks started to run down further stamps were ordered from J. Sloper & Co. but some from earlier batches would have remained in stock long after a perforator went out of service. Evidently some damage occurred to the perforator towards the end of this period as missing holes are known.

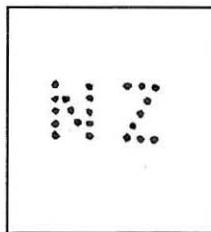
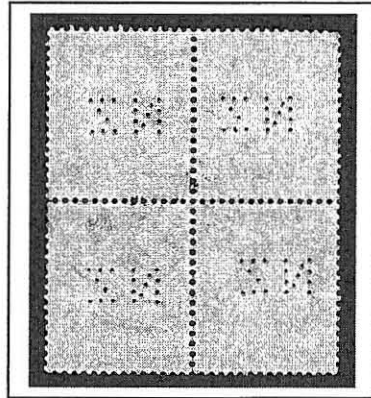
Type 2 with letters 4 holes in height (3mm between the two letters), which appears to have been used from 1939 till 1943, is a Sloper single head die probably destroyed in the London blitz during May 1941. Again usage would have continued for some time after the perforator was destroyed and the remaining stocks used.

Following the destruction of this machine/die a number of 'provisional' patterns are encountered which presumably were used by the New Zealand High Government offices.

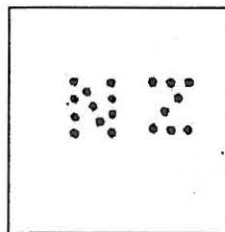
Type 3 with letters 8mm apart and a single hole in the crossbar of the 'Z' was used for a short period. Type 4 appears to be an "NZ" created from passing sheets twice through the puncturing machine with the letter 'N', the second time at right angles to

the first pass. A very rare pattern Type 5 is recorded by Robert on three 1d red KGVI stamps, two with "NZ" and the last with just an 'N' and appears to have been produced in a similar manner to Type 4. The final provisional Type 6, often described as malformed, was soon introduced and is claimed to have been made from an earlier "NB/IC" perforator. This pattern is recorded used from August 1941 until around 1945. Over the life of the perforator it appears that additional holes were added to the crossbar of the Z. Usage of the perforator itself may have ceased in 1941 or 1942 when the next machine was introduced.

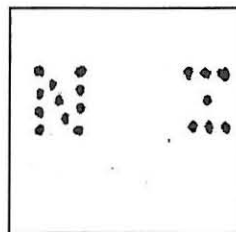
The Type 7 pattern (2mm between the letters) was introduced in 1942 and continued in use possibly to 1969. Usage by the Prisoner of War Enquiry Office (Joint Council of the Order of St John and the New Zealand Red Cross Society) in 1944 is recorded with this pattern. The British catalogue also records an additional similar pattern Type 8 in which the foot of the 'Z' drops a little though Robert considered these two types one and the same. My view based on the block illustrated below with four identical designs all with the 'dropping' Z is that these are separate patterns, the latter being a used from 1957. Double punctures of the 1/3 QEII issue are known. This pattern is recorded used by the Inspector of New Zealand Dairy Products, London.



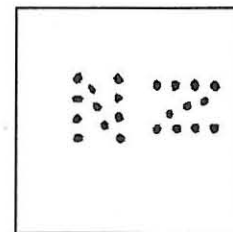
Type 1



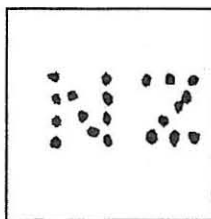
Type 2



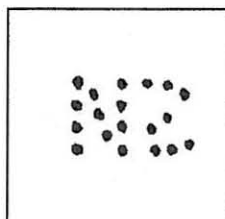
Type 3



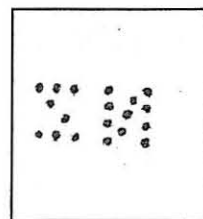
Type 4



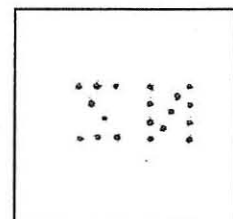
Type 5



Type 6



Type 7



Type 8

Series	Value	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3	Type 4	Type 5	Type 6	Type 7	Type 8
QEII	5/-							X	X
	10/-							X	X

