

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 94 JULY 2011

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

Mint perfins have always been a problem for me. Rarely are mint copies of commercial patterns encountered but this is not the case for officials. Why there are many G/NSW, VG, T and OS mint issues around and how did they escape being used?

Companies using perfins and certainly those in the middle and second half of last century were larger organisations. They may have had a number of offices but usually not that many. When they decided to stop using perfins either because they started to use franking/ metering or because they decided that the cost of perforating stamps was not worth it they appear to have used up all of their stock of stamps. They were not going to waste them so there are very few mint copies around.

Government organisations are quite a different kettle of fish. The State Governments had thousands of offices across each State using perfins. For example, in New South Wales every public school and every police station had stocks. The smaller offices would only have had a limited number of denominations on hand and inevitably with the changes in postage rates some issues would have rarely been used and they tended to sit in the drawer for years. Sometimes they did use up these 'out of date' values and frequently we find letters from State Departments with a number of stamps to make up the value.

However there were two changes that made many of these stamps unnecessary. The first of these was decimalisation and there are a surprisingly large number of mint stamps, both KGV and QEII that are encountered. Even the KGV issues could have been left in bottom drawers in small offices (often only a couple of people) for over a decade if usage was low or stocks were high. Eventually State governments discontinued the regular use of stamps and no doubt many of the decimal mint VG

and G/NSW issues were not used because of this as the switch to newer and more efficient ways of paying postage were mandated from on high.

The so called Commonwealth OS issues are another matter however. While they were used primarily by State Government Departments rather than Federal Departments, there are an additional couple of factors involved. The first of these is that there was a significant degree of trafficking going on where Federal members of Parliament were selling their quota of OS stamps to philatelists. This was the reason given for discontinuing their use. No doubt substantial quantities were made available this way though one would have expected the majority to have been letter rate issues. The second factor is that because many philatelists aspired to collect these issues in a mint condition and were /are willing to pay a substantial premium for them the high demand was/is being satisfied by forgers. It is evident that considering the numbers of mint OS issues available, escape of discontinued stock, trafficking by Federal members of Parliament and forgery have all contributed to the ready availability today of many of these issues

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new member who has joined since the previous issue:

#270 David Temple, Archerfield, Queensland

#271 Darryl Keegan, Porirua, New Zealand

RESIGNATION – PETER WOOD

It is with much regret that we have received Peter's resignation due to ill health. Peter was Treasurer from mid-1991 to mid-2006, during which time he maintained accurate records and provided sound financial advice to the Club. It was a time when the Club developed from its "infancy", and under Peter's watchful eye the Club progressed to an excellent financial position.

We wish Peter all the best for the future.

AUSTRALIAN EXCHANGE CIRCUIT MANAGER WANTED

Following the resignation of John Mathews as [Australian] Circuit Manager, we now call for a volunteer to take on this role. John anticipates that the last books currently in the circuit will return, and the account will be finalized, by about the end of July, so it would be desirable for someone to be able to take over as soon as possible after that. John will hand over all the current paperwork, and "historical" records of the last few years. There are enough books on hand for packets of books to be sent out straightaway. It is not a complicated or arduous job. Access to a computer with printer (and/or a photocopier) would be helpful.

AUCTION 1/2011

The latest auction was very successful and characterised by strong bidding. There was an unusually high number of tied top bids. In this case, as in all postal auctions, the first of the tied bids wins the lot. So early bidders get the benefit of their early bids.

NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL EXHIBITION POSTPONED

The National exhibition which was scheduled to be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in November this year has been postponed to early 2012 due to the disruptions caused by the series of earthquakes and aftershocks.

We offer our commiserations to our Christchurch members whose lives have been disrupted by these events.

SWAN RIVER STAMP SHOW PERFINNS 2011

Once again there will be souvenir covers at this annual stamp show with W(swan)A perfins. The stamp used this year will be a 60c Wattle P-stamp with SRSS2011 logo in the tab. The Show runs for two days and there will be a different cancellation each day.

The cost of each cover with the perfinned P-Stamp is \$3-50. The cost for the two covers with different cancellations is \$7-00. Post and packaging \$2-50. To order contact Glenn Stafford, Souvenir Manager Swan River Stamp Show PO Box Mandurah WA 6210 Email:stafford@southwest.com.au.

