

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 86 JULY 2009

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

Recently I have noticed quite a few Australian State revenues with commercial overprints that are not included in Bryan Magee's catalogue published in 2000. There is one article in this issue and I would expect a few more to follow in the future to record some more of these interesting issues. An updated edition of this catalogue would no doubt be of interest if it could be produced.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

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

#257 Lesley Mansfield, Cheltenham, Victoria

#258 David Glyn Jones, Longford, Tasmania

MELBOURNE STAMPSHOW 09

This National level exhibition will be held from Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th July 2009 at the Function Centre, Melbourne Park. The exhibition committee has programmed Meeting Room 1 for us from 12.00 to 1.30 pm on Saturday 25 July for a meeting of members and interested visitors.

The venue is within walking distance of Flinders Street railway station, and there are trams which go past the Centre (and stop!) along Batman Avenue. There is also a large car park opposite the Centre.

We hope to see you there! Please bring along any items of interest.

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, including Prospectus and Entry Form, 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 at the SBS Events Centre, Aorangi Park, Timaru (South Island, New Zealand) from 16 to 18 October 2009. The committee has made available to the Club a meeting venue at this exhibition on Saturday 17 October, either late morning or early afternoon. If you are going to the exhibition, please look at the exhibition timetable (either on the web site (<http://www.timpex.co.nz/>) or at the exhibition for the actual time of the meeting. Closer to the exhibition, the Secretary and the New Zealand circuit manager will also have details (see email addresses on page 1).

DIRECTORY FOR SALE

Member D. Ingle Smith (Canberra) has a Sands and McDougall Melbourne Directory for 1972 for sale. It is available for \$25. Can be collected or if not postage is extra (it is heavy). Email dsm30722@bigpond.net.au or via the Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

Statement of Receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2009 (Australian account).

Receipts (A\$)		Expenditure (A\$)	
Bank balance 1.7.08	7,213.93	Bulletins (printing)	833.50
Subscriptions	1,157.85	Bank & Govt charges	9.00
Bank interest	0.64	Exchange Branch	18,371.00
Exchange Branch	14,507.00	Auction 1/08	1,880.60
Auction 1/08	2,066.45	Auction 2/08	5,498.75
Auction 2/08	4,294.10	Auction 3/08	2,333.70
Auction 3/08	2,279.45	By members' credit	325.00
"AOP" sales	1,540.00	Postage & Stationery	1,156.45
Interest, Term Deposit	931.19	Library catalogue	129.74
Transfer from NZ a/c	4,400.00	Donation	150.00
		Bank balance 30.6.09	7,702.87
	-----		-----
Total	38,390.61	Total	38,390.61

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

Statement of Receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2009 (New Zealand account).

<u>Receipts</u> (NZ\$)		<u>Expenditure</u> (NZ\$)	
Bank Balance 1.7.2008	391.02		
Circuit book sales	1485.30	Auction vendors	134.20
Subscriptions	204.00	Transfer to Aust. A/c	3640.25
Interest	28.44	Exhibition donation	75.00
Auctions	1937.10		
		Bank balance 30.6.09	196.41
	-----		-----
Total	4045.86	Total	4045.86

Our thanks to Richard Smolnicki for his good work in managing our NZ account, and also to Ray Bennett for his good work in managing the exchange books' NZ circuit.

NEW WEB SITE FOR PCNZA

Would you please note that the URL for the Club's web site has been changed to

<http://www.ozrevenues.com/Clubs/perfin-club-new-zealand-australia.html>

MORE SECURITY MEASURES (John Mathews)

Some of the Bulgarian stamps for Europa 2009 have a "triangular perforation" on their edges, similar to the elliptical ones of Great Britain, and some other countries. Great Britain has also introduced elliptical cuts in the face of the latest release of Machin definitives, stated to be designed to allow the elliptical centre to become detached from the rest of the stamp when the stamp is soaked off the paper and thus prevent re-use of the stamp.

When I asked Royal Mail (by email via their web site) how collectors of used stamps were to mount these stamps on album pages, the reply was "leave them on the paper". Is this another case of postal administrations not taking into account the needs of collectors?

NSW PUNCTURE OS TYPE I (12 PIN S) (Ken Killeen)

It is recorded that this OS puncture was used from early April 1933 to mid-May 1933 and issues are recorded with postmarks ranging from 3 April 1933 to 3 July 1933.

I have a modest collection of 18 specimens (including 4 pairs) and there are 8 legible postmarks. The dates on 5 of these stamps range from 12 April 1933 to 14 June 1933, but the remaining three are later - 12 April 1937 (2d red, location illegible), 13 September 1937 (2nd red - Batemans Bay) and 18 October 1937 (1d green pair - Campbelltown). All dates are clear and positive.

Why the concentration of 1937 dates? All were obtained from different sources. Are any 1934, 1935 or 1936 dates encountered? Could there have been a small puncturing run with this pattern in 1937? Can anyone shed light on this anomaly?