*-Inverted

#-Reversed

[Thanks to both Richard Smolnicki and Geoff Kellow who provided copies of the original references]

“STAR OF DAVID” PERFIN

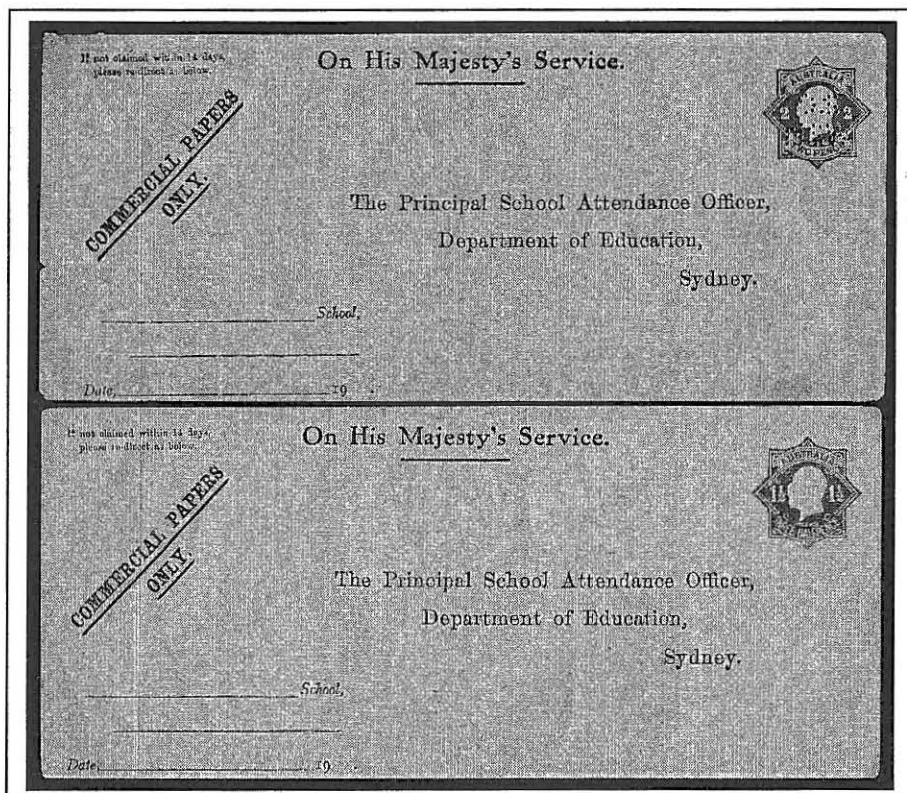
In response to the item in the October 2008 Bulletin, member Tony Nobilo has provided details of the user of such a perfin, Jacob Kisner of New York, USA. Presumably, it was struck “per favor” on the Australian stamp.

CANADIAN DUTY STAMP PERFORATED “CTCO”

In November 2008, a 1 cent Canadian Duty Stamp with Perfin “CTCO” was sold on eBay. There were many “blind” or missing pins in the strike, similar to those found on Australian Customs Duty stamps used in UK. On the other hand, the “CTCO” strikes on Australian Customs Duty Stamps used in USA are rarely found with damaged pins.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ENVELOPES