WANTED

Cover with perfin EL (EL2) and receipt with stamp duty with overprint E'Lux, both from Electrolux Pty Ltd, NSW. Please write to Stellan Swenson, Odonbärsvägen 32, SE-293 41, Olofström, SWEDEN

BNA PERFORATOR JUNE 2011

The latest issue of the BNA perforator has been published in colour. Many more articles than has been the case in the past. It is almost as if the Canadian perfin scene is going through a renaissance. Congratulations to those involved.

In this issue are articles The B14 Pattern Examined by Jim Graham; James Coristine & Company; Canadian philatelic Insignia Identified (LA/PS) by Steve Koning; Newfoundland oddity (EG) by Maurice Harp; G15 Gunn, Langlois by Jim Black; Mystery: Did Ottawa Once Move to Winnipeg? By Steve Koning; Newly Listed issues- International Harvester of Canada (I17) by Steve Konig and Jim Graham. A bumper issue.

NEW YUGOSLAVIAN CATALOGUE

Alfred Kruse is about to publish "Firmenlochungen des ehemaligen Jugoslawien vom Beginn der k.u.k.-Zeit bis zum 2. Weltkrieg = Perfins of the former Yugoslavia from the beginning of the k.u.k.- period to the World War II" (92 pages A 4 softcover). Published with dual text in German and English the catalogue is profusely illustrated, includes the pattern, name of user, type of company and 'issue places'. Some covers are illustrated. Available at a pre publication price of Euro 24.80 if ordered before 1/12/2011 or Euro 29.80 after. Postage to Germany free, other European addresses Euro 4, elsewhere Euro 5. Available from Alfred Kruse, Im Deepen Bund 7, 28876 Oyten, Germany Tel. 04207-699296, kruse-2t-online.de

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - PERFIN CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIA

Statement of Receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2011 (New Zealand account).

<u>Receipts</u> (NZ\$)		<u>Expenditure</u> (NZ\$)	
Bank Balance 1.7.2010	197.14	Circuit vendors	177.66
Circuit book sales	1361.20	Transfer to Aust. A/c	1335.14
Subscriptions	123.00	Library	60.28
Interest	10.61	Auction vendors	150.45
Auctions	213.25	Bank balance 30.6.11	181.67
	-----		-----
Total	1905.20	Total	1905.20

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 NZ exchange books circuit.

Statement of Receipts and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2011 (Australian account).

<u>Receipts</u> (A\$)		<u>Expenditure</u> (A\$)	
Bank balance 1.7.10	8,621.90	Insurance	36.45
Subscriptions	210.00	Bulletins (printing)	840.00
Transfer from NZ a/c	2,300.00	Bank & Govt charges	9.00
Exchange Branch	10,903.70	Exchange Branch	10,894.45
Auctions 1/10 & 2/10	6,346.95	Auctions 1/10 & 2/10	6,360.20
Interest, Term Deposit	775.36	Postage	1,340.25
Miscellaneous	35.00	Donation	230.00
For members' credit	599.10	Miscellaneous	160.00
	-----	Stationery	82.75
		From members' credit	156.40
		Unpresented chq 30/6/10	328.30
		Bank balance 30.6.11	9,354.21
	-----		-----
Total	29,792.01	Total	29,792.01

Against the assets (bank balance shown above, plus \$15,000 in Term Deposit), the Club has liabilities of Subs in advance (\$60), members' credit balances (\$1,595.94) and monies received for exchange books in circulation not yet paid to vendors (approx \$6,000).

Our thanks to Lindsay Parker for his good work in managing our Australian account.

FORGED OS PERFIN ON EBAY

(David Coath)

In recent editions of the Bulletin we have warned members about an eBay seller based in Sydney who was offering forged OS patterns. Our frequent complaints and those lodged by Stampboards members have reduced this sellers exposure but he is still trading. He frequently changes his seller name but the common feature of the listings is that they are private listings.

So if you find a Sydney seller on eBay offering OS perfins and it is a private listing then please exercise great care.

In addition, Stampboards has recently uncovered actions of an APTA member that provided strong suspicion that this member was shill bidding, (bidding up his own lots), reperfing stamps and most importantly for PCNZA members, forging large OS patterns. I would recommend members view the story at:

<http://www.stampboards.com:80/viewtopic.php?f=21&t=28978>

The Stampboards members showed the power of their collective knowledge and as you read through the thread you will see how the evidence came together.

