

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 87 OCTOBER 2009

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EDITOR'S COMMENT

The recent change in Australian registered post arrangements will probably have a significant effect on the numbers of the PC/NZA perfin that are used on Australian stamps. Up till recently significant quantities of this perfin on a wide range of issues and values were used to post circuit books to members within Australia. Used copies are frequently sold in the Club circuit books and appear to be very popular.

Some members have had higher face value stamps punctured with this perfin to use on circuit books and will need to use up these values on non-philatelic mail and we can expect a higher percentage of these issues will be lost to collectors of these perfins. It is unfortunate that Australia Post has decided to again reduce the number of articles with stamps affixed or stamps used. Do they really expect that philatelic sales will be maintained as stamps become increasingly irrelevant ?

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

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

#259 Dan Baugher, Chesterfield, MO, USA

#260 Ron Lee, Euroa, Victoria

#261 Dan Ryan, Flagstaff Hill SA

#262 Terry Sitch, Winnipeg, Canada

ELECTION OF OFFICE-BEARERS

At Canberra StampShow 2010 (see page 3), we will holding our 2-yearly election of Club office-bearers. A nomination form is enclosed with this Bulletin. Please complete and return this form to the Secretary by 30 November 2009.

MELBOURNE STAMPSHOW 09

There was a meeting of Club members on Saturday 25 July at Melbourne StampShow 2009. There were 14 members present, plus one visitor who joined at the meeting. It was especially pleasing to have representation from NZ and The Netherlands. In addition, Dingle Smith (ACT) and David McNamee (USA) were on the judging panel, and 2 members had stands, and unable to attend the meeting. Highlight of the meeting was the showing by Wim Tukker of part of his gold medal-winning display of Australia Official Perfins.

Congratulations to PCNZA members for the following awards at the Show - John Shepherd (Large Vermeil - Tas. Chalon Heads), Dave Elsmore (Large vermeil - SA Revenue Stamps (inc. 2 perfins!); and Vermeil - Aust & NZ Revenue and Railway Fee Catalogue), and Colin Salt - Large Silver - Queensland Machine Date cases (Literature).

The prize donated by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia was a Noritake 6-person coffee set, and was awarded to Arthur Gray (NSW) for his display of "The George V Commemorative and Pictorial Issues of Australia 1927-1936" which received a Large Gold award.

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. Some perfin displays have been entered by PCNZA members. A meeting room has been booked for 1.30 pm on Saturday 31 October. We look forward to seeing members there - bring along any items of interest to show.

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 at 1 pm.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

... member David McNamee (USA) for his gold medal winning one frame exhibit "Focus on the Holes - Tasmania's Private Perfins." at a recent AAPE exhibition in USA. It can be seen online at

http://www.aaape.org/exhibit_view_frame.asp?intExhibitNumber=81&intCurrentFrameNumber=1

A link to David's exhibit has been added to the Club's web page which has been changed to

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

CANBERRA STAMPSHOW 2010

This exhibition will be held at the Hellenic Club, Woden, A.C.T. from Friday 12 March to Sunday 14 March 2010. This will feature both National and State-level classes of exhibits. We will be liaising with the Canberra Philatelic Society to get a meeting room for a meeting of PCNZA members and others interested in perfin. Already 29 International and National dealers, plus Australia Post, have booked tables at this Stamp Show. Mark this date in your diary - we hope to see you there!

