

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 88 JANUARY 2010

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

While there was some disappointment at the method of judging of the perfin exhibits at Launpex 2009, the mere fact that there was a separate prize for the best perfin entry was a positive development. I would expect that it will take some considerable time for a significant number of judges with substantial knowledge and understanding of perfins to come up through the ranks. Presumably this has also been the case with some other areas of philately such as thematics or revenues.

You might expect many people to find a perfins display dealing with some companies that they themselves are familiar with to hold greater interest than a specialized study of material they have no hope of obtaining. Displays that kindle interest including those with perfins should be encouraged as they benefit the hobby in general and the best way to encourage regular exhibitors of such material is to reward them with higher awards. As an outsider, I get the impression that there is some recognition within the APF of how important this is but possibly more can be done.

We have been doing quite a bit to 'show the flag' to the general philatelic community by supporting publication of literature, funding exhibition prizes, holding meetings at exhibitions and providing information through the website. Compared to when I started collecting perfins some decades ago, there is much greater recognition of perfins now. A discussion about what has worked well and what else could be done would no doubt be of benefit.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

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

#263 Mrs N. Wright, Kaiapoi, New Zealand

#264 Patrick Reid, Bracknell, UK

#265 Geoff Roosen, East Malvern, Victoria

VALE JOSEPH LAURA, jr (John Mathews)

It was with considerable regret and sadness that I received a letter from Joe Laura's daughter to say that Joe had passed away in October 2009. Joe had been a member of our Perfin Club since 1989, thus being one of our earliest members. He was a passionate and knowledgeable collector of perfins of all countries, and was proud to have made it to number four on the US Perfins Club's list of members with the highest number of different world patterns! He was keen to increase his collections of Australian and Japanese perfins to boost his position to number three.

I had the good fortune to be able to visit Joe when I was on my way (by car) to Ottawa via Boston in 1993. Joe had previously told me in a letter that he estimated that he had 500,000 perfins, and I had thought his finger must have slipped on the typewriter keyboard and added an extra '0'. However, when I arrived at his home, I very soon realized that it was no exaggeration! His perfin "den" was well organized, with perfins stored in albums, packets and boxes on shelves which lined the walls of two rooms, and he had a large desk on which he worked on sorting his perfins with a range of catalogues within easy reach.

Joe was a generous host and an excellent cook. His work on perfins usually only occupied the long Massachusetts winter, as he was also a passionate gardener. He proudly showed me around his local area near Cape Cod in eastern Massachusetts. But I had to work for my "keep". On a table, Joe had a pile of perfins of Germany which he had separated out starting with the letter "D", and while he was mounting his German "C" perfins into his album, he asked me to sort these "D" perfins into 26 piles by the second letter of the patterns - it took me the best part of two days! Another task which I was happy to do was help him identify some of his Australian perfins. This meant "burning the midnight oil" but it was well worth it as I finished up with 2 pages of my note book filled with new information and several new patterns recorded!

TIMPEX

The TIMPEX competitive exhibition was held in Timaru (South Island, New Zealand) from 16 to 18 October 2009. Members Ray Bennett (exhibition chairman), Harold Waite, Bill Register met for a chat about perfins, along with two visitors who wish to join the Club (Mr Ross Dean and Mrs N. Wright and her 2 sons). Congratulations to Bill for his Large Silver award for his display of "Japan perfins", and to Harold for his Large Vermeil award for his "N.Z. Commercial Perfins 1881 - 1956" display. Harold was also awarded the Perfin Club's prize. Ray Bennett also provided an invited display of his study of "BNZ" perfins (on GB stamps) with missing pins states.

LAUNPEX 2009

Launpex 2009 was held in Launceston from 30 October to 2 November 2009. Four people attended the meeting held on the Saturday - members John Tyson and your Secretary, a former member Doreen Holmes, and a non-member Trevor Eley who had displayed the official perfins of South Australia in the one-frame competition.

There were 9 frames of perfins entered in the competition, including 8 from 7 Club members (Peter Wood, Mark Saxby, John Tyson, Lindsay Parker, Gordon Monk, John Mathews and Dave Elsmore). Of these, there were 2 Vermeil awards, 5 Silver and 1 Silver-Bronze - a most creditable result considering that this was a first experience for most. The winner of the Club's prize for the best Perfin exhibit (the category nominated by the Exhibition Committee) went to Gordon Monk for his display of "Perforated Problems" which showed perfins on mainly South Australian stamps "through various stages of a company's life". There will be another National one-frame exhibition at Mandurah, Western Australia, from 19-21 November 2010, for those who want to update their entries from Launpex and for those who would like to try a perfin entry for the first time. I believe that our President, Derek Pocock, will be associated with this exhibition.