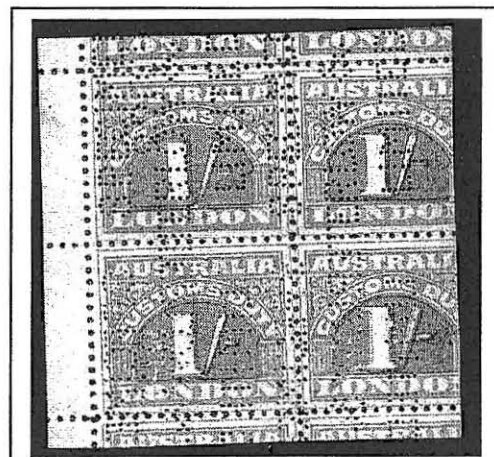
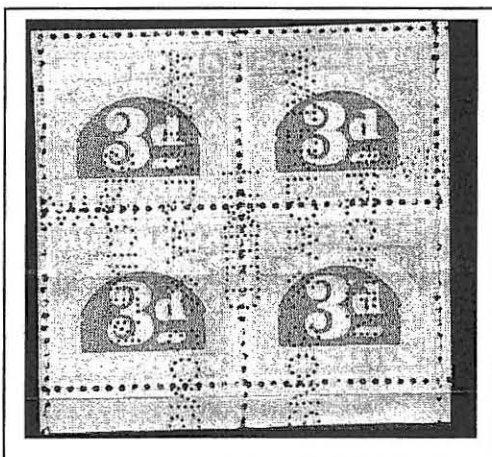
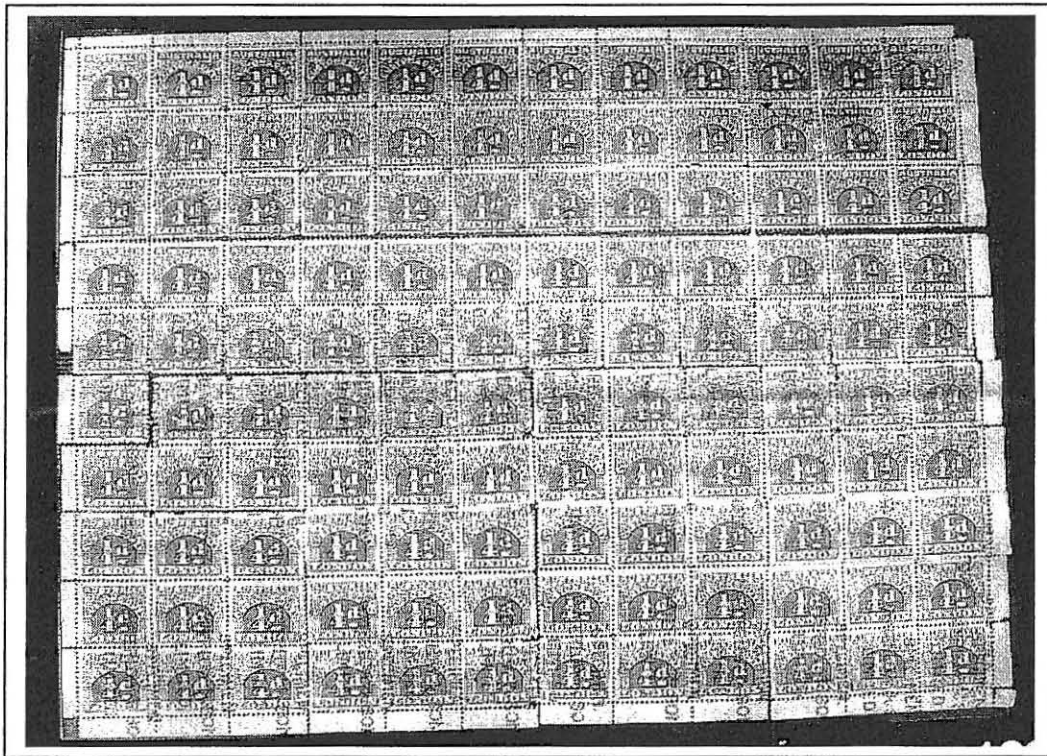
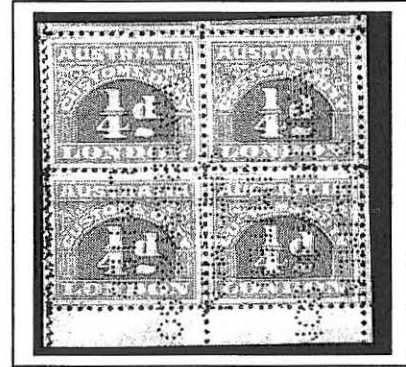
The two envelopes illustrated below were recently sold on eBay. Both are unused and bear the Education Department address as well as a postage imprint. The imprint on one of them has been punctured with the OS/NSW pattern used on other postal stationery items during this period. Interestingly the other envelope has not been so punctured which may indicate different practices being followed in the 1920s. Unfortunately not all that many postal stationery items with official perfins seem to have survived of the many thousands that were no doubt used.



PERFINNED CUSTOMS DUTY STAMPS AUCTIONED

John Amiet has drawn our attention to some interesting perfinned 1907 first issue Australian Customs Duty stamps in the Status International auction of 16 October 2008.