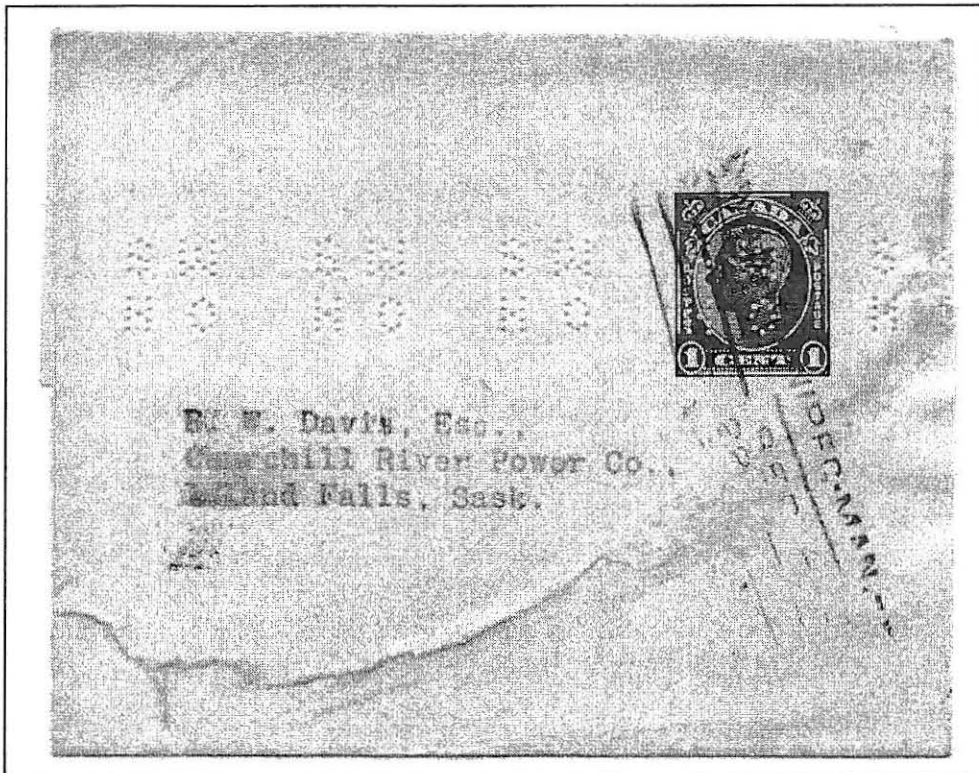
CHANGE TO REGISTERED POST ARRANGEMENTS

This is aimed mainly at those on the distribution list for club circuit books, but may be of interest to all members.

From 6 July 2009, the registration fee (\$2.80 per article) can now only be paid in cash, in exchange for a "pre-paid" registration label. This fee can no longer be paid for with stamps on the article..⊗ The stamps will cover the postage rate only. Your Secretary will be buying these registration labels in bulk at \$2.30 each - members may purchase them at this rate from the Secretary (please add 55c for return postage).

CANADA POSTAL STATIONERY WRAPPER WITH PERFIN

The wrapper shown was sold on eBay in August 2009. It has a 1c KGVI imprinted stamp which is perfinned, inverted, by one die of a multiple (5?) - die "OH/MS" ("4 hole") perforator. Most of the world's postal stationery which is known with perfin has been perforated by a single-die perforator, separate from any multiple-die perforator with similar die pattern intended for sheets of stamps. The perforating must have been done while the wrapper was unfolded. The edges of the wrapper are 9.5 cm from the top and 5.8 cm from the bottom of the "OH/MS" patterns. The cancellation is of "Winnipeg, Man [itoba]."



PERFORATED ASTRONOMY STAMP

The theme for the 2009 Europa stamp is astronomy. Åland Post depicts the Big Dipper constellation or the Plough (UK), the stars of which have been punched in the stamp, creating seven holes in it.



The sky is divided into 88 constellations, approximately half of which are mostly not visible from Åland, being situated in the southern sky. The Big Dipper is part of the Great Bear constellation (Ursa Major). The Great Bear is the third largest constellation, and the Big Dipper is formed by the seven brightest stars in the Great Bear.

The Big Dipper on the stamp is shown exactly as it appears to an observer in Åland looking towards the south or south-west at midnight between 8 and 9 May. As a special effect of this sky-blue stamp, the stars are perforated in the stamp. They will appear in the colour of the envelope to which the stamp is affixed.

Åland is an autonomous and unilingually Swedish region in Finland with its own flag; a blue flag with a yellow/red cross. Åland also has its own stamps, licence plates and its own top domain (.ax).

The land area of Åland is less than 12 sq. km. and consists of 6,500 islands. [At school, most of us would have learnt how to draw our country's map. I wonder if the school-children of Åland do??]. There are a total of 27,500 persons living in Åland in 16 different municipalities. Of them, some 11,000 live in the only town in Åland, Mariehamn. The town was founded in 1861 and is today the centre for industry and politics. Here also the Åland Government, called "Landskapsregering," is located. However, Åland follows the Finnish laws when it comes to foreign affairs and legal questions.

The most important industries in Åland are shipping, trade, banking, farming and food industry. Shipping has always been especially important for Åland and no other industry has had such influence on the population.

[Material for this article is taken from the Åland government web site - jm]

LATE USE OF "VG" PERFINNED STAMPS

John Tyson reports a late use of 6 Australian \$2 "On The Wallaby Track (Fred McCubbin)" stamps with "VG" perfin. These were used on a large envelope from the Victorian Registration and Qualification Authority (VRQA) in Melbourne to the Australian Maritime College in Launceston, Tasmania. Although the stamps are uncanceled, John says the item was received by the addressee in April 2009.