In addition to the perfin exhibits at Launpex, non-perfin entries were also exhibited by members Derek Pocock, Dingle Smith, David Jones and John Tyson. Congratulations to all our members who entered the competition at Launpex.

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. The committee of the Canberra Philatelic Society has allocated us a meeting room at 12 noon on Saturday 13 March for a meeting of PCNZA members and others interested in perfins. 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! Bring along any perfin items of interest to share with others.

MACHINE DATE CASES OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Member Colin Salt (UK) has announced that the latest volume in his "Machine Date Cases" series is now available - "SOUTH AUSTRALIA - the Machine Date Cases of Country and Suburban Offices (Including Northern Territory)". It has 49 A4 pages. Cost is £6 post paid within U.K. Enquiries and orders to:-
Colin Salt, / Teddy's Place, / First Avenue, / Frinton-on-Sea, CO13 9HA / Essex. U.K. Email address: barrfyke@tesco.net.

Australian readers should contact Prestige Philately PO Box 126, Belgrave 3160, Vic. info@prestigephilately.com

JAPANESE PERFIN CATALOGUE

Member Bill Register (NZ) is looking for an English language Japanese perfin catalogue. Does any reader know where one may be obtained? Replies to either Bill at 132 Withells Road, Christchurch, 8042, NEW ZEALAND, or to the Secretary by email or Australia Post.

EXHIBITING PERFINS - LOOKING BACK AT LAUNPEX 2009 (John Mathews)

In past issues of this Bulletin, some members have given some ideas of how they mount their perfin collections, but none of the PCNZA exhibitors of perfins at Launpex in October/November 2009 had exhibited such material before and for them it was breaking new ground. This article is aimed at helping those who will exhibit perfins in the future.

There are many aspects of the total subject of perfins which can be used as a topic for a display. At Launpex, the 8 exhibits showed a very wide range of such approaches, including:

- The evolution of perfins in Great Britain, including Sloper & Co. perfinned advertising stationery, and a range of company usage.
- Usage through a company's life through documents and dated loose stamps, including the various pattern positions resulting from low levels of "quality control".
- Usage in general through the whole known period of perfin usage.
- Usage by companies in a particular industry.
- Usage of several patterns by various offices of one particular company on a range of different covers and documents.
- Perfins used on Revenue and Railway Parcel stamps.
- Proving covers and postcards showing user premises for users in each State, illustrating the commercial environment during the period of perfin usage.
- Tracing the usage from first to last and damaged states of the "CofA" and "C/of/A" perforators used at Australia House, London, and by Australian Military in WWI.

All of the exhibits showed loose stamps, proving covers and other proving documents in well-balanced displays. Together, they showed how diverse and interesting perfin-collecting can be.

So, what did the judge(s) make of these exhibits? The marks for a one-frame exhibit (the section in which these perfin exhibits were entered) are allocated as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| • Treatment and Importance | Max 30 |
| • Knowledge and Research | Max 35 |
| • Condition and Rarity | Max 30 |
| • Presentation | Max 5 |

Total (out of)	----- 100
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I have only seen the comments on the judges' critique sheets for three of the entries, so this may not be completely representative overall. From these comments, it seems the judges were ill-prepared for their judging task, despite the topics of the displays being known from at least the closing date for nomination of entries in August 2009. As a result, the comments which I have seen contain nothing positive or even specific about the material presented in the displays, and nothing constructive to help the exhibitors improve their exhibits for future entries. This is, of course, most disappointing and frustrating for the exhibitors, especially first-time ones. From the actual marks given for the various criteria listed above, the judge(s) seemed to fail for the following reasons:

- Treatment and Importance - lack of knowledge of perfins meant that the significance of the approach taken in the display was not appreciated, nor the “importance” to the whole understanding of the use of perfins.
- Knowledge and Research - lack of their own knowledge meant that they did not understand how deep was the knowledge and amount of research on the part of the exhibitor. In this regard, it seems that the text provided by the exhibitors was completely ignored, or not even read.
- Condition and Rarity - again, lack of knowledge on the judges’ part meant that the rarity of items was not recognised. For non-perfin exhibits, rarity may be measured by the size of MUH imprint blocks of KGV or State stamps for which the exhibitor may have had to bid a large amount to secure. For perfins, it is usually a case that relatively “ordinary-looking”, but significant, items may have rarely survived (keeping in mind past generations’ attitudes to perfins!). For example, how does one compare the rarity of the earliest known use of a perfin (there can only be one of these) to a large MUH block of KGV stamps (of which there may be several in existence)?
- Presentation - in many aspects of life generally, first impressions are important. Ask anyone who has gone for (or conducted) a job interview! In this regard, two things probably stand out as factors which influence a judge in what he thinks a display is worth at first sight, and having done this the judge may then allocate the marks to come up with this end result (years ago, one judge told me that this was the way he did it!). These two factors are overall balance (are all the covers at one end of the display and all the loose stamps at the other?), and the visual impact of a brightly-coloured display. While the former may be a justifiable aspect, the latter certainly should not be considered as being significant as far as the material being presented is concerned.

It was great to see the “massed display” of perfins at Launpex and all the exhibitors are to be congratulated in contributing so well to it. Much can be learned from this experience, both for the exhibitors and judges. Let us hope that it is the beginning of the acceptance of “perfins” as being a recognized aspect of philately as a whole, just as “thematics” and other recently-introduced sections of exhibits now are.

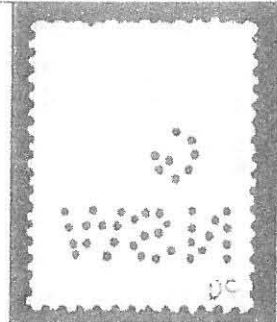
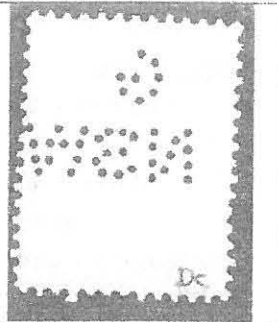
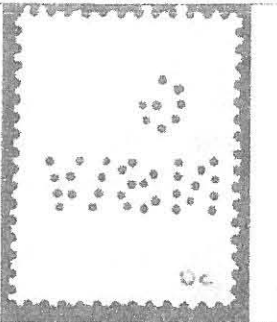
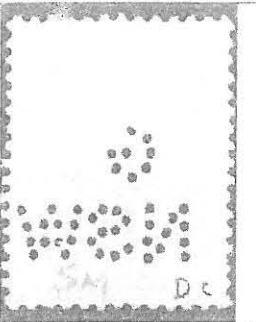
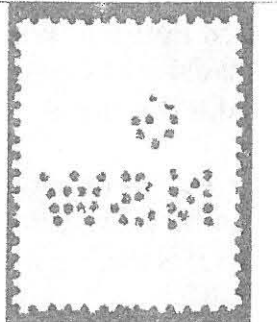
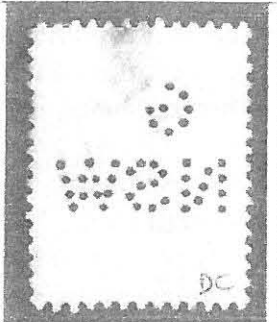
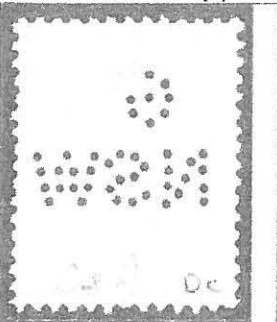
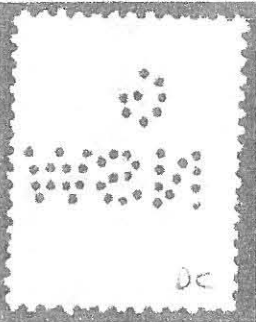
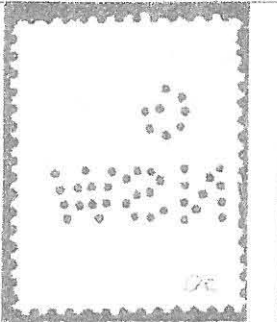
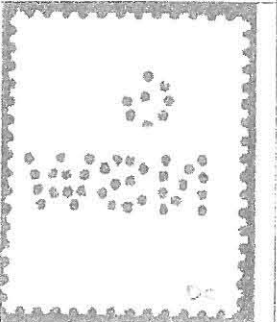