EXCHANGE BRANCH

Demand for perfin material from those members on the distribution list for circuit books continues to be high. Members who have duplicate material for disposal might like to consider making up circuit books (as well as the auction option for larger lots). Empty books are available from the Secretary at no cost. Vendor's commission is currently at a low 5%.

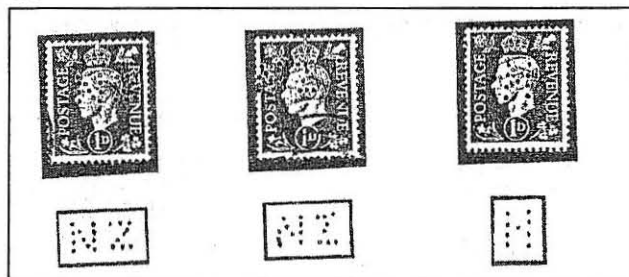
Members who would like to be added to the distribution lists (in Australia or New Zealand) are invited to contact the respective circuit manager.

"HM/A/C" OVERPRINT (John Mathews)

David Coath notes that the type font of this "overprint" is the same as used on typewriters. It is also as on old "Addressograph" machines, and appears similar to that of the "Tattersalls underprints" known on Australian KGV stamps. The example in the April 2009 Bulletin seems to be on an unused stamp, and one can only conjecture whether such an item was ever used through the post, or indeed even intended to be used through the post.

NZ PERFINS : an update on NZ 5.

Harold Waite has contacted me about his concerns about the genuineness of the NZ5 pattern illustrated in the January issue of the Bulletin. He provided a copy of the Robert Samuels exhibit of NZ5 and his story on it which I had not seen. This page provides some more useful information about these 'unusual' patterns. The patterns are illustrated below.



The three 1d KGV stamps each have a different pattern, two NZ and one H. The second NZ is quite different from the first and very irregular and there is no similarity between the H and NZ patterns. All are identified as coming from booklets, two with inverted watermarks and all with guillotining of the perforations on one side. All have very light postmarks which do not interfere with the perfin visually which in itself is unusual for stamps of this period. Robert suggested that they were produced by Slopers with a single hole punch in 1941 after their premises were bombed, which would have been a very time consuming operation.

Apart from the information provided to Robert when he obtained these items there is no other evidence as to who used these items and the circumstances of their production. Presumably if Slopers had used a single hole punch at this time they would have done so for a number of other regular perfin users and a range of similar irregular letters would exist at least some of which would also be encountered on booklet stamps of which we would assume they had stocks.

Possibly some of our British members may have more information about the earlier Sloper provisionals that may clear up this mystery.

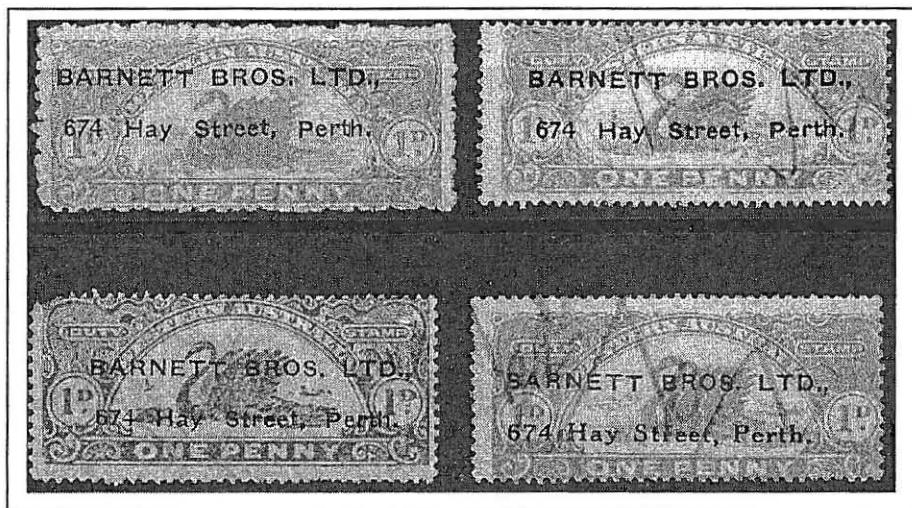
NEW WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BARNETT PRE-CANCELS (Ian Spencer)

Bryan Magee in *Security & Cancellings Overprints of Australia* (2000) records one pre-cancel for Barnett Bros, 203-209 Hay Street, Perth on WA stamps. This illustration is of a small format 1d value – single line under Revenue Duty Type B (Dzelme R174). These stamps were introduced in November 1952.

Two new items are for a different address at 674 Hay Street. Being on larger format stamps, they are much earlier. Three have the same pre-cancel (sans-serif on the bottom line, 35.5 mm long and 33.8 mm bottom line):

- (a) Perf 11 (Dzelme R114) – dated 1920
- (b) Perf 14.5 x 13.5 (R142 ?) – different shades (undated)

The fourth stamp (bottom right) appears to have the same top line, including the dropped last “T” in Barnett, but has a slightly shorter bottom line (33.2 mm), with serified letters. This copy is dated 1929.