This stamp was issued in 1981, and the last recorded use of the "VG" perforator was in 1989. Members will be aware that much mint "VG" material has come on to the

philatelic market in recent years, some said to have been found in “bottom drawers” within Victorian Government Departments and agencies.

SUSPECT PATTERNS OF OSNSW TYPE C (David Coath & David Andersen)

The OSNSW type C pattern was introduced for use with NSW Government Departments in 1915. The device was designed to puncture the KG V issues and consisted of a 12 die horizontal array of 6 dies with a gap to allow for the sheet margin and then a further 6 dies. The 12 dies were essentially identical and the pattern is found mainly in position 1.

The perforation of sheets was done by the NSW Government printer and the quality of their work in terms of consistency of pattern, strike position and maintenance of the die was very good.

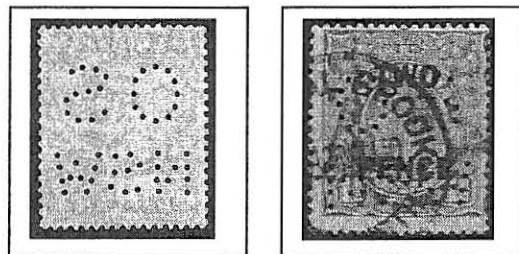
The earliest use of the device was June 1915. It was in consistent use up until late 1928 (or early 1929) when use was suspended. During this period NSW Government Departments used the same OS pattern as the Commonwealth, Victorian, Western Australian, Queensland and South Australian Government Departments.

The OSNSW type C device was briefly reintroduced in early 1933 or late 1932 before it was modified to create the GNSW type A device which was introduced in May 1933.

More than 1000 copies of this perfin have been examined closely. A small number of examples that showed subtle but distinct variation from the normal strikes have been identified.. These examples were often on better issues and in some instances in rare positions.

In all there are 3 patterns which appear to be made by forged dies of the OSNSW type C. In many instances these patterns appeared on stamps with non NSW postmarks. While it is possible for genuine OS/NSW stamps to carry a postmark of a receiving location rather than the sending location this is unusual and the frequency of inappropriate postmarks on suspect strike patterns is telling.

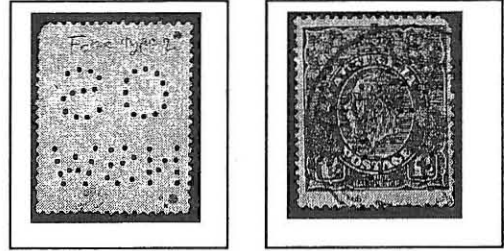
Type 1. This is the most common forged die and more than 20 examples of this strike have been found on a wide range of issues spanning the usage period of the type C device. The majority of these came from the same source. Some are found on common issues which is surprising but may indicate a desire on the part of the forger to try to show that it is a regular die. Most but not all issues have New South Wales postmarks



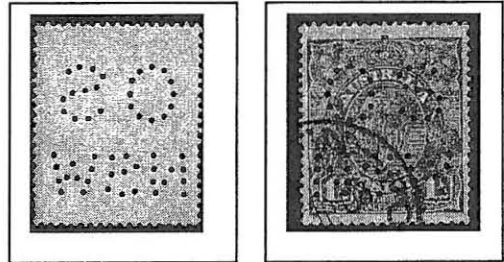
If this was a normal die we would expect to encounter it on one in every twelve stamps which is not the case. Other collectors have only recorded this ‘die’ on scarce suspect issues and the characteristics of the N are not repeated with the G/NSW Type A pattern as would be expected if this was a genuine die.

The principal features of this die are the two bottom pins of the N are not level, the second upright of the N is crooked and one of the pins in the middle of the W is very close to the second upright.

Type 2. Only one example of this pattern has been encountered on a 1 1/2d brown single wmk issue with a clear Melbourne postmark. The O bulges slightly on the left hand side



Type 3. This is very similar to Type 1 except that the spacing between the OS and the NSW are slightly different. The one copy identified on a 1 1/2d red single wmk issue does not overlay with copies of Type 1.