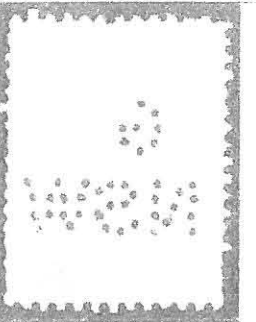
FAKE G/NSW TYPE B (David Andersen)

In early 2009, a range of faked OS/NSW perfins was sold by a Western Australian auctioneer. The auctioneer was advised that these items were suspect and sold them as such. One lot of Kangaroos with the G/NSW Type B pattern was also included in this auction and at least one item was suspect in this lot. Recently I noticed them still available on the auctioneer’s website and purchased them for the nominal price being asked. The lot consisted of four CofA watermark Kangaroos - 6d, 9d and two 2/-. The first of these had not previously been recorded while the others are fairly common.

The 6d value bears a postmark 5th May 1932 which is some months before the introduction of this machine and accordingly is immediately suspect. However, it would be ideal to be able to confirm that the die on this item does not match any of the genuine dies. With the assistance of David Coath who supplied a good number copies for checking, the 10 possible dies have been identified. As only around 40 copies were available for checking, there is however still some room for error.

As this die appears to have been in use for short periods, it appears that the dies where some pins are missing are consistent through the entire period of use, being found on both the Kangaroo issues and the later QEII values also punctured with this pattern.

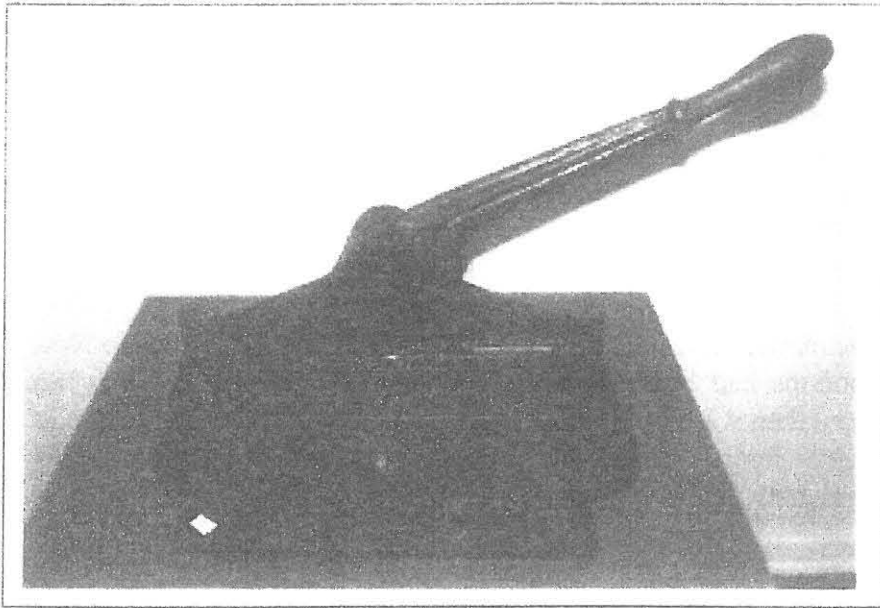
This die was created by modifying the earlier OS/NSW die, removing the first S and altering the O to a G. The placement of the crossbar for the G was not consistent and makes these dies fairly easy to identify. Most of the missing pins to the 'S's found with the OS/NSW pattern on Kangaroo issues were repaired (with one exception). However, damage to the 'W' is encountered in a number of dies. The possible dies are illustrated below with the number of copies identified in brackets.

			
Die A - Bar of G low and missing hole in W (6)	Die B - Bar of G slightly lowered and top of S distorted (8)	Die C - Bar of G level, two missing holes in W and one missing in S most of the time (3)	Die D - Bar of G almost level and second down stroke of N crooked (2)
			
Die E - similar to die D but missing hole in the S is encountered with the OS/NSW die (1)	Die F - Bar of G slightly higher. Pins at bottom of first half of W close (3)	Die G - Bar of G slightly raised and second down stroke of N curved (4)	Die H - Bar of G raised and two next pins close together (5)
			
Die I - Bar of G raised and next two pins further apart (3)	Die J - Bar of G raised, next two pins of G close together. Bent downstroke of N. (6)	Fake 6d - 5 th May 1932 postmark. At least they got Sydney right!	Fake 6d - Both down strokes of N crooked and first down stroke of W crooked. Small holes.

