

# SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 97 APRIL 2012

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT

The Club held its biennial meeting at the recent Canberra Stamp Show, see separate article by John Mathews. The meeting was somewhat overshadowed by news from the event of Mark Saxby's Gold medal for his perfin display. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mark on this milestone for both him and the Club. Mark has been working on his display for a couple of years now, taking on board judges feedback, expanding the exhibit and augmenting it with proving covers and rare items, such as his examples of the F pattern on 5/- Sydney Harbour bridges. It is now both a striking and interesting display even to the non perfin collector and it deserves its accolades. As far as the Club is concerned I hope Marks success and this recognition and the growing acceptance of perfin displays will encourage others to exhibit their perfin material. Standing at Marks exhibit I heard many ideas being floated for other kinds of perfin exhibits such as:

- 1 A single user history (say DJLTD) showing a chronology of use of different devices over time with covers, documents and postcards of buildings and the like
- 2 A collection of users from the same industry e.g. Insurance, Retail, Stock and Station agents, stock brokers, oil companies etc..
- 3 A study of a single service puncture user of long standing such as Robert Reid or Citizens showing the changes in patterns over time.
- 4 As suggested by David Andersen in the January Bulletin a display of modern perfins
- 5 A study of multiple head devices
- 6 A single State study of Private perfins
- 7 A single State study of official perfins

Give it some thought and if you are interested then talk to Mark or someone else that has exhibited and start building it up. The club has a member who is a judge, in Dingle Smith, who I am sure would help steer members towards a good start in this challenge.

The other main issue of the meeting was the announcement by John Mathews that he would not be seeking nomination as Secretary. John modestly does not mention this in his article on the Meeting, but he received a spontaneous and warm appreciation from the members on this announcement. John has been Secretary since 1991 and since that time has been the centre point of the Club:

Issuing Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA - with John Grant) in 1992  
 Providing updates to CPA and later issuing the Handbook of Australian Private Perfins (HAPP) in 2003.

Running the Circuit Books

Conducting a growing Auction

Regularly contributing to this Bulletin (SPPB) and the GB Perfin Society Bulletin

Printing and distributing the SPPB all on top of the role of Secretary.

At the meeting the members immediately raised the issue of how to recognise such service to the Club and concepts such as Life Membership were discussed as were the names of other worthy recipients. John Mathews spoke against such an honour (for anyone) but the matter is now being considered by the Committee and I am confident that despite John's protestation the Committee will find in favour of awarding such an accolade to people who have given such exceptional service. If anyone has any thoughts one way or the other on the matter I would be keen to hear them.

The other key issue for the Club is the move to Incorporation. This is overdue and will have the dual benefit of moving us to become a recognised legal entity and also it will allow us the opportunity to review and renew our Constitution and expand our Committee and structures to address the changes to our Club. These matters are being discussed in Committee now and this move will be the key issue for the incoming Secretary, the Committee and indeed the membership as a whole.

David

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#### NEW CIRCUIT MANAGER – MARK SAXBY

Mark Saxby was elected as the Circuit Manager at the recent Canberra Meeting and has already started the Circuit moving. The Circuit is an important tool for members offering reasonably priced and accurately identified patterns to members and also allowing them a way to share excess material.

I would encourage all members to consider participation in the Circuit as both sellers and buyers. The Circuit books are small with just 10 A5 pages they can be filled easily. There are circuits conducted in both Australia and New Zealand, the NZ circuit is managed by Ray Bennett. On the Australian circuit sales have always been strong for both Australian and foreign patterns. The NZ circuit is strong in New Zealand and GB patterns.

Mark can be contacted on email via, [saxbysl@bigpond.com](mailto:saxbysl@bigpond.com) or by mail at: Mark Saxby, 7 High St, Greta, NSW 2334.

## COMMITTEE VACANCY - SECRETARY

With John Mathews decision to not seek renomination as Secretary we have a vacancy on Committee for a Secretary. It would be best if we could fill the position as soon as possible.

The immediate key role for the Secretary will be, in conjunction with the Committee, steering the Club through the steps of Incorporation (see Presidents Report).