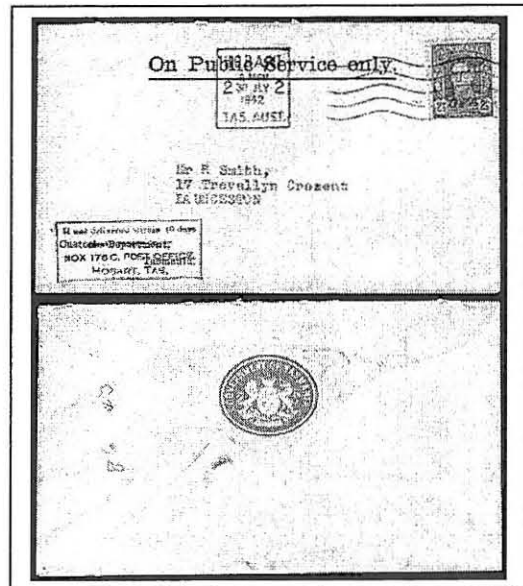


TASMANIAN "OPSO" PERFIN COVER - INTERESTING eBay BIDDING

In August, the cover shown was sold on eBay. On the flap, it has the printed seal of the State Government of Tasmania. The stamp has Perfin 'T', and the front of the cover has the wording "On Public Service Only", rather than "On Her Majesty's Service". The user was the Customs Department whose rubber stamp cachet with ID and return postal address are at the lower left corner.

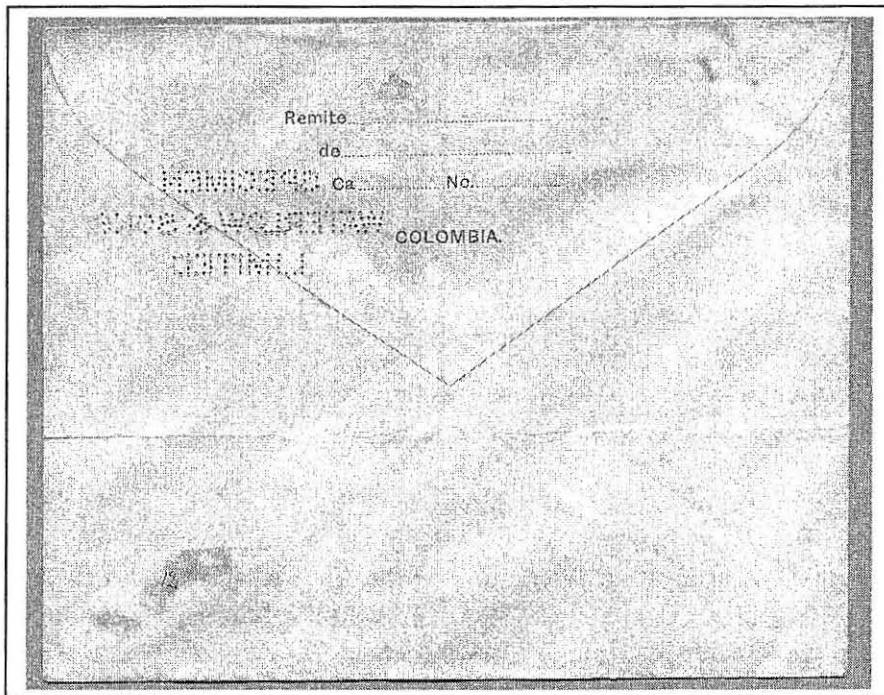
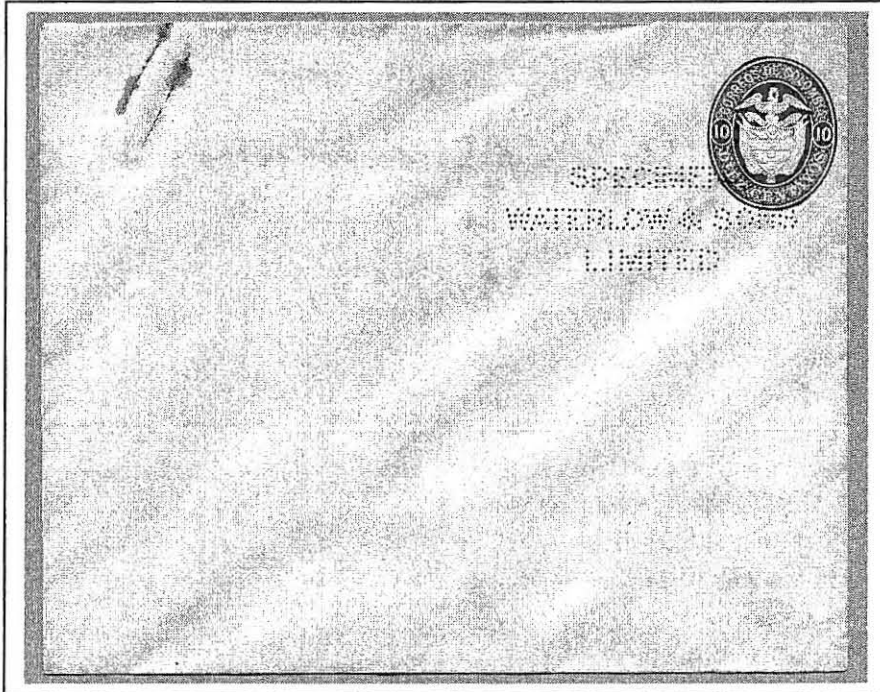
But perhaps the most interesting aspect of the sale of this item on eBay was the last-minute bidding. eBay has recently incorporated a real-time count-down, second-by-second, for the last minute before the closing time. With 10 seconds left, there were only two bids on the item. Then with only 5 seconds left, the bid count suddenly went from two to five! On