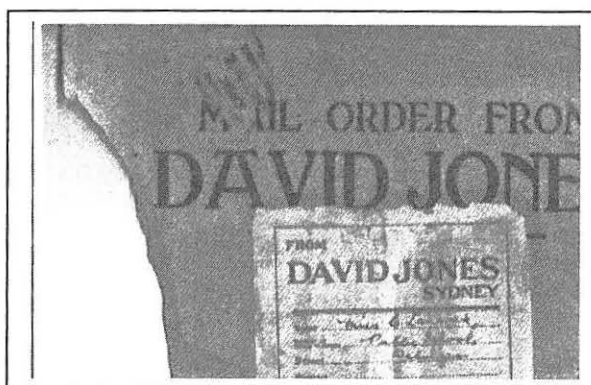
I believe that improved communication between members will not only allow us to detect and report suspect material and sellers but improve the knowledge of all members overall. A communication forum such as Stampboards even just within the PCNZA would create a powerful body of knowledge and expertise.

DAVID JONES PROVING BOX

(Mark Saxby)

Mark supplied some information about a nice piece he showed us at Sydney Stamp Show 2011.

“A friend and his wife were cleaning out an old house in November 2010 up on the North Coast of NSW and were throwing away lots of rubbish. Geoff noticed his wife was tearing up cardboard boxes and just in time saw the “David Jones” name on the side of one of the boxes. The saved piece is part of a box used by David Jones to post their mail order items to customers. It has a David Jones address label and three 3d olive kangaroo stamps with a DJLTD perfin. The postmark is “Chief Parcels Office Sydney” but the date of posting is unknown”.



A very much reduced illustration is included in the Bulletin, the original being larger than A4.

PRIVATE REVENUE PERFINS OF AUSTRALIA : a review (David Andersen)

I have recently had an opportunity to look at this new online reference produced by David Coath and Dave Elsmore. This online reference is in the process of being developed and while at present only Queensland issues have been completed the other sections for other States are under development. It was developed to provide very detailed information about perfins on Australian revenues for both revenue collectors and perfin collectors who seriously collect in this area. As an online reference updating is easy to do so that it can easily be kept up to date, something not possible with normal print publications.

The website is divided into States and companies are listed alphabetically, the various patterns for each being grouped together. For each pattern the user, type of organisation, address, company background, issues found with the perfin and a rating R1 to R5 (rarest) for each issue perforated are provided. Each pattern, at least one revenue with the pattern and frequently documents with perforated stamps are illustrated. Illustrations are good and clear. A bibliography is provided and numerous sources of information are listed particularly for the company history.

The numbering system used consists of the letters in the pattern including fullstops, / for new lines and an alphabetical designator .e.g. A.A./Co..a Because each State is self contained, where patterns are available from more than one state and have multiple patterns sometimes the catalogue number for the same pattern in different States is different. This situation is acknowledged by the authors and is my only area of concern with this catalogue as this may cause confusion at times.

After the A-Z listing of the perfins in the Section 'Other' are included are a range of perfin cancels and a comprehensive range of revenues with commercial overprints, many of which I had not sighted previously. This was the section I found most interesting.

The cost of a complete series including all States is A\$65 for Australian addresses with an extra charge at cost for overseas postage. This includes online access with user id/password, a set of Perfin Finders and a copy of the patterns printed on paper. The Perfin Finders are transparent sheets with the patterns printed on them so that the pattern can be overlaid on stamps on documents to aid identification. This type of transparency was previously issued with the current Italian catalogue to enable identification of patterns on cover and is a very useful idea. If people don't have internet availability the cost will cover a colour print out of the web pages (post free in Australia but at cost overseas). Of course the print copies will not be updated like the online version nor allow the facility to enlarge an image when desired. PCNZA members have been offered a \$10 discount on this price.

The authors have produced/ are in the process of producing a catalogue that will provide a great deal of useful, very detailed and easily accessed information for serious collectors of revenues with both perfins and overprints. There are a number of innovative aspects to this project including the Perfin Finder and the possibility of getting a printout if a person does not have Internet available. Available from the authors perfindavid@perfins.com.au or dave@perfins.com.au.