In the 1903 WA Trade Directory, Barnett Bros were listed as Glass Merchants at 491 Hay Street, similarly at 674 Hay Street in 1913 & 1926. By 1949 the business was recorded as Barnett Bros Pty. Limited at 203-209 Hay Street – listed as selling building supplies, glass panels and paints, and specialists in glass decorations. It would appear likely that these are the same business – someone in Perth may be able to confirm this.

[Ian would like to obtain a copy of the later Barnett Bros overprint - email ians_rev_cind_stamps@hotmail.com]

FOY & GIBSON (WA) LTD. (John Mathews)

Marc Foy and his brother Maximillian sold coarse grain flour in Paris in the 1770s. Marc was the more pacifist of the brothers and after the Revolution he fled to Ireland in 1791 to a French settlement on the River Shannon, where he established a flour mill. He tried to become integrated into the Irish community, and married a local girl, Margaret Hennessey, and they had two sons, Mark and Francis.

Mark, junior, did not want to go into the flour milling trade and he joined the drapery firm of Todd and Burns in Dublin while his brother worked in the flour mill. In 1853, Francis was lured to Australia by the news of the sudden wealth being acquired by those who had joined the gold rush. Later that year, back in Ireland, Mark and his wife Mary named their new-born son Francis after Mark's brother.

In 1859, Mark also emigrated to Victoria, arriving in Melbourne on the "Champion of the Seas" while his wife and three children waited in Ireland for Mark to become established. Mark initially went to work with Buckley & Nunn, drapers of Bourke Street, but soon decided that the gold-fields offered better prospects. He established a store in what could be best described as a hut in Bendigo. The business did prosper, and he opened another store in Greytown of which town he became mayor. Later, he went into partnership to open another store in Castlemaine as "Foy & Bentley".

After this store was destroyed by fire, Mark went to Melbourne where he opened a store in the inner northern suburb of Collingwood with what he advertised as a "Fair" in the Irish tradition. The local residents of Irish background took him literally, and brought along stock and home-made produce to exchange for his goods! Fortunately, everyone saw the humour in the situation. Mark Foy's "Fairs" became a tradition in the company every half-year. Mark's eldest son, Francis, started working in his father's store in 1868 at the age of 14 years. In 1872, as a result of a disagreement in the family, Francis returned to Ireland for three years until he heard of his father's ill-health, whereupon he came back to Melbourne and became a partner in Mark Foy's.

William Gibson was born in Glasgow in 1842 and he, his wife and young son, Willie, sailed out in 1882 in the Orient Line ship SS Cuzoo to Melbourne where he was given the job as the New Zealand representative of the Melbourne firm of Beath, Scheiss & Co. In the following year, he returned to Melbourne and became a partner with Francis Foy. The partnership bought out Mark Foy's interest in the company and Francis became the manager.

The business prospered and they looked towards expansion. To do so, they decided to dissolve the partnership in 1884 and Francis moved to Sydney and founded Mark Foy's Ltd there, while William Gibson took over control of Foy & Gibson's in Melbourne. As part of the agreement of the separation, each had said they would not open a business in competition with the other in the same city. William Gibson was later to set up stores in Perth, Adelaide and Brisbane, but he never did so in Sydney.