There were four lots, respectively a complete (reconstructed) sheet of 120 of the ¼d denomination with an estimate of A\$2,000, a similar lot but with 19 units missing (estimated at A\$1,000), a sheet of the 3d value from the same issue (one unit missing) estimated at A\$2,000, and a sheet of the 1/- value from the same issue with three missing units, also estimated at A\$2,000. The illustrations show the complete (reconstructed) sheet of the ¼d denomination, and details of each value. The Perfin is "SPECIMEN / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED".



PERFIN ON PRIVATE POSTCARD (John Mathews)

In December 2008, an eBay item offered a private postcard with 1d Shield with perfin affixed. The card was pre-printed for Arthur Cocks & Co., Wholesale Opticians, 5 Wynyard Street, Sydney, and carried the words “PRIVATE POST CARD. / Issued by Authority of the Postmaster-General of New South Wales.” The Perfin is AC&CO.1. The card is postmarked “Sydney, OC 13, 98” which is earlier than the previously recorded earliest use of this Perfin. Approval to use this perfin had been given on 6 December 1897.

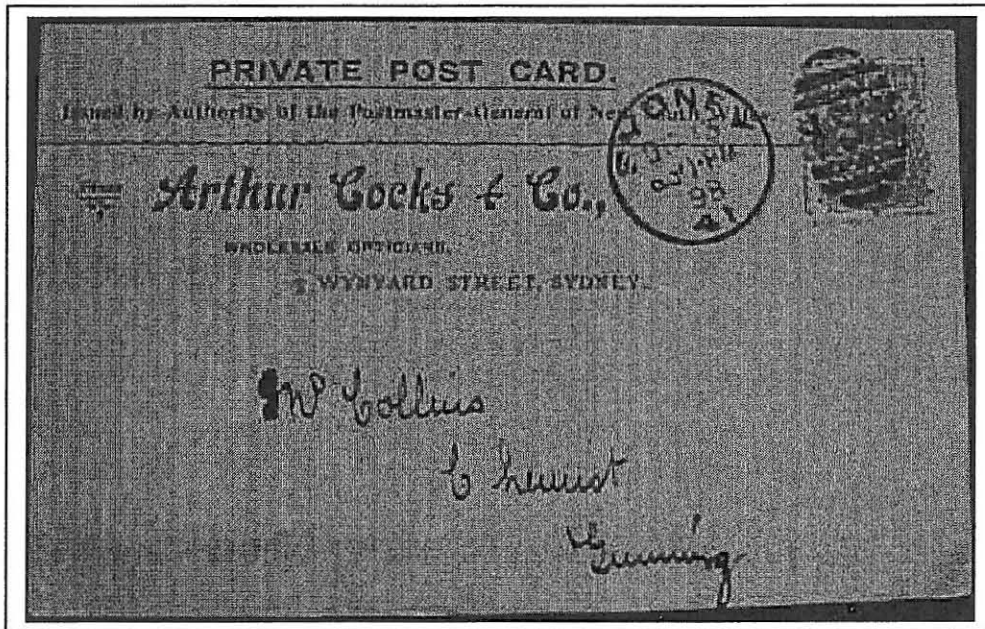
The card is addressed to “Mr. Collins / Chemist / Gunning” [on the Hume Highway between Goulburn and Yass], and the reverse carries the message:

“Dear Sir,

We beg to advise you that our representative Mr. G. R. Parrett [?] will [have] the pleasure of waiting upon you on or about the 24th inst with samples of etc. when we hope to be favoured with your esteemed orders.

Yours respectfully
ARTHUR COCKS & Co.”

On the reverse is the Gunning handstamp indicating receipt of the card on October 14.



The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* records the following:

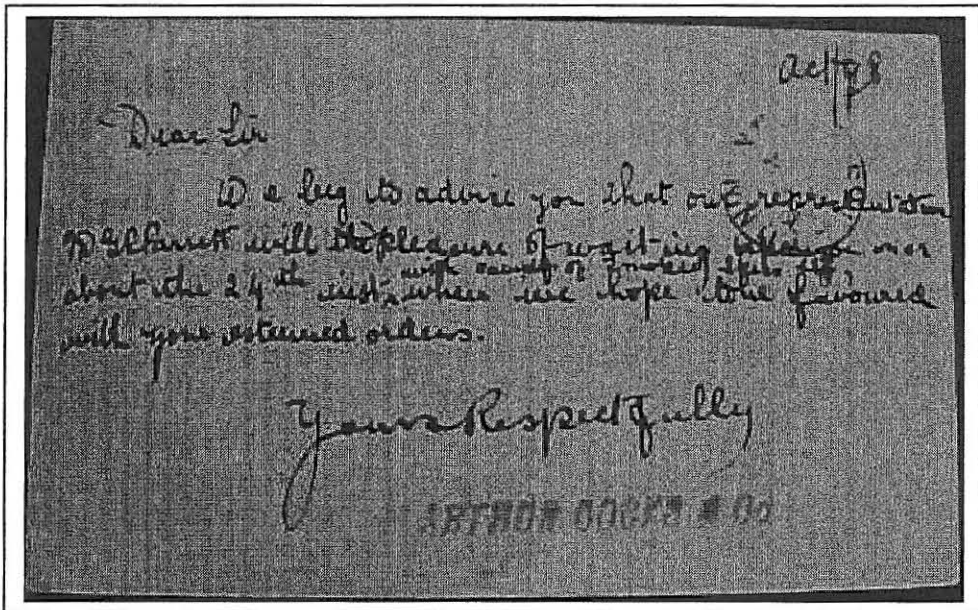
“Sir Arthur Alfred Clement Cocks (1862-1943), merchant and politician, was born on 27 May 1862 at Wild Duck Creek, Heathcote, Victoria, fourth son of English parents Thomas Cocks, farmer, and his wife Elizabeth, née Adams. About 1873, his father moved to Melbourne and set up as a hosier and tailor. Arthur was educated at a state school at Richmond and started work at 14 in a softgoods warehouse. About 1880, he joined W. Wood & Co., wholesale opticians, and became a commercial traveller. On 17 September 1884 at Richmond he married Elizabeth Agnes Gibb. In 1886 he was sent to Sydney to establish a branch of the firm. He gradually gained financial control and in 1899 [but see date on postcard above..jm] registered his own firm, Arthur

Cocks & Co., wholesale jewellers and opticians; he remained managing director until 1939. In 1911 the company was reconstructed and by 1914 he had set up branches in Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane.

“Arthur Cocks was Secretary of the Optical Society in 1904. Cocks became active in commercial circles. He was a trustee of the Savings Bank of New South Wales and was a director of companies including the Australian Alliance Assurance Co. In 1916-1918, Cocks was president of the Sydney Chamber of Commerce. Several times chairman of the Importers' Association of New South Wales, in 1940 he was first president of the new Wholesale Importers' Association. He contributed to the standardization of optometry in New South Wales.

“Cocks represented Lang Ward on the Sydney Municipal Council in 1906-14 and was lord mayor of Sydney in 1913.

“In June 1923, Arthur Cocks was appointed K.B.E. He died at Mosman on 25 April 1943.”



In the late 1970s, the firm of Arthur Cocks & Co. was purchased by Robert Lietl in New Zealand who amalgamated it with his wife's sunglasses company International Fashion Eyewear.

PERFIN ON NEW ZEALAND RAILWAY CHARGES STAMP

Following the report in the last Bulletin of 6d New Zealand Railway parcels stamp with MGM Perfin, Alastair Walter, the GB Perfin Society Librarian, pointed out a related article from the Perfin Society Library. The article "Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (NZ) Ltd & NZ Insurance Co. Ltd Perfins" by G.I. Robertson from the New Zealand Stamp Collector June 1994 records this same perfin used on the 2/- pink and 2/6 grey Railway charges stamps. Both are overprinted CENTRAL BO/WELLINGTON like the 6d value. The MGM perfin is one of the more common New Zealand patterns used mainly to mail cannisters of movie film to picture theatres. Can anyone else add to what we have recorded about perfins on the railway parcel stamps?

AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest from auctions/direct sales since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobilo, David Coath, and John Amiet, for passing on their spotting of perfin lots in auctions. Prices in A\$ unless indicated. The first 4 items are described and illustrated in an article on page 9 of this Bulletin.

