

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 92 JANUARY 2011

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## EDITOR'S COMMENT

The recent use of the W(swan)A perfin on a P stamp that includes the user's identity is an interesting development (see article later in this Bulletin). Now we have a perfin with the user clearly identified on the stamp itself. While this item is clearly philatelic in nature, apart from a few exceptions there are few countries with current government or commercial perfin users (exceptions include the United States and the UK).

In most parts of the world new perfins are only likely to be generated by philatelic organizations. Fortunately the number of these is fairly limited. However P-Stamped stamps with perfins and the user identity or photograph could easily be produced. Can we expect to see a "JA" perfin on a P stamp with the owner's smiling face next to it or the Club perforator on a P stamp with the Club's name or initials included in the design?

I am a little surprised how limited the use of P-Stamped stamps with relevant commemorative designs has been till now. Certainly there is enormous scope with a bit of imagination. Items so produced would be very limited in numbers and thematic collectors no doubt would be interested. I certainly wouldn't like the job of producing a catalogue of such items in a few years though.

David Andersen

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## MEETING OF PCNZA AT SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2011

Sydney Stamp Expo will be held at the Royal Randwick Racecourse from Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2011. The PCNZA has been allocated a meeting time for Club members, 1-2pm on Saturday 2nd April 2011. We look forward to seeing you there, with any items of interest you may wish to show others. Expo details at <http://www.sydneystampexpo2011.org.au>.

## MANDURAH 2010

The Mandurah Philatelic Society Inc. & Peel Region Numismatic Group conducted MANDURAH 2010, a National Stamp, Coin & Postcard Fair, from 19 to 21 November 2010 at the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Ormsby Terrace, Mandurah, West Australia. The Perfin Club's prize was awarded to Harold Lower for his exhibit "South Australia's 'Tannenbergs' " in the National One-frame section.

Congratulations to members John Tyson, Dingle Smith and Derek Pocock for their awards at this exhibition. One of Derek's postcard exhibits was simply entitled "Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwll-llantysiliogogoch" – that says it all!

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## PALMPEX 2010 (NZ)

Palmplex 2010 was held at Palmerston North, New Zealand, from 12 – 14 November 2010. The Perfin Club's prize was awarded to Lindsay Chitty for his exhibit "The Language of Philately – Alphabetilately of New Zealand Stamps and Postal History".

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## CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS

Unfortunately the member who has been actioning credit card transactions for auctions, subs., etc, is no longer able to do so. Therefore payment by credit card will not be possible unless another member is able to do these for us. The Club covers any fees involved. It usually only involves a couple of payments for auctions twice a year. Can any member (preferably in Australia) help with this please? Please contact your Secretary.

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## DONATION TO AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION

The Australian Philatelic Federation (APF) is undertaking the refurbishment of its several hundred display frames as part of the preparation for the World Philatelic Exhibition in Melbourne in May 2013. Individuals and societies have been invited to contribute towards the cost of this refurbishment, and your committee members have unanimously agreed that this is a worthy cause for our Perfin Club to contribute towards. We have therefore donated \$160 to the APF which will cover the refurbishment of 4 double-sided frames. Names of contributors will be acknowledged on plaques permanently attached to each frame covered by the donation.