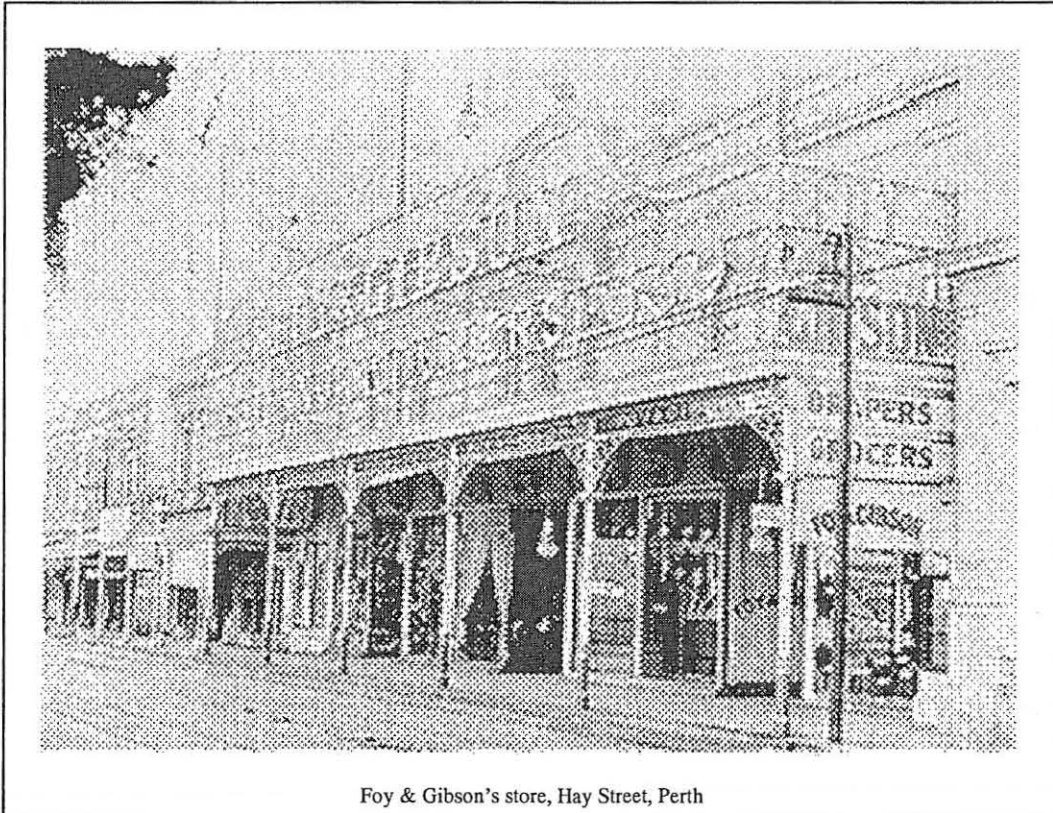


William Gibson (1842?-1918)

In 1889, William Gibson and his wife went on a trip to France and England, during which he transferred the firm's buying office from Glasgow to London, where it was adjacent to many other Australian merchants. He brought back £100,000 worth of merchandise for his store.

Foy & Gibson in Melbourne suffered their share of the fall-out from the land crash of 1893. However, in 1892 and 1893, gold was discovered at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie in Western Australia and William Gibson, among others, looked to the West for opportunities. Up until the discovery of gold, the colony based on Perth and Fremantle had struggled to expand due to the vast distance from other commercial centres. William Gibson set up business in temporary premises in Murray Street, Perth, in 1895. Later he bought a site in Hay Street from G. & R. Wills & Co., this site still being in use until after World War II. The first store there was built as a pre-fabricated structure of corrugated iron at Collingwood and shipped across to Western Australia due to a lack of materials in that colony.

Business in the West boomed, and Foy & Gibson found themselves in keen competition with Boan Brothers, Charles Moore's, the Bon Marche, and Shenton's. William Gibson took great personal interest in his Perth store, making frequent trips to that city to arrange extensions to the store. He also established the "Gibsonia" woollen mills in Perth. There was much incentive to develop that branch of the company as in 1903/1904 there was still no income tax payable by private firms in Western Australia! In 1917, trade with Western Australia received a boost with the opening of the Trans-Continental rail link.

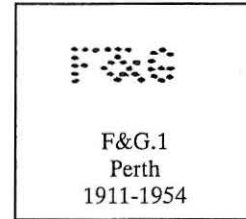


Foy & Gibson's store, Hay Street, Perth

Back in Melbourne in 1902, William Gibson opened a store in the suburb of Prahran, which he named MacLellan & Co. after his nephew. This became known as "The Big Store" and often featured in postcards of that era.

William Gibson died in London in 1918. He did not see the crash of prices in 1921 which brought about the demise of many trading companies, such as Beath, Scheiss & Co. Foy & Gibson's survived, and in 1926 they opened their new store on the corner of Bourke and Swanston Street – their first store in the city of Melbourne.

In the late 1930s, the Western Australian part of the business became a separate entity, and was known as Foy & Gibson (WA) limited.

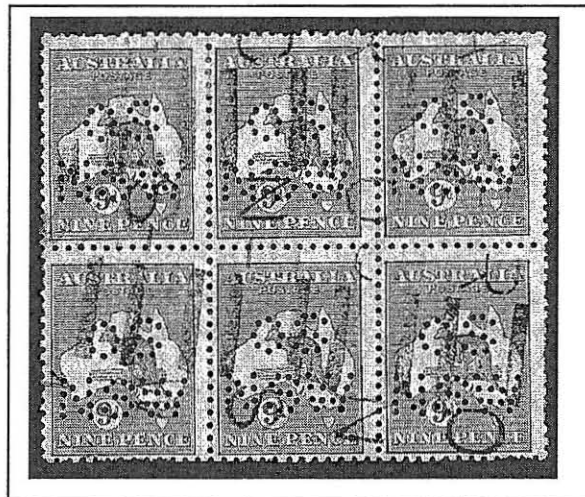


[This article is based on material in "Foy's Saga: an account of the Genesis and Progress of the House of Foy & Gibson", by S. W. Davies, Perth 1946]

FAKE OS/NSW TYPE A (David Andersen)

A few months ago a 5/- Kangaroo CofA wmk issue with the OS/NSW Type A pattern was offered on eBay. This item was previously unreported and if genuine would fetch a good price. The vendor was deregistered by eBay at around this time though as usual eBay didn't indicate the reason.