inspection of the bid details at the end of this auction, it was seen that there were two "sniper" bidders, one of whom had two identical "snipe" bids! But this bidder got "out-sniped" (is this a new term for adding to our language??) by another "sniper" with all three of these "snipe" bids being shown with the same time to the nearest second.



COLOMBIA POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE WITH "SPECIMEN" PERFIN
(John Mathews)

Recently sold on eBay is the postal stationery item shown. It is a 10 centavos postal stationery envelope in which there is the perforations "SPECIMEN / WATERLOW & SONS / LIMITED" through the stamp image. The view of the reverse shows that the perforating was done after the envelope was folded (and glued?).



I cannot find any references on the Internet to confirm that Waterlow & Sons were the printers of such items - are there any specialist collectors who could verify this? This

perforator appears to have been specifically made for postal stationery (and maybe other items) rather than for stamps.

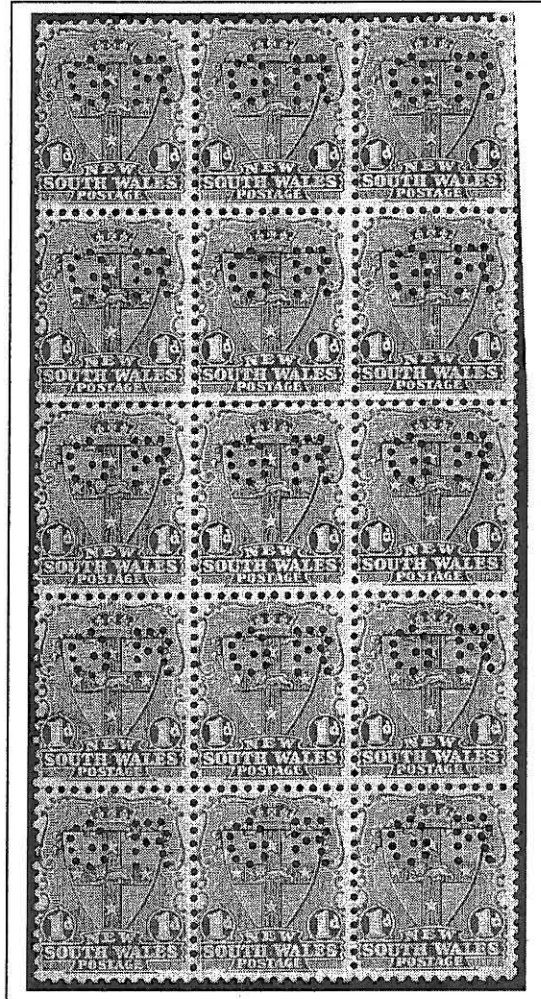
GR.2 – A MULTI-HEADED DIE (John Mathews)

In November 2006, an eBay item offered a block of 15 New South Wales 1d “Shield” stamps with perfin pattern GR.2. The block consisted of 5 rows each with 3 stamps. Close inspection revealed that the spacing of the pattern was the same as the dimensions of the stamps in both the horizontal and vertical directions.

If the spacing matches in only one direction, it usually indicates a multi-headed die with the heads in a line. Also the spacing in the other direction would normally not be uniform, as the sheets would be fed by hand under the perforator head. Furthermore, any discernable differences in the heads are able to be seen consistently in each set of strikes. Part of a pull from a 12-head device with this pattern was reproduced by Basset Hull in 1911. Basset Hull states that this was a modification of an old line perforator.