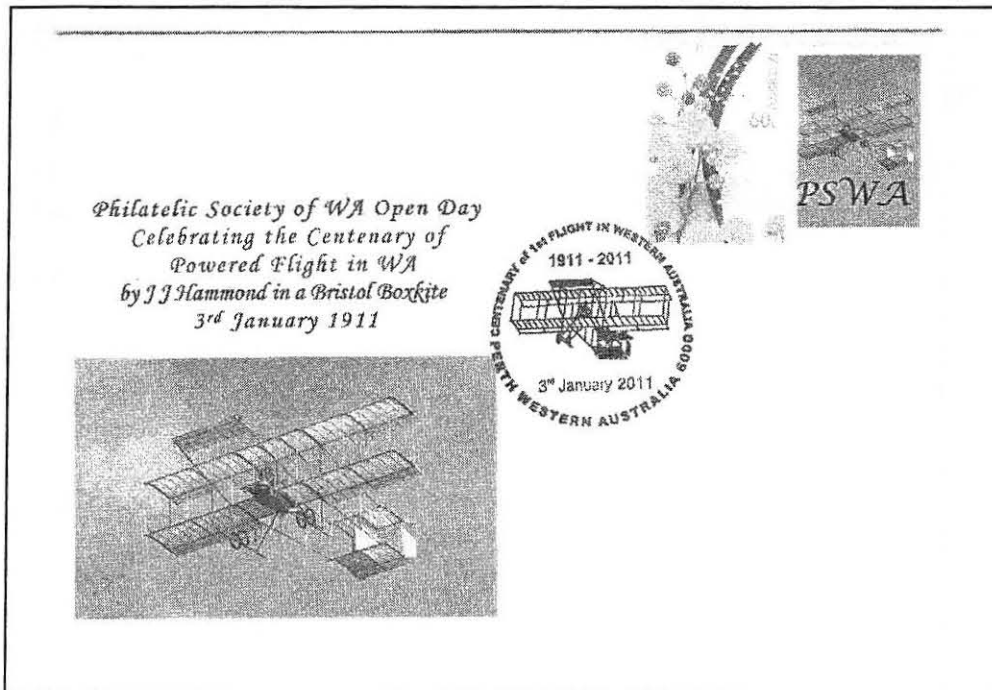
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## NEW ZEALAND PRIVATE POST STAMPS

Your Secretary has received a large quantity of NZ private post stamps from David Coath. There is a high level of duplication, especially among the "Places" (?) (NZM and Fastway) series and "Birds" (Fastway) series. If anyone would like some of these stamps, please contact the Secretary with a list of ones you would like, if available.

## PSWA OPEN DAY PERFIN

The Philatelic Society of Western Australia held an open day on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2011 to celebrate the Centenary of the First Aeroplane Powered Flight in Western Australia. Souvenir covers were available including a limited number (200) with a Swan P-stamp with their W(swan)A perfin. The tab of the P-Stamp bears a PWSA logo and the Bristol Box Kite used to make the flight and is tied to the cover with a commemorative postmark. The price per cover was \$5 (postage extra). Contact the PSWA Souvenir Manager [Stafford@southwest.com.au](mailto:Stafford@southwest.com.au) (PO Box 1285, Mandurah WA - phone 0451 953 019) for availability and also to be put on the mailing list for information about future souvenir covers.

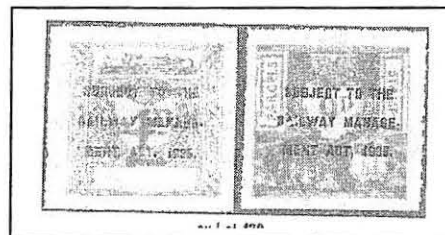


In my opinion this is one of the best souvenir covers they have produced with the cover, postmark and P-Stamp related as well as the perfin and the P-Stamp.

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 SUBJECT TO THE RAILWAY MANAGEMENT ACT 1935 (Bryan Magee)

Five examples of this overprint were offered by Tasmanian Auctions in their November 2009 auction with a reserve of \$250. The lot sold for \$900. Does anyone have any information about these items ?



Part of the description from the auction "1953 – five different mint examples of the Railway Management Act overprints on 4d Green Garratt and 1d black, 3d blue, 6d yellow and 9d red (in black) Diesel Types (C&I 1382, 1390/93a)".

## PCNZA WEB SITE

The following information is a summary from Committee discussions regarding the structure and implementation of the proposed PCNZA Website.

The discussion was motivated by an offer from a Club member Dave Elsmore who had created a URL and mocked up a site that he thought the Club would want to use. Dave has been hosting the Club in an area of his Ozrevenues site for a number of years. The discussions involved David Coath, John Mathews, David Andersen, Lindsay Parker and Richard Smolnicki (NZ).

Following lengthy debate the Committee agreed that it was time that the Club created and managed its own site and subsequently a draft plan of action was developed.