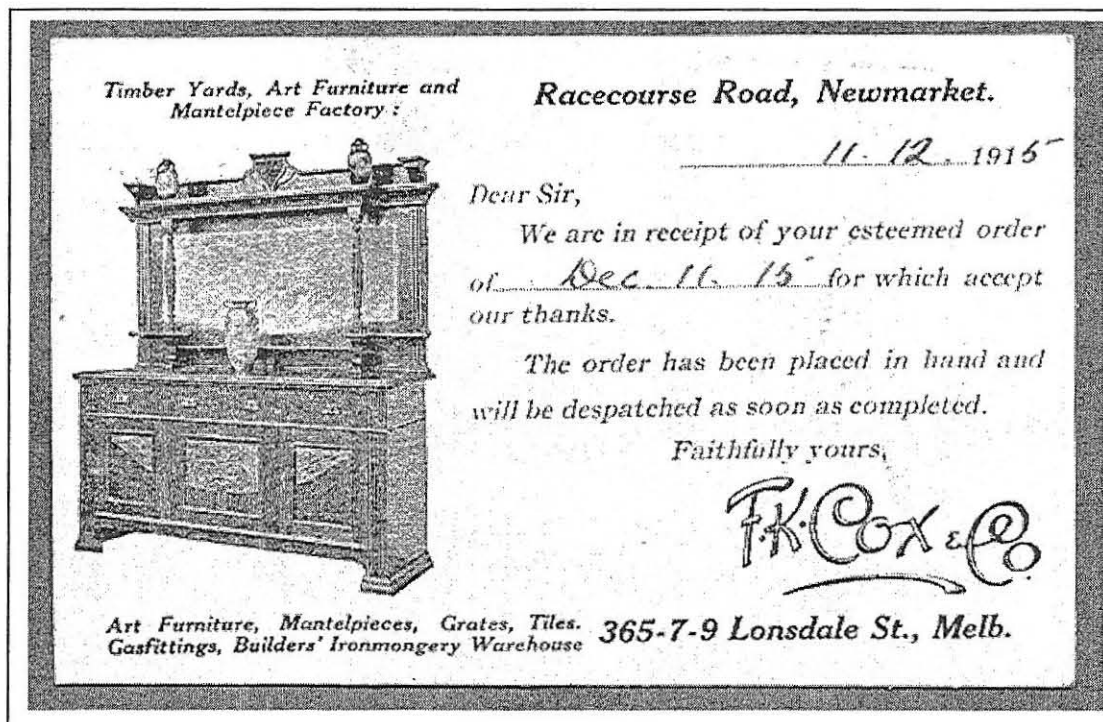
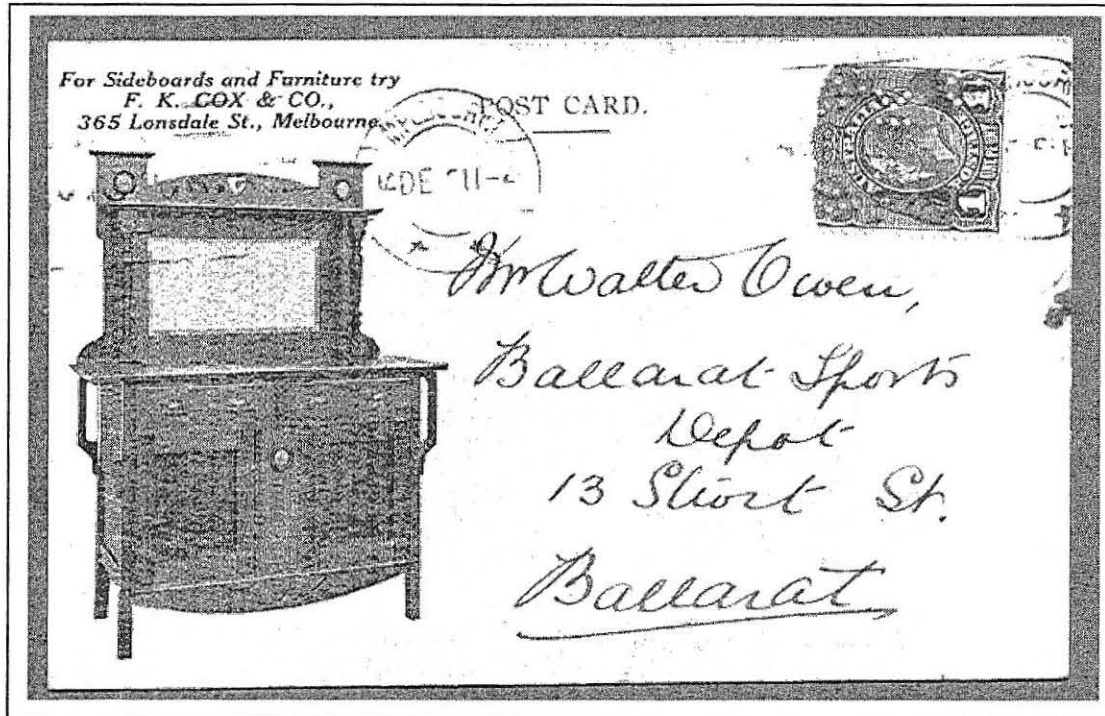
The vendor had a range of other 'scarce' OS, OS/NSW and VG perfins available. One of the items on offer was a block of the 9d Kangaroo with CofA watermark. While it is known that a number of values were punctured OS/NSW in early 1933 after the overprinted OS issues in use were withdrawn this value is not reported. This block, however, clearly demonstrated a number of errors that a forger can make.