RESULTS OF PCNZA SURVEY ON INTERNET USAGE (David Coath)

Firstly I would like to thanks members for the solid response that we received to the survey. In the short period since the last Bulletin I have received responses from more than 20% of members.

Some of the questions were poorly structured and some respondents did not complete all of the questions so the data is imperfect. But having said that the overall responses were positive and this was reinforced by the many members who took the opportunity to write comments.

In summary the results were as follows:

Do you have access to the Internet at home or at another location?

Yes 84% No 16%

If you do have access to the Internet, do you use it for collecting perfins?

Yes 88% No 12%

If Yes, what do you use it for:

Online auctions (e.g. eBay)? 66%
 Viewing Auction catalogues? 68%
 Information about perfins? 51%
 Information about users? 35%

If you don't currently have access to the Internet do you intend to get access in the future? (there were only 4 responses to this question)

Yes 25% Not Interested 75%

Have you used the Club Website in the past?

Yes 55% No 45%

Are you likely to access a Club website for any of the following:

Information about the Club?	Yes 81%	No 19%
Contacting Club Officers?	Yes 68%	No 32%
Club Auctions?	Yes 76%	No 24%
Club Bulletins?	Current	Yes 32%
	Older	Yes 50%

(The third part of this question is poorly worded as a Yes indicates a negative, i.e. that they would not use a web site to view a Bulletin either current or Older. This result may have a skewed the answer because it follows a "yes" progression, but in fact says "No".

	No	Yes	32%
Index to Bulletins?	Yes 66%	No	34%

Information about Perfins?	Yes	95%	No	5%		
Share details of new finds?	Yes	80%	No	20%		
Posting queries and questions about perfins?	Yes	75%	No	25%		

Summary of results

The vast majority of respondents have access to the Internet and use it as a tool in their Perfin collecting. Most respondents have used the old PCNZA site and almost all respondents would use a future site should it be launched.

Conclusion

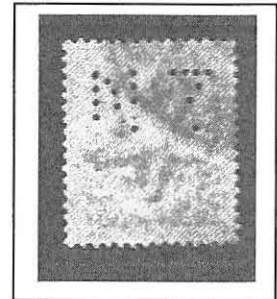
The results clearly indicate that the Club should proceed with launching its own web site.

NZ FROM INDIA

Many collectors of New Zealand perfins have an interest in perfins of New Zealand companies outside of New Zealand. Included are patterns from Australia (N.Z./I.C. and NZL) Great Britain (BNZ, NZ and NZL) and India (N.Z./I.C. and N.Z./I.Co.).



An Indian NZ pattern that I had not previously seen turned up in a recent club circuit book. The perfin is on a KGV ½ anna green, with 14 holes in the N and 12 in the Z and has been punched from the back of the stamp. The N is a different shape to the 'N's in the N.Z./I.C. and N.Z./I.Co. patterns listed in the Indian Catalogue. In addition there is no NZ listed in "The perfins of India and Indian States" by Magnus Werner.



Unfortunately not all of the holes are cleanly cut out so the illustration is not as clear as it could be. Has anyone come across this pattern or know anything about it ?