It would be helpful if others could check their holdings of this die and confirm if these draft dies are reflected in what they hold.

ANOTHER CUMMINS PERFORATOR

Another perforator made by the B. F. Cummins Company of Chicago was sold on eBay in October 2009. This one was a 10-head model 53 with Perfin pattern U60 (US Perfins Catalogue) for US\$382.



LAST KNOWN USE OF TATTERSALL'S 'A' PERFIN

This month, an item on eBay offered a quantity of Tasmanian Sideface and Pictorial issues, among which were several 'A' perfins with readable dates. One of these was an A.2 perfin on a 2d Pictorial with clear postmark date of 1 NO 10. This confirms the last known usage of the 'A' patterns. A previous example was known with this date suspected but with the year not completely clear.

BOGUS OS/NSW TYPE B PATTERNS ON KANGAROO ISSUES (David Coath)

I recently purchased a bulk lot of patterns from the US Perfin Club Auction that had been listed as just 57 Australian perfins. To my surprise it contained a 6d brown Kangaroo (3rd watermark) carrying an OS/NSW Type B pattern. This got me thinking and reading about what we know of these issues.

Much has been written about the questionable usage of this pattern on Kangaroo issues. Most recently in SPPB #84 of January 2009 (David Andersen) but previously in SPPB # 59 of October 2002 (David Andersen), SPPB #66 of July 2004 (David Andersen) and in SPPB #51 October 2000 (Frank Hermsen). They are also listed in "Australian Official Perfins" but there is a notation that they have only "been reported recently". David further notes in the January 2009 article that they have tended to surface in foreign accumulations in Canada and the Netherlands. In all his articles David cautions readers about the questionable nature of this usage.

The OSNSW Type B came into service in February 1903 and it remained in use until replaced by the new OS/NSW Type A device in 1913. Later use of a single die of OS/NSW Type B continued on pre-printed official postcards until the late 1940s and

this usage is not in question. John Sinfield in the "Postal Stationery Collector" (November 1984) reports later use on aerogrammes until around 1960. John also noted deterioration of the die with missing pins from 1922, which were repaired in 1936 with another missing pin appearing from 1941.

This pattern has now been reported on the following 3rd wmk Kangaroos:

6d - my new one - postmark Norwood 13/12/1929 – probably
Norwood SA

6d - SPPB Jan 2009 – postmark Moo..? (WA) 25/06/1929

6d - SPPB July 2004 – postmark Cordalba (QLD) 22/06/1929

9d - SPPB Jan 2009 – postmark Perth (WA) date unclear

1/- - SPPB Oct 2000 – postmark indistinct

2/- - SPPB October 2002 – postmark Brisbane (QLD)



The postmarks indicate usage in 1929 and all are from outside New South Wales. If these stamps had been perforated by the device used on New South Wales postal stationery then we would expect to see usage with New South Wales postmarks, more use over a longer period and evidence of the same missing pins found on postal stationery between 1922 and 1936.

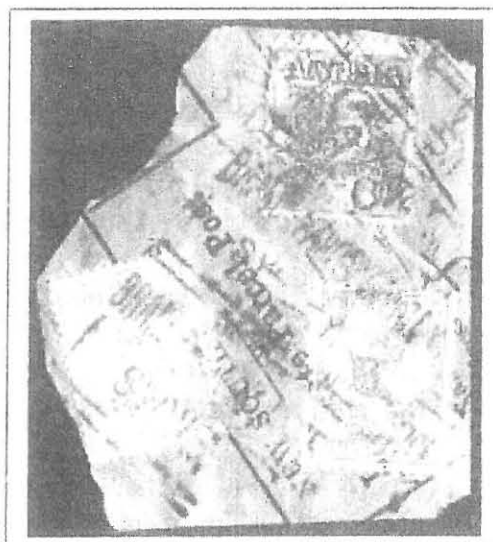
John Sinfield noted that "copies of postcards from the 1938 issue onwards have recently been reported from auctions in mint condition and without the pre-printed messages on the reverse". These mint issues feature the pre 1922 version of the die without the missing pins. John concluded that these issues were forgeries.

It is logical to extend this assessment to these Kangaroos also carrying the OS/NSW Type B. They are possibly the work of the same forgers. If you come across any more such items please send details to David Andersen, but it is certain they are bogus. [Editor - further reports would be appreciated as it may give us some idea of the source and scope of this series of fakes.]