The same die was used in each stamp of the block which is not possible for a multi-die pattern. In addition the alignment of the dies in the bottom row is not even nor does it match the dies in the top row. Accordingly the die used must have been a single die and it does not match any of the 12 genuine dies, most of which are quite possible to identify. If encountered on a single stamp this forgery would have been somewhat more difficult to pick except by comparing the die to genuine dies.

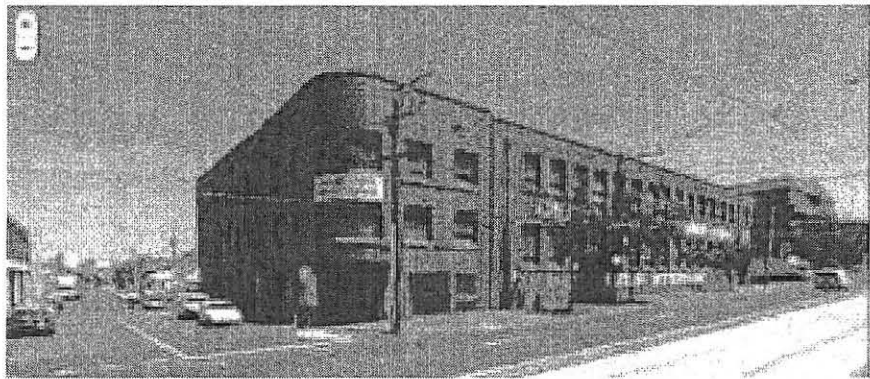
F. K. COX ADVERTISING TRADE POSTCARD WITH PERFIN

In May 2009, the attractive advertising trade postcard of F. G. Cox & Co. was sold on eBay. It has a 1d red KGV with Perfin described as "FK/C" - probably FKC.4. The selling price was US\$ 42+ (by an apparent "sniping bid" by a regular buyer of Australian perfin covers on eBay).



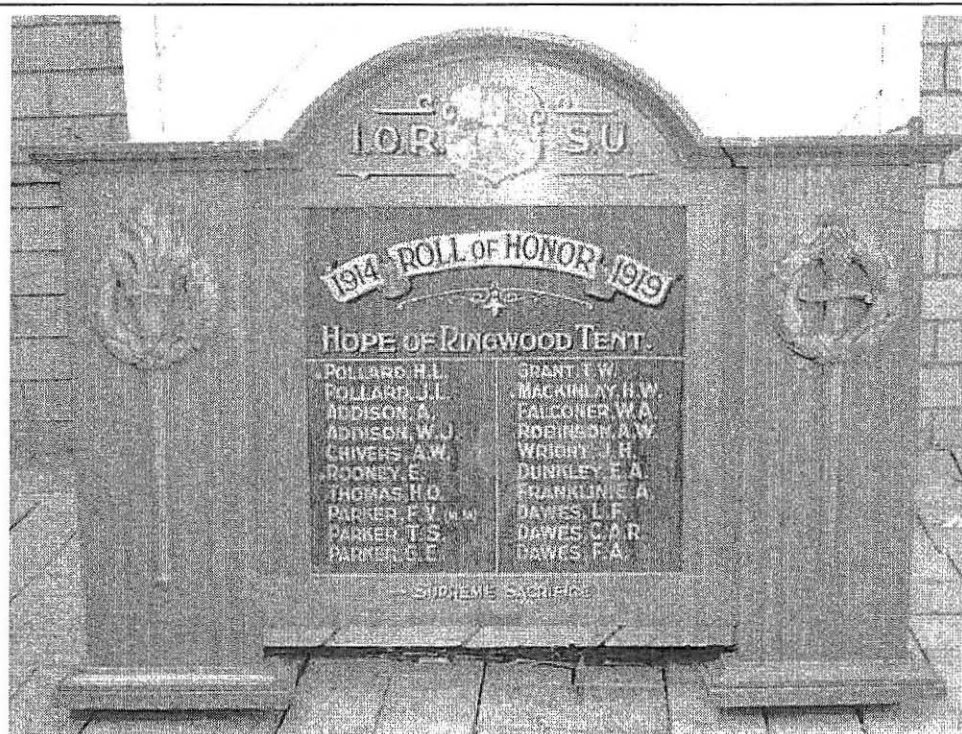
Francis Kipling Cox was born in 1865 at Amherst in central Victoria, the third child (second son) of Edward and Flora (nee Kipling) Cox. At the age of 24 years he married Ada Dellitt in 1889, and they had 3 daughters and a son between 1891 and 1895. The 1890 Sands' Directory of Melbourne shows that they were living at Wellington Street, Flemington (off Racecourse Road which is part of the present