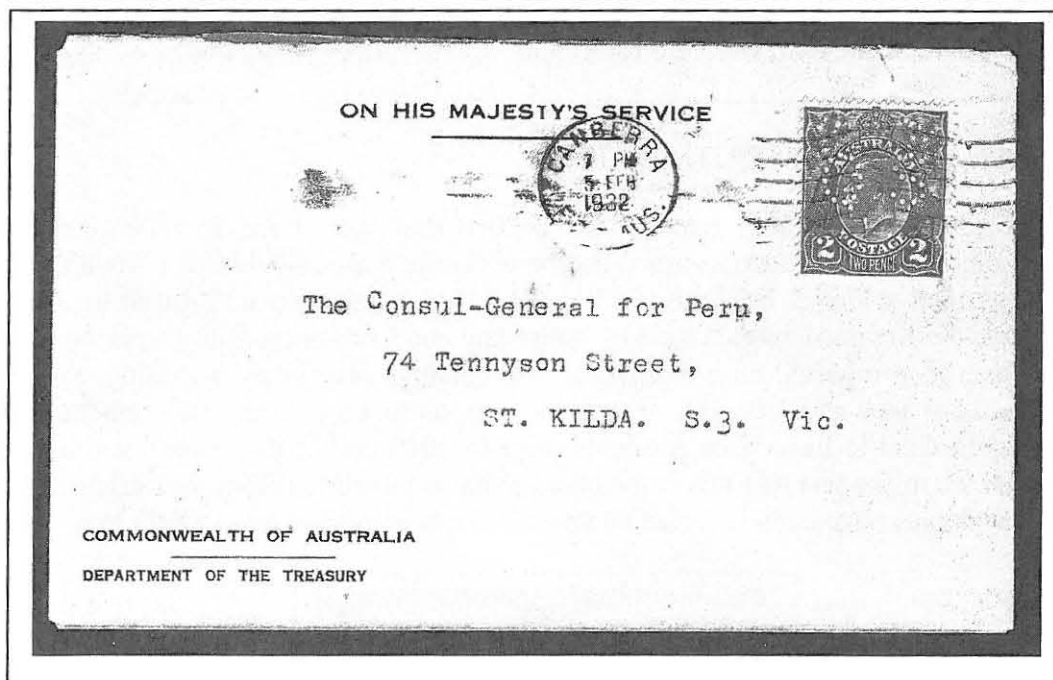
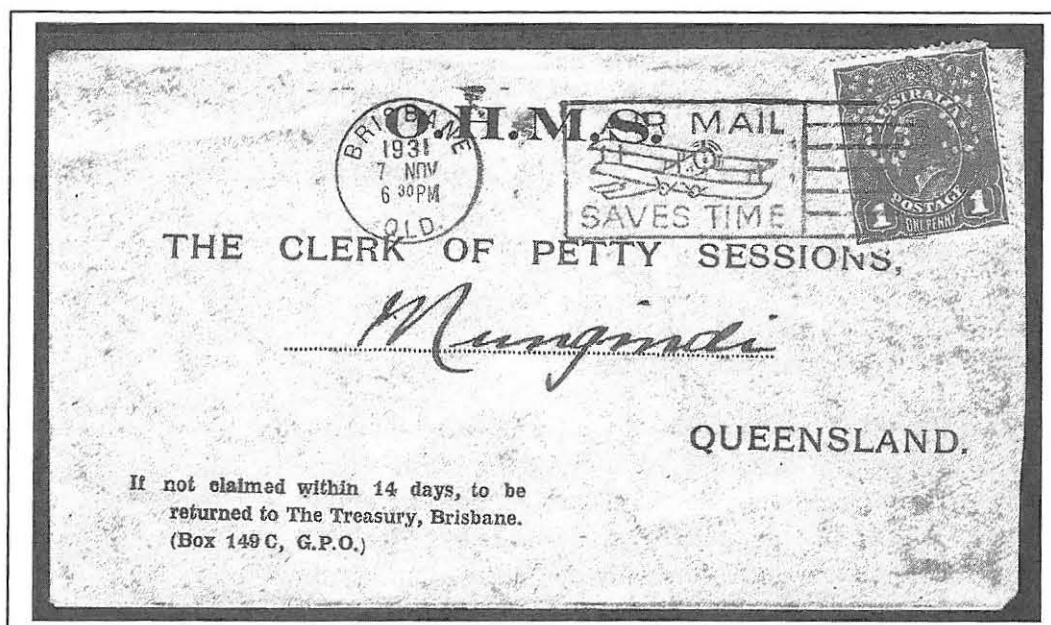
REAL COMMONWEALTH OS OFFICIALS (David Andersen)

In the July issue of Stamp News Australasia Rod Perry in his Woodchip Free Zone column illustrates an official cover from the 4th Garrison Artillery, Victoria Barracks Sydney with a KGV ½d perf OS. The cover realised US\$227.50 as it shows solo usage of the ½d. This cover was used by a Commonwealth Department despite being used in Sydney.

A collection of OS officials actually used by the Commonwealth would be quite a challenge as most usage of these officials was by State Departments and most covers have letter rate stamps. This pattern was used by both State and Commonwealth Departments so it is only the usage on cover/lettercard that demonstrates that it is indeed a Commonwealth official. I doubt it is possible to be certain if a used stamp even one with a clear postmark was used by a State or Commonwealth Department as there were Commonwealth Offices in each state and I suspect some usage by NSW Agencies in the A.C.T. Even a collection of OS officials with A.C.T. postmarks

could take some time to put together. As for mint examples it would be hard to claim that a mint copy would have been used by the Commonwealth.