A NEW IDENTITY? (John Mathews)

I thought an item in a public auction in November 2009 may provide a user identity for the perfin pattern BWL.1. The [Intersta]te Parcel Post piece has 2d & 1/- Roos and a 6d engraved Kookaburra, all with perfin BWL.1. From the scan in the auction's on-line catalogue, the rectangular cachet cancel reads "BRA... / SYDNEY". The rest of the wording is very faint or masked by overlapping strikes.

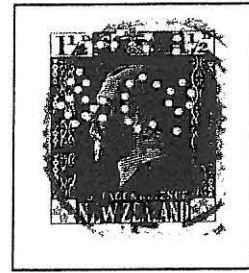
A search of Sands' Sydney Directories for 1913 to 1920 failed to come up with a company name which matched this.



So, I asked for a high resolution scan. This showed the complete wording quite clearly - "BRANCH PARCELS OFFICE / SYDNEY"..!! The search for a user identity continues... Incidentally, the item sold for AS180.

COLLECTORS, BEWARE ??

Member Birger Mortensen (Denmark) has shown a New Zealand 1½d black KGV stamp with a near-complete strike of a Perfin pattern "B H / & Co.". No such perfin is known used by any New Zealand company. The postmark is "Milton", a very small town in the south of the South Island, which is unlikely to have had a company of a size that would possibly have used perfins (apologies to those in this town if this does them an injustice..:-).



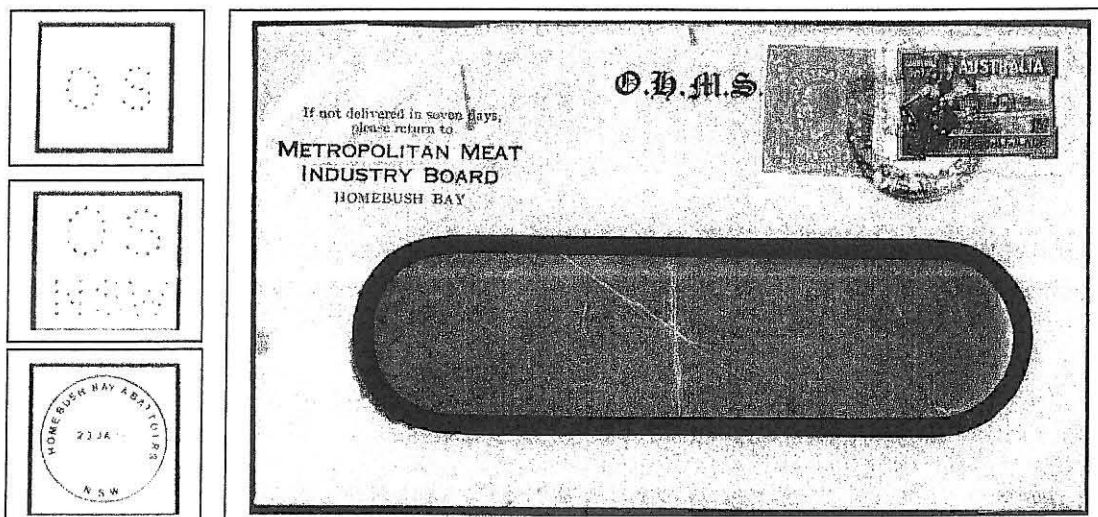
The perfin looks to be GB Perfin B3325.03. This would not be the first example of a perfin of one country being seen on a stamp of another country. Examples are the GB perfin "A&E/TCL", and the Malayan perfin "B&K", both being seen on Australian KGV stamps. Interestingly, all three of these patterns look to be the style of dies made by Joseph Sloper and Co. of London. When that company was sold, a huge number of dies were disposed of (to scrap metal dealers, dumps, etc ??), and it is possible that some may have been found by people who knew little about perfins and who wanted to experiment with these dies to see what they did.

Perfin collecting has been openly popular now for many years. Therefore, a completely new letter pattern for a perfin on any country's stamps must surely be regarded with much caution.

AN INTERESTING COVER WITH MIXED OFFICIAL PERFINS

Colin Clark Hutchison has shown this cover from the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board - Homebush Bay. The ½d orange KGV has perfin "OS" and the 1927 Canberra Parliament House stamp has perfin "OS/NSW" (sideways to left). Colin says that only 2 covers are known with the Parliament House stamp with "OS/NSW" perfin. The indistinct postmark is the scarce "Homebush Bay Abattoirs" cds.