### Draft Plan of action

- 1) Thank Dave Elsmore for hosting the PCNZA on his website and advise that we will be implementing a new independent website. [This has been done].
- 2) Choose a URL  
A number of options were suggested including PCNZA.com.au; perfin.com.au or perfin.com.au. The first of these was preferred. We do not need to have perfin in the URL as search engines look at page content and frequent use of the word "Perfin" will ensure that the site is easily found. If the .com URL is not available we could alternatively try PCNZA.org.au
- 3) Developing the Site  
The site would evolve from an embryo site to a working site and finally to a mature site (with regular amendment of course).

#### Embryo Site

This will need to be developed promptly and would include some basic information:

- a) History of the PCNZA including a brief introduction to perfin and some interesting images
- b) Contacts – list of office bearers and email addresses
- c) Publications – Images of HAPP and AOP, prices and contact information for purchase. Information about Neale Scott's "VG" catalogue and Samuel's NZ catalogue should also be included
- d) Links to other affiliated and well known sites relating to perfin

#### Working Site

The site would be developed carefully with the look, structure and content that we want for the site. Also included could be:

- e) Copies of some previous South Pacific Perfin Bulletins
- f) Contacts who may be able to answer questions on private perfin, government perfin, New Zealand patterns etc. including email links to the relevant catalogue editors.
- g) Perfin Research – recent articles from SPPB and other articles submitted by members e.g. too large for a Bulletin or drafts of ongoing research
- h) Perfin displays - images of perfin displays to show others how it can be done as well as for the information included.

### Mature Site

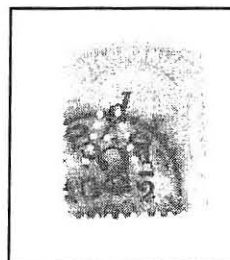
After feedback from members and other users, other aspects that might be developed:

- i) Members area including, indexes to SPPB, auctions limited to members, members' chat and information sharing, Club library list and information, current SPPB available to members
- j) Tips on subjects such as displaying perfins, storage of perfins, collecting styles and methods.

This outline provides a way forward but the Committee feels that there may be more ideas, or people experienced in web page production amongst our members who would be willing to help with the development of this important tool for the Club. If you have any ideas, please contact any of the Committee members named above (contact details on the front page) and if you would like to help (especially as webmaster) please contact David Coath as soon as possible.

### SCARCE TATTERSALL USAGE

John Tyson supplied a photocopy of a scarce Tattersall perfin. It is a 2½d overprint on 9d pale blue Queen Victoria sideface (perf 12) with an 'A' Type 4 (HAPP). The stamp is postmarked NO 2 1899. The usage falls within the expected range of usage. However, use of this pattern on this issue is rather unusual with only 2 other copies recorded.



### BNA PERFORATOR E-DISTRIBUTION LIST

Anyone interested in receiving free copies (email) of "The Perforator", the bulletin of the British North American Philatelic Society (BNAPS) Perfins Study Group please contact the secretary Steve Konig at [steven@koning.ca](mailto:steven@koning.ca).

Your name and email will be added to the e-distribution list. The Perforator is only published when it has something to say, and someone to say it. Contributions are welcome from one and all as long as the topic pertains to Canadian stamps, including revenue stamps with perfins and/or punches and that includes of course the stamps of Newfoundland.