Below are illustrated two covers both used by Treasury departments. The cover with the 1d was used by the Queensland Treasury in 1931, a nice clear usage by a Queensland Department. The second cover with the 2d however was used by the Commonwealth Department of the Treasury and postmarked in Canberra in 1932. Only the second cover shows Commonwealth usage.



Fortunately many of the covers with OS perfins are somewhat more affordable than the example shown by Rod. This is however one area of official perfin collecting where prices are likely to rise significantly in the medium term particularly as the range of fakes for mint and used officials is rapidly becoming more evident.

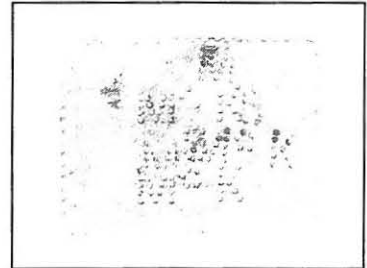
TRAVELLERS CHEQUE UPDATE

John Mathews commented on an article in the April Bulletin. “Re the question at the end of the article on page 3 about the Travellers Cheque. As stamp duty was a State charge and postage was a Commonwealth charge I would think it almost impossible for a postage stamp to appear on a Travellers cheque, receipt, insurance document, etc instead of a duty stamp, just as a duty stamp would be rejected on a letter through the post.

“The crosses on the QEII stamp look like those from a date punch. The fact that there are two pairs of them indicates to me that the stamp was probably underneath a document being punched (as indeed the ones on the traveller’s cheque were) and got hit unintentionally. A similar situation gives rise to the “Kodak numerals” where the punched numerals are always applied to the return address tags with the stamps underneath.”

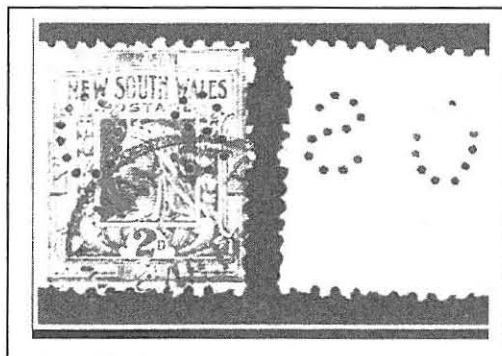
McK/S/McK MULTIPLE PUNCH

John Tyson supplied information about a rather unusual Tasmanian 2d pictorial with the McK/S/McK perfin. The perfin inverted, reversed and the main feature doubled (one strike partly blind). This pattern was used by McKay, Sampson & McKinlay, a draper/clothing company established in 1886 and closing in 1984. The store façade is still visible in the Brisbane Street Mall. Doubled perfins on this issue are evidently scarce as the item was sold for \$155.



OS TYPE H FROM NEW SOUTH WALES

Ken Moore reports another unusual OS pattern that was found in a large bulk purchase of Australian States stamps. The New South Wales 2d Jubilee Crown over NSW watermark p.11x12 bears an OS Type H. This pattern was introduced in 1913 and used on the Kangaroo issues used by both State and Commonwealth Departments. Copies have been reported on a number of State stamps previously including, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. For these stamps to be genuine this puncturing device would need to have been available prior to 1913 and at this stage there is no other evidence to suggest that this is the case. What is puzzling if they are forgeries is that so few copies have been reported and most have been discovered in bulk lots.



JKS ON COVER

Also from John Tyson an interesting cover with a Tasmanian connection which is illustrated below.