Colin would like to know if anyone may have a cover with the Canberra stamp, which has the "OS/NSW" in the upright position, which they may wish to sell. He is an interested buyer. Does anyone know if such a cover even exists?



COLOMBIA POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE WITH "SPECIMEN" PERFIN

In response to the article in the October 2009 Bulletin, member David McNamee (USA) has sent the following:

"The 10c postal stationery envelope illustrated in the last SPPB is Colombia Higgins & Gage B10 printed in the UK by Waterlow. The printer's name is found on the left envelope flap. The perfin SPECIMEN is the firm's private perfin used on printer's samples for their files and for distribution to potential customers.

This courtesy of Colombian expert Alfredo Froelich and Postal Stationery expert Wayne Menuz, both of the USA."

ITALIAN PERFIN CATALOGUE - LITERATURE REVIEW (John Mathews)

A second edition has been released in 2009 of the Italian perfin catalogue "Perfin Italiani / Italian Perfin" by Enrico Bertazzoli, Beppe Ermentini and Gianluigi Roncetti (published by Vaccari s.r.l.). It is a softbound book with 300 pages just larger than A5 in size. In the package are also a CD with 608 colour images of covers, cards and other "proving" documents franked with perfins. There is also a set of transparent sheets with 1107 patterns (all except the very minor variations), which can be used as an overlay on stamps, either loose or on paper in any orientation, to confirm identification of the patterns.

The book contains a brief history of the origins of perfins, the early authorisations by the Italian Postal Authorities, aspects of collecting and mounting of perfins, and a range of other topics of interest to collectors of perfins. A pricing scale (in Euros) is given, based on rarity ratings from "Common" to "Very Rare". This section is in both Italian and English.

The catalogue portion of the book includes perfins of Italy, Italian colonies, territories and offices abroad, Austrian perfins of Trieste, provinces lost in World War II, perfins of Italian companies abroad, and Italian perfined postal stationery. Although this section is only in Italian, the information is easily understandable.

The format of the catalogue portion is similar to many other perfin catalogues with each pattern occupying a box across the whole width of the page. Within this there is a "normal" image of the pattern (the accompanying overlays allow for reversed strikes), the literal interpretation of the letter combination, the user identification (if different to the literal interpretation), the user's business activity, the names of cities or towns where the perfins have been used, the period of usage (as a range of years), and a reference number for the pattern. There are, as appropriate, notes relating to use on non-postal issues, and on stamps overprinted for use in Trieste, Venezia Giulia, colonies, territories and offices abroad. There are also cross-references to catalogue numbers in other catalogues in which the patterns are listed.

The reference numbers used in this catalogue are of a format of the "first" letter of the assumed letter combination of the pattern followed by a number allocated sequentially as patterns are discovered, a format common among early catalogues (but not followed by the Australian perfin catalogue or the new catalogues of Great Britain

perfins). Catalogue numbers previously allocated have been preserved as new patterns were added for this edition, and this has resulted in the reference numbers of the patterns not being in numerical order.

The patterns are listed in alphabetical order according to the assumed letter combination. For example, the International Harvester Company perfin which looks like the familiar company logo of "I on H in C" is listed as C74, rather than in the section of perfins starting with letter "I".

The book has an extensive bibliography. Other useful features include an index of company names to their pattern reference numbers, and an index of place names with patterns known used in those places. The usefulness of these indexes is, however, somewhat limited because the reference numbers in the catalogue are not in order. Overall, this is well-presented catalogue of Italian perfins, and is enhanced in its usefulness by the overlay sheets of patterns. The CD of proving items will be of great interest to all collectors of these perfins.

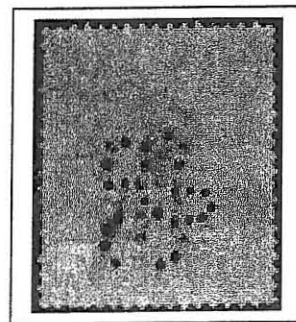
Price of this package is 55 Euros, plus postage (the book weighs 625gm). The publishers may be contacted at info@vaccari.it (they have a web site www.vaccari.it).