Spacing matching the stamp size in both directions tends to indicate that either the punch head had multiple rows and multiple columns, or (less likely?) that the operator was very careful in the positioning of the sheet for each strike.

Overlaying the different rows and columns using two transparency images of the block is not conclusive in the matter of slight variations in pin positions within each pattern down the columns.



However, there is some consistency in the “condition” of corresponding holes in the left column of this block, not evident in the other columns - the third hole down the upright of the ‘R’, the hole at the bottom of the ‘G’ and the hole of the ‘G’ opposite the cross-arm all show evidence of paper being torn rather than clean-cut all around. This would be consistent with a single row of heads, and hence a very careful operator!

[Reference: “The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Stamps of New South Wales”, by A. F. Basset Hull, R.P.S., London, 1911.
See also SPPB, April 2004, page 7]

COASTAL FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY (John Mathews)

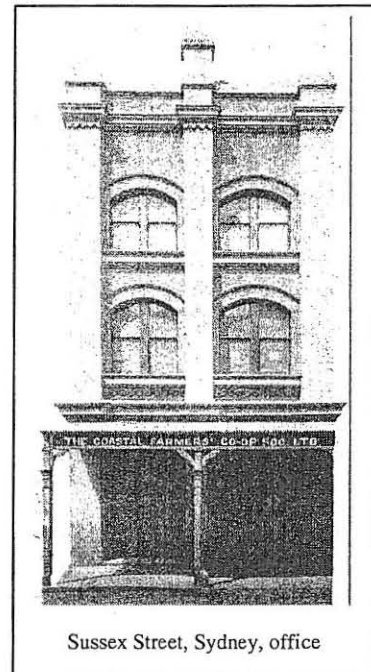
The "co-operative" movement began in 1881 when the first co-operative distributing company was established in Kiama, on the south coast of New South Wales, under the title of South Coast and West Camden Co-operative Company, Limited. In 1884, the first co-operative butter factory in Australasia was built a couple of miles away from Kiama. Other factories followed in the surrounding regions. This was in the days before refrigeration. Victoria sent delegates over to inspect these co-operative efforts in New South Wales, and similar developments followed in New Zealand, Queensland and other colonies.

At first, nothing but milk was received at these South Coast creameries, but with the advent of the private separator, the usefulness of these co-operative factories was jeopardized and changed materially. Another factor in this regard was the introduction of refrigeration which caused these factories to become merely separating stations, with the cream being forwarded to the Sydney cold stores. At about the same time, co-operative selling companies were also being established in the same general area, and then extending to the North Coast and elsewhere.

Because of limited funds subscribed by the farmers, together with over commitment on buildings, this company went into liquidation in 1900. The directors joined forces with McArthur and Company, soft-goods warehousemen and shipping agents, of York Street, Sydney, to initiate the formation of a new company, the Farmers' Co-operative Company. However, immediately a breakaway group, under the guidance of Mr. Charles Edward Devenish Meares, formed the Coastal Farmers' Co-operative Society which was to be a genuine co-operative company. Mr. Meares had the long-term view that the co-operative movement should be extended to all States. Mr. Meares had originally had two years' book-keeping experience with a commission agent in Sussex Street, Sydney, before being one of the pioneers of the South Coast and West Camden Co-operative Company, Limited.

From the start there was much competition between the larger Farmers' Co-operative Company and the Coastal Farmers' Co-operative Society. However, in 1908 it was the former which went into liquidation. One of the earliest practical benefits conferred on producers by co-operative selling was a reduction in the rate of commission charged. Initially this only applied to cream, but later it was also applied to bacon and cheese.

A decentralized distribution system was introduced throughout the Sydney metropolitan area and the major country centres, thus avoiding unnecessary transport to Sydney before distribution to the markets. As the co-operative system grew, it gained leverage over the shipping lines which carried the products to the markets of Britain, resulting in lower freight rates and more frequent sailings.