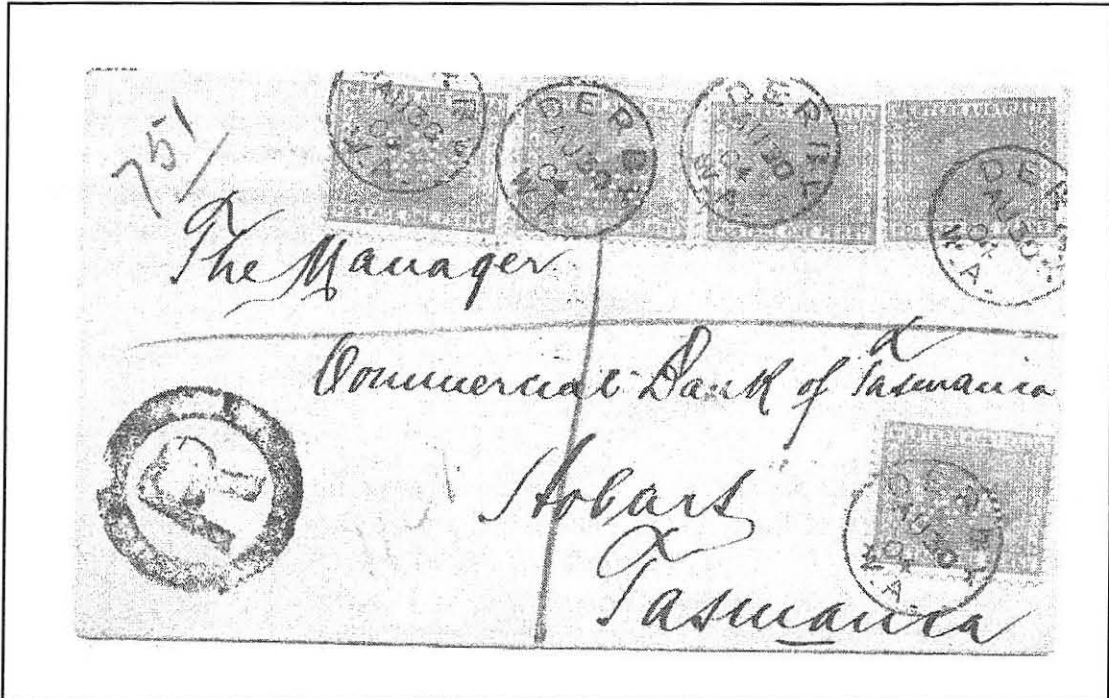
### BNA PERFORATOR NOVEMBER 2010

The contents of the November 2010 (#130) include: "Postage Due and the Consolidated Mining & Smelting of Canada (C38) by Jim Graham; Recent finds (JB/S) and user of P16; The Tremblay Check List & Canadian International Harvester by Jim Graham; Canadian Pacific Railway patterns in Great Britain- a potential checklist again by Jim Graham. Certainly a very useful issue if these patterns are of interest.

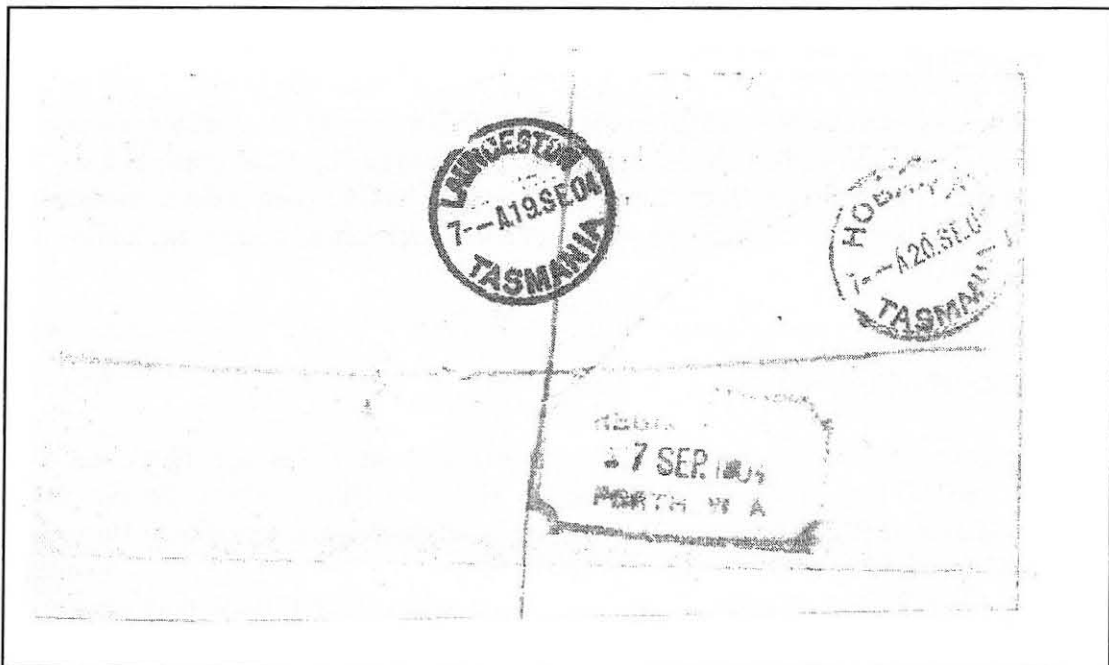


## WA PERFINNS USED FOR TATTERSALL MAILING

John Tyson supplied an illustration of the very interesting cover illustrated below. The cover is a registered item addressed to one of the alias company destinations used by Tattersalls to get around the Commonwealth postal ban. The franking includes three 1d red swans perfinned "WA" and is postmarked Derby, WA, AU 30 04.