Princes Highway), not far from the premises of Cox & Co., mantelpiece manufacturers, at 20 Melrose Street, North Melbourne. The following year, the company became known as "F. K. Cox & Co." and moved to the corner of Stubbs and Smith Streets, Kensington. In 1895, Francis Cox and his family moved to a house in Stubbs Street, and in 1898 the factory address was the corner of Racecourse Road and Stubbs Street (between Stubbs and Collett Streets, south side). At that time the company was described as being timber merchants and ironmongers. Later, they were described in directories as furniture and mantelpiece manufacturers and suppliers of builders' hardware, etc. The Racecourse Road factory may be the current building which occupies the Racecourse Road frontage of that whole block, and which is currently occupied by a self-storage company.



Racecourse Road, Newmarket, south side, from Lambeth street to Collett Street
Source: Google maps, street view

Francis K. Cox died on 10 November 1898 (from Probate index and newspaper death notices) at the age of 33 years. His younger brother, Ernest William Cox, then took over the running of the company, and it was during this time that the company used perpins - from 1902 to 1917.



The plaque at centre bottom, under "Supreme Sacrifice" reads "MANUFACTURED BY / F. K. COX & CO. PTY. LTD./ WORKS - NEWMARKET / MELBOURNE & PRAHRAN"

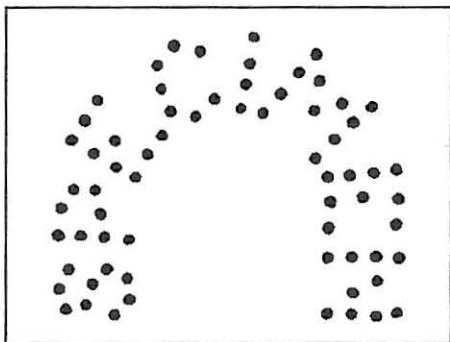
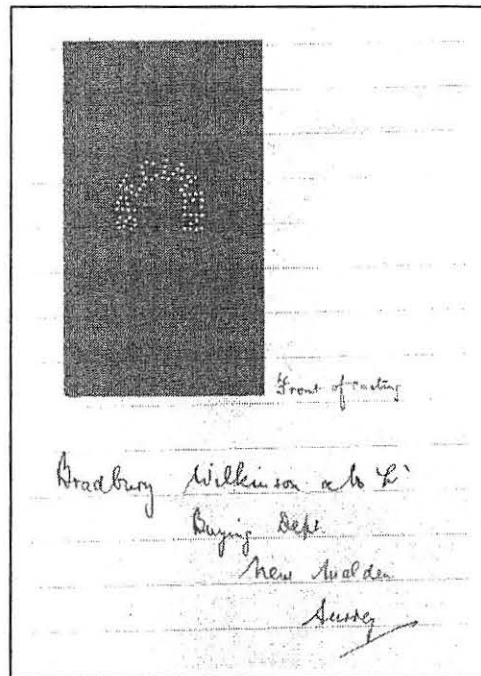
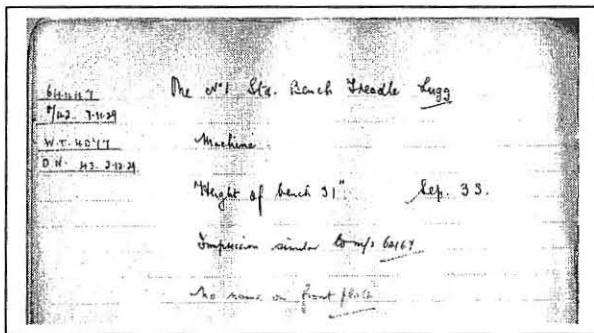
Source: www.sko.com.au/memorials2/bages/30358.htm

“SPECIMEN” PERFINs ON COMMONWEALTH KGV SILVER JUBILEE ISSUES (John Mathews)

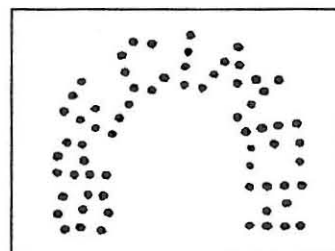
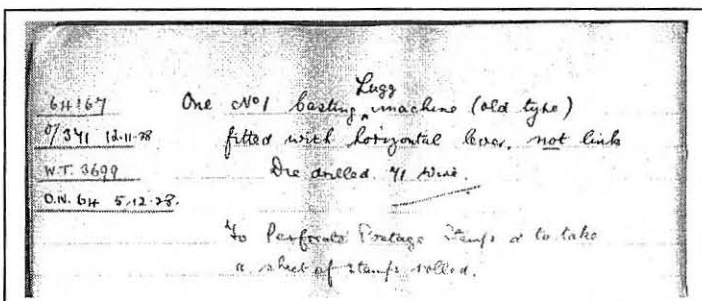
I had been contacted some time ago by non-member Neil Donan (Canada) regarding Australian perfins known on the Australian KGV Silver Jubilee issues in which he has a particular interest (see his web site <http://www.philatel2.com/jubilee/>), and more recently he has asked me if I knew any details of the manufacturer the various “SPECIMEN” perfins on the Commonwealth “omnibus” sets for the KGV Silver Jubilee. Neil knew that Joseph Sloper had produced such a machine for Bradbury, Wilkinson who produced some of the stamps for the Crown Agents.