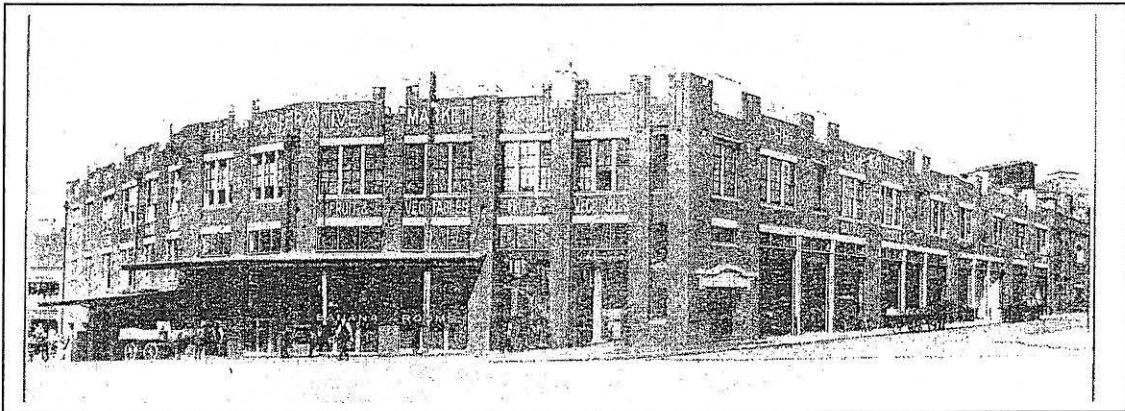


To further facilitate the selling of these products in Britain, an Australian Co-operative Committee was established in London in 1908, and by 1914 included

representatives of Coastal Farmers' Co-operative Society, Gippsland & Northern Co-operative Selling Company, Victorian Producers' Co-operative, and Farmers and Graziers. This committee disbanded when several members joined the Imperial Army at the outbreak of World War I, but it was later replaced by the Australian Producers' Wholesale Co-operative Federation.

The Coastal Farmers' Co-operative Society was the first to move in the investigation of the pasteurisation process in Australia in 1913, although it had already been introduced in New Zealand four or five years earlier. As factory after factory adopted these methods, the quality of New South Wales butter jumped ahead, while in Victoria, where the factories were lukewarm on the subject, very little progress was made.

In 1918, Gippsland & Northern Co-operative Selling Company decided to introduce the principles of co-operation into insurance and established the Co-operative Insurance Company of Australia Limited. Soon the Victorian Butter Factories Co-operative Company joined up as a shareholder, and in 1921 so did the Coastal Farmers' Co-operative Society.



Coastal Farmers' Co-operative Society's Thomas Street (Sydney) premises, circa 1930

AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL PERFINs: UPDATE

Additional issues with the NSW Government Railway patterns have been reported.

GR Type A

Issue	Position
1892-92 Wmk Crown/NSW (2mm) 5d green p.11.5 x 11	5
1892-99 Wmk Crown/NSW (2mm) ½d grey p.11x12	7
1888-99 Wmk Crown/NSW (2mm) 1d lilac p.11x12	7
1902 Wmk Crown/NSW (1mm) 1d carmine p.12x11.5	5
1902 Wmk Crown/NSW (1mm) 2d cobalt blue p.12x11.5	5

GR Type B

Issue	Position
1903-08 Wmk Crown/NSW (1mm) 3d dull green p.11.5x11	1
1905-10 Wmk Crown/A 2½d Prussian blue p.11.5x12	8

JUSTUS SCHARFF, IRONMONGER (John Mathews)

A “Google” search of the Internet for information on the Sydney ironmonger (and perfin user) Justus Scharff brought up an American auction house web site which had the item shown listed in an old on-line auction catalogue. The envelope is postmarked from Westerstrede (in Lower Saxony, Germany) on 2 November 1888 and addressed to “Herrn Carl Ahmels in Jaluit, / per Herrn Justus Scharff / Sydney / Australien”. There is a cachet of Justus Scharff on the reverse dated 17 December 1888. I was curious about the name “Jaluit”, and further searching revealed that Jaluit Atoll is in the Marshall Islands in the North Pacific Ocean, once occupied by Germany.



Of course, the next aspect which needed investigation was the reason for the card being addressed via Justus Scharff in Sydney. Another “hit” of my search had been to the web site of Randwick City Council, which included a “streetscape” of 48-66 St Mark’s Road, Randwick. These buildings, dating from the late 19th Century, had been erected on land originally part of St Mark’s Glebe Estate. The house at 52–56 St Mark’s Road, now known as “Allowah”, was built in 1884 for Justus Scharff, who originally named the house “Jaluit”. A check of Sydney Directories showed that the earliest entry for Justus Scharff was in 1878.