The backstamps clearly track the progress of the item to Perth on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1904, by sea to Launceston arriving 19<sup>th</sup> September and finally to Hobart arriving 20<sup>th</sup> September. Wonder if this was an official usage of the WA pattern!



## A STUDY OF THE PERFINs OF VACUUM OIL - VOCO (David Coath)

### Introduction

Vacuum Oil were a very large petroleum company that later became known as “Mobil Australia. The nature of their business of refining and distribution meant that they had many offices across Australia in both capital cities and in regional areas. What is more as a company they were prolific perfin users over a long period of time from 1895 to as recently as 1962. They also were responsible for the VO and VOC patterns but in this study I have focused on the VOCO patterns.

As with similar long term and geographically spread users, such as Howard Smith Shipping ( HSCO / HSLD ) Vacuum Oil used a large number of devices, often with very similar pattern styles. John Mathews in his “Handbook of Australian Private Perfins” ( HAPP ) lists 15 VOCO patterns but he reports that 4 more have been found since HAPP was issued in 2003. Also Ken Killeen and John presented an article in the April 2005 SPPB that highlighted the variation that existed in the VOCO.6 and VOCO.7 patterns. They showed that these patterns were actually made by a series of very similar devices located across Australia. So with this information and pattern types that I have found in this study the number of VOCO devices is really closer to 30.

As with other users who have many devices the patterns of these devices can be very similar and this can lead to confusion in the correct identification of patterns. In turn this can mean that incorrect usage dates and locations can be reported.

### Methodology

In my study of the VOCO’s I have looked at over 2000 examples and in order to try and find any variation within a pattern I compared each of the examples I viewed with the HAPP image and when the pattern varied from this image I created my own drawing in order to define the difference. With each example I have confirmed the specific pattern and were possible noted other information such as the stamp issue, postmark location and date.

This has allowed me to build up a good picture of the usage of the VOCO devices over time and I am confident that the examples that I have studied tell much of the story of the patterns of this user. However there is perhaps some information in your VOCO’s that will add to my findings or indeed refute them. Please take the time to have a look through what you have and please contact me if you have anything to report or indeed have queries about VOCO patterns.

Reference numbers below are from “Handbook of Australian Private Perfins” and its updates (second update not yet published).

### Summary of Findings

VOCO.1 Melbourne device, 1896 – 1932. Single head.


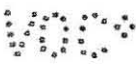
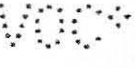

VOCO.2 Brisbane device, 1928-38 Some South East Queensland postmarks such as Kingaroy, Charleville and Mitchell. Single head. No 2nd type.


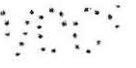
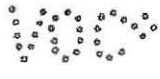
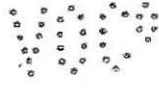
VOCO.3 At least 4 separate single head devices with similar patterns

Newcastle 1917-40 (the most common), die damaged in 1930 and repaired in 1939  
 Broken Hill 1926-29  
 Port Pirie 1939-57 Like Broken Hill die but thinner pins; may be same device  
 Rockhampton 1935-37  
 Brisbane 192?-25

VOCO.4 Cannot find any evidence of it.

Listed in HAPP as a Melbourne device like VOCO.7 but without the dot under the o of Co. Cannot find any evidence of Melbourne usage of pattern like .4 or .7

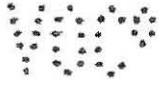

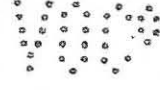

			
VOCO.1	VOCO.2 Thin pin setting straight backed C	VOCO.3 Newcastle Type Used 1917-1940	VOCO.3 Broken Hill and Port Pirie

			
VOCO.3 Rockhampton Back of 'C' curved	VOCO.3 Brisbane	VOCO.5	VOCO.6 Melbourne

VOCO.5 Perth device, 1930 -60. Single head.