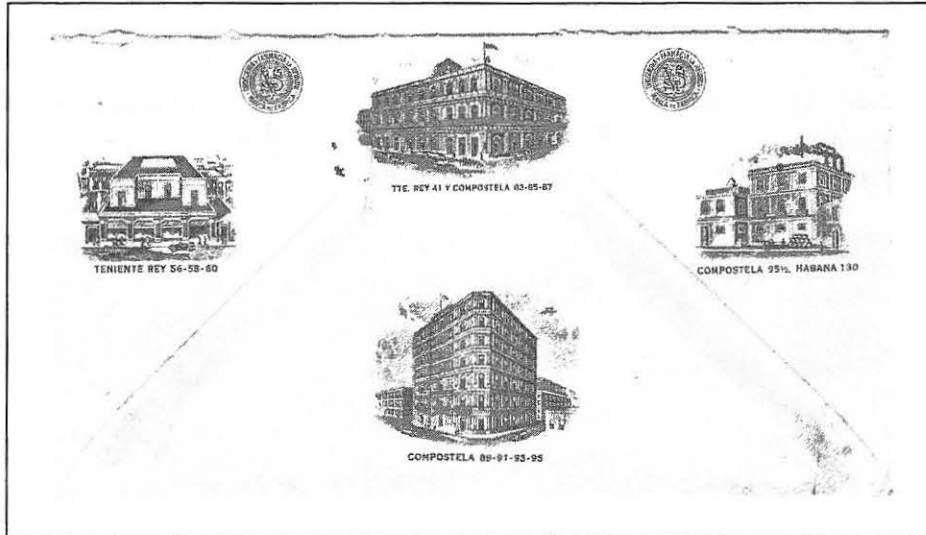
During a shipping strike all mail was flown between Melbourne, Launceston and Hobart by air, with no additional surcharge.

This airmail cover bears the company perfin of J. Kitchen & Sons Ltd, Victoria. It was sent to a Launceston address from Melbourne. Possibly sent by an n agency or travelling company salesman. The cover bears a 2d red George V and 3d blue Victoria Centenary both with the JKS.3 perfin. Postmarked PORT MELBOURNE, VIC 5-40P-6 DEC 35. Back stamped LAUNCESTON TAS 7-P-7 DEC 35.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

This lovely illustrated perfin cover turned up recently on eBay. Not much of Australian connection but it is worth illustrating anyway. The perfin SA/RRA was used by Drogueria Sarra.





NSW 20/- CARRINGTON

Ken Scudder pointed out a very interesting article NSW 20/- Carrington Centennial-punctured OS by Ben Palmer in *Sydney Views* no.111 May 2011 pages 4-5. Ben compared two a couple of examples and found that the positions of the punctures varies slightly between the stamps and one has blunt perforations adjacent to the puncture. Ken has responded to this article and pointed out that as the distance between the dies is 20mm the blunt perforations on one of the stamps is due to the next die just clipping that stamp. Very nice to see such rare items mentioned.

AUCTION WATCH

Items of perfin interest from auctions/direct sales since the last Bulletin include the following. Thanks to Tony Nobile for passing on his spotting of perfin lots in auctions. Prices in A\$ unless indicated.

	Est.
a. GB 1867 6d QVic with underprint "Copestake,/Moore,/Crampton/&Co.,/London" (Auckland City Stamps, May 11)	NZ \$ 50
b. GB 1883/4 10/- cobalt QVic perf "NZL" (Auckland City Stamps, May 11)	NZ \$500
c. NZ ½d SSF, 2 copies with perfins "C&G" and "DB/&Co". (Auckland City Stamps, May 11)	NZ \$ 15
d. NZ 2½d Wakatipu perf "AWF" (Auckland City Stamps, May 11)	NZ \$ 30
e. NZ 1d Universal perf "S&S". (Auckland City Stamps, May 11)	NZ \$ 30
f. NZ 1d Universal perf "USSCo". (Auckland City Stamps, May 11)	NZ \$ 25
g. NZ 1935 Pictorial 2d Whare perf "M&C/L". (Auckland City Stamps, May 11)	NZ \$ 50
h. Tasmanian A.W.F used (Launceston Philatelic Society Postal Bid Sale 23/4/2011) realised	\$5
i. Tasmanian A2 used (Launceston Philatelic Society Postal Bid Sale 23/4/2011) realised	\$13
j. Tasmanian 2d Pictorial Mck/S/Mck double puncture (Launceston Philatelic Society Postal Bid Sale 23/4/2011) realised	\$155

and some GB official overprints offered in Classic Stamps' sale, June 2011:

"Army Official" on 6d KEVII, used.	NZ \$ 50
"Board of Education" on 1d KEVII	NZ \$ 20
"Govt. Parcels" on 6d dull green QVic, used.	NZ \$160
"Govt. Parcels" on 9d dull green QVic, used.	NZ \$150
"Govt. Parcels" on 1/- dull green QVic Jubilee, used.	NZ \$160
"I.R. Official" on 1/- dull green QVic Jubilee, used.	NZ \$100
"O.W. Official" on ½d vermilion QVic, used	NZ \$ 75