ANOTHER STAMP WITH TWO DIFFERENT PERFINS (David Coath)

David Coath has shown a 1½d black-brown KGV with two different perfins. In this case, however, the two patterns have the same letter combination - SB.3 (inverted in this view from the back) and SB.6 (sideways, top to left in view from back). As the user of SB.3 is known to be Sargood Brothers, then it is with some confidence that we can attribute that user to SB.6 as well.

In a recent purchase on eBay, I noticed a nice multiple strike on a 1½d black-brown KGV. Initially, I thought it was just a double strike of an "SB", most likely SB.6, but on closer inspection I noticed that the two strikes were different.

Such double strikes of different patterns are extremely rare and I have only seen a few. One was shown to members by Lindsay Parker at the PCNZA meeting during the Sydney Stamp Expo in 2007.



This new find is particularly interesting as both strikes are "SB" patterns. The larger and clearer strike is SB.6 (sideways, top to left in view from back), but the smaller strike is SB.3 (inverted in view from the back).

SB.6 does not have a confirmed user but SB.3 is known to be used by Sargood Brothers' Melbourne office. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that SB.6 was also used in that office. SB.3, SB.4 and SB.6 had a long period of overlapping use. The "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins" notes the following known usage periods:

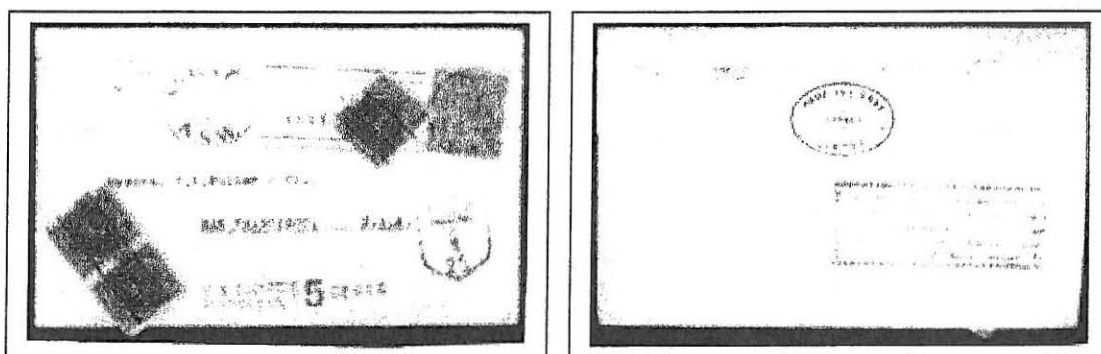
SB.3	1907 - 1913
SB.4	1907 - 1920
SB.6	1907 - 1927

The 1½d black-brown single watermark KGV was issued in 1919, so this extends the usage of SB.3 to at least that year.

The reason for a multiple strike of two different patterns on the same stamp is almost impossible to confirm. I would suggest that, given the poor strike of SB.3 on this stamp, the action to overstrike it with SB.6 indicates that SB.3 was in poor condition and possibly this was its last usage.

NEW USER IDENTITY

Another user identity has been revealed, this time from a cover offered on eBay in October 2009. The perfin is P&G.1, and the company cachet on the flap is of Paul & Gray Limited, Sydney. They were ship chandlers and hardware merchants, of 82-84 Sussex Street, Sydney. They were shown as possible users in Appendix 1 of "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins".



NEW PRIVATE REVENUE PERFIN BOOK

Dave Elsmore and David Coath are looking for data on the perfins found on revenue stamps of Australia and Australian States for a proposed new publication entitled 'Private Revenue Perfins of Australia'.

The book will be in a loose leave format so as to permit easy updating and will approach the subject on a State by State basis starting with Queensland. It will contain patterns found on revenues stamps as well as images of patterns, information about users, usage period, documents and a list of the issues that the pattern is found on.

If you want to help, all you need to do is send a scan or photocopy of what you have in your collection to either Dave Elsmore, PO Box 66 Springwood QLD 4127 davel@bigpond.net.au or David Coath, 4 Fleming Court, Research, VIC 3095 davidcoath@onthe.net.au. All submissions of information will be acknowledged in the book.

We have already received the commitment of support from an number of people including John Grant [co-author of "Commercial Perfins of Australia"], David Andersen, Bill Harley and Francis Kiddle [FIP Revenue Commission Chairman].

We also we need the somebody to volunteer to be the proof reader. Do you fit the bill? If so please make contact.