	Est.
a. Complete sheet of 120 of ¼ d Australian Customs Duty Stamps perf "SPECIMEN / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED" (Status Int'l auction, Oct 08)	\$2,000
b. Sheet of 120 of ¼ d Australian Customs Duty Stamps (19 missing units) perf "SPECIMEN / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED" (Status Int'l auction, Oct 08)	\$1,000
c. Sheet of 120 of 3d Australian Customs Duty Stamps (1 missing unit) perf "SPECIMEN / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED" (Status Int'l auction, Oct 08)	\$2,000
d. Sheet of 120 of 1/- d Australian Customs Duty Stamps (3 missing units) perf "SPECIMEN / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED" (Status Int'l auction, Oct 08)	\$2,000
e. NZ "EWM/W mirror pair on pr 1d Universals, used 6 JL 06. (Classic Stamps (NZ) sale, Dec 08)	NZ \$ 45
f. c1870s-1990s Perfins extensive colln on pgs, arranged by company name - noted "GNBL" x 4 (1d Universals) & VOC° on 1936 cover. Wide range of stamps used. Incl "BNZ" etc on GB stamps. About 400 stamps. (Mowbray auction, Oct 08)	sold for NZ \$1400
g. c1875 "H D & Co" Perfin (H Davis & Co, Nelson?) on 1d FSF, light indistinct pmk. With 1989 letter from Samuel stating this is only the 2nd he knows of. (Mowbray auction, Oct 08)	sold for NZ \$ 820
h. 1890s-1930s Perfins colln, neatly arranged in FG album, typed annotations. Good range. Noted "M&C/Ltd" (fiscal), "NZI/Co" (on £3 QV LT), "S&S" x 2, S&SW" x 7, VOC° (Pathway), "W&T/Ld" (2/- Milford); "WT", " VOC°" & "W&T/W" on covers. Total 40 + the 3 covers. (Mowbray auction, Oct 08)	sold for NZ \$ 620
i. "NZ" Perfin on GB 2½d KGV on OHMS cover of New Zealand High Commission, London, to Germany 1927. (Len Jury auction, Nov 08)	NZ \$ 200
j. D&JF.1 on SA 2/- with 1886 postmark (early!!) (eBay, Oct 08)	sold for \$ 32
k. DS&CO.1 on 1d QV sideface. (eBay, Oct 08)	sold for US \$ 42
l. OK.3 on 1/- black ANZAC. (eBay, Oct 08)	sold for US \$ 26
m. F.1 on 2/- KGV Silver Jubilee. (eBay, Oct 08)	sold for US \$ 22
n. "VG" (suspected forgery) on £1 Roo CofA wmk. (eBay, Oct 08)	sold for US \$ 115
o. "VG" on £1 Robes. (eBay, Oct 08)	sold for US \$ 153
p. "G/NSW" on £1 Robes. (eBay, Oct 08)	sold for US \$ 56
q. "VG" type III on 10/- Robes. (eBay, Oct 08)	sold for US \$ 103
r. "VG" on £1 Arms. (eBay, Nov 08)	sold for US \$ 153
s. 1939 colourful advert postcard of D & J Fowler with Perfin D&JF.1 1d QM. (eBay, Nov 08)	sold for US \$ 31
t. 1905 illustrated advert cover of NZ Fire & Marine Ins Co with 2 x 1d Qld QV perf "N.Z./I.C." (eBay, Dec 08)	sold for US \$ 42
u. Cnr imprint block (John Ash) of 2 x £1 Robes perf "W/A", mint. (eBay, Dec 08)	sold for US \$ 69
v. 1898 private post card of Arthur Cocks & Co with NSW 1d Shield perf AC&CO.1. (see article this issue). (eBay, Dec 08)	sold for US \$ 26
w. GB £1 brown KGV defn perf "C/of/A", both heads, s/w. (eBay, Dec 08)	sold for \$ 51
x. Queensland 1927 1d Railway Stamp "Brisbane" perf K.3. (eBay, Jan 09)	sold for GBP 21
y. Queensland 1927 2/6 Railway Stamp "Brisbane" perf K.3. (eBay, Jan 09)	sold for GBP18.70
z. Pair of NSW Education Department envelopes one with imprint perf OS/NSW (eBay, Jan 09)	sold for \$ 65
aa. 7 NSW 1951 Cattle Duty Stamps (5/- value has Perfin WC.7) (eBay, Jan 09)	sold for \$104
ab. 3d Roo perf RL.1 and 5/- Roo perf F.2. (eBay, Jan 09)	sold for US \$ 52