My initial reply was to warn Neil of the fake “SPECIMEN” perfins on these issues produced in a certain Queensland back yard shed! Then I sought help the custodian in UK of the Sloper Workshop Impression Books (which I had the chance to see in 1993). The illustrations in this article are from Sloper’s Workshop Impression Books, by kind permission of the GB Perfin Society.

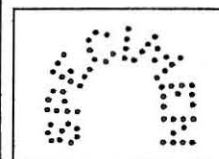
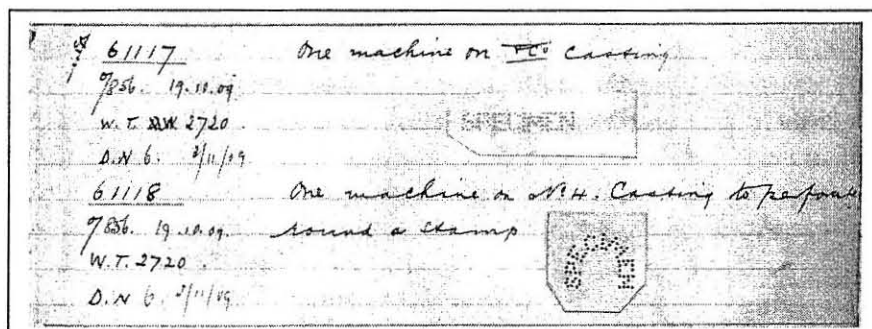
The Bradbury, Wilkinson perforator appears to have been the last such “SPECIMEN” device made by Sloper and is serial number 64447, shown below.



There were two earlier “SPECIMEN” devices shown in these books. Number 64167 was made for Perkins, Bacon & Co., and is similar to the Bradbury, Wilkinson pattern.



The earliest "SPECIMEN" devices shown in the Sloper books are numbers 61117 and 61118. Device number 61117 is a straight line perfin, while 61118 is curved and very similar to devices number 64167 and 64447.



Neil tells me that other known printers of the Commonwealth "omnibus" KGV Silver Jubilee issue were De La Rue, and Waterlow. De La Rue are known to have used a curved "SPECIMEN" pattern, but it forms a half circle with the legs nor extending down as far as the devices 61118, 64167 and 64447. Waterlow are known to have used a straight line "SPECIMEN" pattern, appearing diagonally on the stamps, but it does not match Sloper serial number 61117.

Does anyone have any further information about the "SPECIMEN" patterns on these issues?

AUCTION WATCH

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

	Est.
a. Advertising cover of W. Gardiner & Co Ltd., with 1d red KGV perf WG&COLD.1 to Samoa (David Holmes, NZ, auction Apr 09) sold for	NZ \$ 165
b. GB 5/- SG 180 perf "BNZ". (David Holmes, NZ, auction Apr 09) sold for	NZ \$ 50
c. NSW 1894-1904 QV 10/- violet & rosine o'printed "POSTAGE" perf "OS", mint. (Prestige Philately, Apr 09) sold for	\$ 575+
d. 1935 cover of Elder Smith Adelaide to UK with 1/- Lyrebird + 6d sepia K-S airmail both perf "ES". (auction not recorded, 26 Mar 09) sold for	\$ 100
e. £1 Robes perf DJLTD.2, FU. (eBay, May 09) sold for	\$ 16
f. 1902 PTPO cover of Hill, Clark & Co. with perf HC&CO.1 through imprint of 2d QV. (eBay, May 09) sold for	\$ 100
g. Victoria KEVII £2 blue CTO, perf "OS" s'ways. (eBay, May 09) sold for	US \$ 188
h. 1942 reg'd cover of Thomas Brown & Sons, Brisbane, to USA with TBS.1 perfins. (eBay, May 09) sold for	US \$ 21
i. SA 2/6 purple "Long Tom" perf HS&CO.1 s'ways. (eBay, May 09) sold for	US \$ 4
j. 1908 trade postcard of Hawkes Bros., Geelong, with 1d pink QV perf HB.7. (eBay, May 09) sold for	US \$ 22
k. 1912 trade card of the Australian Museum, to Russia, perf "OS/NSW through imprint of 1d Shield. (eBay, May 09) sold for	US \$ 44
l. 6 copies of Queensland 3/- QV duty stamps, 3 perf NZIC.4, 2 perf NICO.1, 1 perf NZIC.1. (eBay, Jun 09) sold for	\$ 52
m. G/NSW Type D on 10/- Navigator (Tasstamps June 09) sold for	\$ 8