VOCO.6 At least 4 separate single head devices with similar patterns

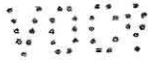

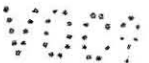

Melbourne 192?-55  
 Hobart 1938-57  
 Brisbane 1942-48  
 Other 1938 approx

			
VOCO.6 Hobart	VOCO.6 Brisbane	VOCO.6 Other	VOCO.7 Sydney



VOCO.7 At least 4 separate single head devices with similar patterns  
 Sydney 1906-08  
 Brisbane 1907-19  
 Adelaide 1904-05+  
 Fremantle 1904-19

VOCO.8 Melbourne device, 1956-62, 2-3 heads, dies identical

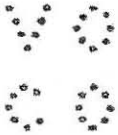
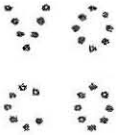


			
VOCO.7 Brisbane	VOCO.7 Adelaide	VOCO.7 Fremantle	VOCO.8 Melbourne

VOCO.9 Device located at 2 offices in different periods 1921-45

Melbourne 1921-23  
 Townsville 1930-45 Atherton, Ayr, Tully postmarks

VOCO.10 2 separate devices with identical single head dies.

Melbourne 1928-47  
 Adelaide 1933-51


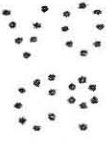

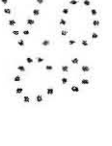
			
VOCO.9 Melbourne	VOCO.9 Townsville	VOCO.10 Melbourne	VOCO.10 Adelaide

VOCO.11 Sydney device, 1914 - 55, single head.

VOCO.12 Melbourne device, 1910 - 19, single head  
 No evidence of any types

VOCO.13 At least 2 separate single head devices with similar patterns

Adelaide 1920-56  
 Perth 1928-30



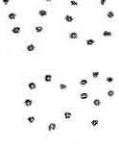

			
VOCO.11	VOCO.12	VOCO.13 Adelaide	VOCO.13 Perth

VOCO.14 Melbourne based service puncture 1902

VOCO.15 Brisbane device 1923, single head.

Some variation in the thickness of pins. More examples needed.



VOCO.16 Adelaide device, 1913-14, single head

			
VOCO.14	VOCO.15	VOCO.16	VOCO.17

VOCO.17 Melbourne based service puncture, 1911

VOCO.18 Unknown location, 194?-48

VOCO.19 Melbourne based service puncture, 190?

	
VOCO.18	VOCO.19

Issues arising from the findings

These findings raise a number of issues as follows:

1 Different devices covered within a HAPP pattern Number

If you consider the different strikes from devices defined within a pattern number, such as is found in VOCO.3, .6, .7, .9, .10 and .13, to be separate patterns then you arrive at a total of 30 VOCO patterns. However, although these are strikes from separate devices in terms of detailed structure, time and location, it would be confusing to list them separately as they are so similar in appearance. I feel that they can fit under the definition of a “type” as defined in HAPP. I present images here so as to show the differences clearly in a 1:1 scale and allow you to use them as a guide when sorting your patterns.

2 Usage Dates

Because I have started with a “clean slate” in terms of usage I may not have found examples across the full usage range of some patterns and in particular the earliest and latest usage dates. However I believe that some of the HAPP usage dates may be too broad, in particular in respect to earliest usage of VOCO.2, .6, .10, and .13. These are all listed as 1913 which is conveniently the start of the Commonwealth period but I can find no usage of these patterns on 1<sup>st</sup> and or 2nd watermark Kangaroos or early KGV’s that fit this early usage. If you have them I would be keen to see them.

3 Overlapping Usage in one location

In some cases usage of different patterns / devices overlaps in the same location. This is the case in Melbourne where there are almost always 2 patterns / devices in use at the one time. This may be due to the fact that Vacuum Oil had 2 offices or an office and a refining plant both in Melbourne.

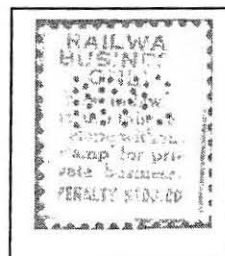
4 Images

The images that I present may differ slightly from those that appeared in HAPP. They are mainly my own drawings with the notable exception of VOCO.17 for which I do not have an example. This was provided by John Mathews.