So it seems that Justus Scharff may have lived on Jaluit Atoll at some time, perhaps on his way to Australia, and there met Carl Ahmels, but this still does not explain why the letter should have been addressed via Sydney. However, the auction house description of the item included the information that the post office on Jaluit did not open until March 1889! So, did Carl Ahmels visit Justus Scharff in Sydney, or did Justus Scharff forward the letter to Jaluit in some goods being exported there from Sydney? Or was there some other reason?

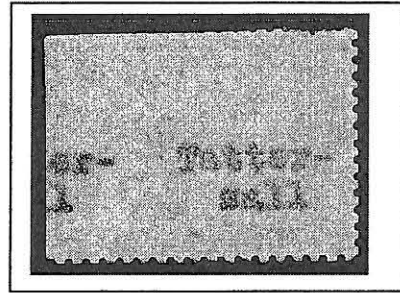
Incidentally, the cover finally sold on eBay in March 2006 for US\$6,250-00!

TATTERSALL UNDERPRINTS

A range of KGV issues are encountered with the Tattersall underprint which was applied on the gum side of issues used for postage. Most usage would be of letter rate issues.

The ink used to create the underprint appears to have soaked through the gum and left an impression on the back of the stamp usually in purple. A few issues that have been encountered are listed below. Please report any other issues that you have.

KGV 1½d red single wmk
 KGV 1½d green single wmk
 KGV 1½d red small multi wmk p.13.5 x 12.5
 KGV 2d red small multi wmk p. 13.5 x 12.5
 KGV 2d on 1½d red overprint
 2d Bridge typographed



AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest from auctions/direct sales since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobilo, Lorell Trewern, Lindsay Parker and David Coath for passing on their spotting of perfin lots in auctions. Stamps are "used" unless otherwise indicated. Prices in A\$ unless indicated.

			Est.
a.	NZ 1940s OHMS censored cover of NZ High Commr., London, to Switzerland, with 2 x 2½d KGVI perf "NZ". (Auckland City Stamps, Jul 09)		NZ \$ 75
b.	Victoria PTPO cover (2d QV imprinted) of Vacuum Oil Co., Melbourne, used 1915 with ½d Roo with perf "VO/CO" affixed (eBay, Jun 09)	sold for	US \$ 102
c.	KGV block of 18 x 1d green perf "VG", mint (eBay, Jun 09)	sold for	\$ 134
d.	1/4d KGV sm mult p.13 perf IHC.3. (eBay, Jul 09)	sold for	\$ 25
e.	10/- Roo 3 rd wmk, perf "OS", CTO. (eBay, Jun 09)	sold for	US \$ 57
f.	NZ Tuberculosis Health Stamp perf "VOCo" (4-hole 'O') (eBay, Jun 09)	sold for	\$ 34
g.	NZ ½ d green KEVII pr perf "BG/EC". (Auckland City Stamps, Jul 09)		NZ \$ 60
h.	NZ 1935 2d Whare with overprint "FTC" (Farmer's Trading Co.) (Auckland City Stamps, Jul 09)		NZ \$ 10
i.	NZ 1945 MGM advertising cover with 1d green KGVI perf "M/G/M" (Auckland City Stamps, Jul 09)		NZ \$200
j.	6d claret engraved Kooka perf AACO.1. (eBay, Aug 09)	sold for	\$ 72
k.	Postal stationery env. of Harrison, Jones & Devlin with perf HJD.1 through 1d shield imprint. (eBay, Aug 09)	sold for	US \$ 78
l.	Victoria 5/- red/blue QV perf "OS". (eBay, Aug 09)	sold for	US \$ 21
m.	NZ 1945 Health Stamp 1d + ½d perf "VOCo" (4-hole 'O') (eBay, Jun 09)	sold for	US \$ 9
n.	GB KEVII 9d perf "B.N.Z." (Len Jury auction, Aug 09)		NZ \$ 28
o.	NZ A.C./&S, DB/&Co, EWM/W, C&G, W.T., and W&T/Ld. (Len Jury auction, Aug 09)		NZ \$ 41
p.	4d orange Roo perf HW&CO.1. (eBay, Sep 09)	sold for	\$ 7
q.	6d blue Roo perf HW&CO.1. (eBay, Sep 09)	sold for	\$ 5
r.	GB 1883 QV 5/- with "N.Z.L." Perfin. (eBay, Sep 09)	unsold at	US \$ 9
s.	Queensland 5/- Chalon with perf "OS" inv./rev. (eBay, Sep 09)	sold for	\$ 56
t.	1935 1/- black ANZAC perf "G/NSW". (eBay, Sep 09)	sold for	\$ 10