So have a look at your VOCO perfins and see what you can find. My details are on the first page of the Bulletin (phone 03 9437 0366).

## REGULATIONS GALORE

Arthur Taylor came across a US perfin with the remnants of a strongly worded warning in the stamp area of the envelope. The stamp was used by the New York Central Railway and the paper had not been washed off cleanly. The wording of the warning is “ RAILWAY BUSINESS ONLY. It is unlawful to use this envelope without stamp for private business. PENALTY \$100.00”, Guess you could use a NYC perfined stamp on the envelope though. Wonder what the penalty would have been for that!



## AUCTION WATCH

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

			Est.
a.	BN.2 on 6d engraved Kooka	(eBay, Jul 10)	sold for US \$ 51
b.	A.3 on Tasmania 2½d on 9d blue QV sideface.	(Tas. Stamp Auctions, Nov 10)	sold for \$ 260
c.	A.6 on 3 x ½d orange QV Tablet (inc vert pr)	(Tas. Stamp Auctions, Nov 10)	sold for \$ 575
d.	Overprint "C.A." on GB 1d red KEVII. pmk "Parliament St, SW, Jan 14, 03" (London). [Used by Australia House when they were at 73 Victoria Street, SW] (Phoenix auction, Nov 10)		sold for \$1,250
e.	NZ 1949 invoice of J. Ballantyne & Co with 2d KGV I o'printed "J./B. & Co./Ltd" (Auckland City Stamps, Nov 10)		sold for NZ \$ 75
f.	Mint corner block of 6 x £1 Queensland Chalons with selvage on 2 sides, all perf "OS". (eBay, Nov 10)		sold for US \$2,225
g.	Queensland 10/- Chalons perf NZIC.4, fiscally used. (eBay, Nov 10)		sold for US \$ 16
h.	David Jones reply env with 1d Roo perf DJLTD.2 (uncancelled). (eBay, Nov 10)		sold for US \$ 224
i.	NZ oerfins NZF (5) and DB&CO (2). (Len Jury, Nov 10)		NZ \$ 20
j.	NZ "B.G./E.C." on 1d Dominion. (Classic Stamps, Nov 10)		NZ \$ 25
k.	NZ "DB/&CO" on 1d SSF. (Classic Stamps, Nov 10)		NZ \$ 50
l.	NZ "M&C/LTD" on 2d yellow KGV. (Classic Stamps, Nov 10)		NZ \$ 40
m.	20/- Carrington perf "OS" type B, mint. (eBay, Nov 10)	sold for	US \$ 413
n.	Mint pr 5/- Qld Chalons perf "OS". (eBay, Nov 10)	sold for	US \$ 212
o.	Mint pr Victoria 5/- bi-colour. (eBay, Nov 10)	sold for	US \$ 90
p.	Victoria KEVII £1 perf "OS", mint. (eBay, Nov 10)	sold for	US \$ 130
q.	Pr £1.10.0 Victoria Duty Stamps perf O&M.1 (eBay, Dec 10)	sold for	\$ 39
r.	Victoria £25 Duty Stamp perf O&M.1 (eBay, Dec 10)	sold for	\$ 171
s.	5/- Roo perf BW&CO.1 (eBay, Jan 11)	sold for	US \$ 46
t.	Victoria £5 Duty Stamp perf O&M.1 (eBay, Jan 11)	sold for	\$ 32
u.	NZ 1d Universal perf "GNB/LD". (eBay, Jan 11)	sold for	\$ 26
v.	NSW 6d QV with "Bell" Perfin. (eBay, Jan 11)	sold for	US \$ 66
w.	SA 5/- pale rose Long Tom perf HS&CO.1 (eBay, Jan 11)	sold for	GBP 7.50
x.	Arms set all perf "G/NSW". (eBay, Jan 11)	sold for	US \$ 61
y.	NZ 1909 KEVII 1/- orange pe4rf "W&T/W". (eBay, Jan 11)	sold for	\$ 22
z.	Australian Customs Duty (London) stamp perf "SMS/&S" (known GB pattern) (eBay, Jan 11)	sold for	GBP 174



Above: Item (d).



Right: Item (f)