I am happy to hear from anyone who is interested in taking on the position and indeed the responsibilities of the position could be altered to fit the individual. For instance in the post incorporation expanded Committee the role of the position of Secretary would likely be smaller as the mooted position of Publications Manager would be responsible for production and distribution of the Bulletin as well as distribution of the Clubs publications.

A minimum requirement for the position would be that the occupant must have email.

If any member has an interest in the position then could they contact David Coath at: [davidcoath@onthe.net.au](mailto:davidcoath@onthe.net.au) or on 03 9437 0366

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## COMMITTEE VACANY - AUCTIONEER

In the January Bulletin there was a Notice of Motion to alter the Constitution to create the Position of Auctioneer. This was subsequently passed at the March meeting of members at Canberra (see article in this Bulletin)

This is a Committee position and it would have responsibility for conducting the Club Auctions. This would include receiving lots, creating descriptions, and lotting them into a printed Auction catalogue for distribution with an issue of this Bulletin. Then receiving bids, deciding winning bidders, dispatching invoices, receiving payments and distributing lots to successful bidders.

John Mathews has advised that he will no longer fill this role. I would be happy to hear from anyone who is interested in taking on the position and indeed the responsibilities of the position could be altered to fit the individual.

If any member has an interest in the position then could they contact David Coath at: [davidcoath@onthe.net.au](mailto:davidcoath@onthe.net.au) or on 03 9437 0366

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## NEW MEMBERS

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

- #275 John Bonser Victoria, Texas, USA
- #29 Tom Weir, Canberra ACT (rejoined)

MEETING OF PCNZA, 17 March 2012

(John Mathews)

A meeting of PCNZA members was held at the Hellenic Club, Woden, ACT, on Saturday 17 March 2012 at 12 noon in conjunction with Canberra StampShow 2012. David Coath, President, was in the chair and welcomed 11 members and 1 visitor. Apologies were received from the Treasurer, Editor and 5 other members.

The President reported disappointment that a webmaster had not been found to establish a PCNZA web site, adding that would be a priority for the next 2 years.

The Secretary reported that 9 new members had joined the Club in the last 2 years. The meeting expressed regret at the news of the passing of 2 members recently, one of whom had been a member for over 20 years. The Secretary also reported that recent auctions had been very successful, and that circuit book sales continued to be high.

The Treasurer had forwarded a financial statement which was presented to the meeting. The financial statement was accepted by the meeting.

The Secretary reported that 164 copies of "Australian Official Perfins" had now been sold. The remaining stock of this catalogue has been transferred to the custody of the Librarian.

The Motion to amend the Constitution, notice of which was given in the January 2012 Bulletin, was presented to the meeting. The Motion was to add "auctioneer" as a position on the Council of PCNZA, and to detail that role. A total of 48 votes were recorded (11 at the meeting, 37 in advance by post or email) of which 47 were in favour of the Motion being accepted.

As it had been 2 years since the last election of Club office-bearers, the Club Council positions were declared vacant in accordance with the Constitution. The following were re-elected unopposed: David Coath as President, Lindsay Parker as Treasurer, David Andersen as Editor, Richard Smolnicki (NZ) as Assistant Treasurer, and Ray Bennett as NZ circuit Manager. Mark Saxby was elected as Australian Circuit Manager and was welcomed to the Council. David Coath agreed to continue as Librarian. There were no nominations for Secretary or Auctioneer, and these positions currently remain vacant – names of volunteers for these positions would be welcomed (to the President).

Mark Saxby was warmly applauded for having been awarded a Gold Medal for his 5-frame display of "Australian Private Perfins" which was entered in the State level "Traditional" class at Canberra StampShow 2012. It has certainly raised the profile of perfin collecting.

Arthur Taylor showed the meeting several philatelic items – a USA proving cover of a rare perfin, whose user identity had not previously been known, and photocopies of several sheets of Australia Kangaroo and map stamps (to £2) perforated "OS" from the Post Office Archives.

Ken Scudder showed sheets of Victorian ½d "bantams" and 1d pink QV both perforated "OS", and columns of Victorian and Queensland stamps with the full set of strikes of the 2 different "Melbourne 'OS' " perfins.

DONATED VG'S "Free to a Good Home" (David Coath)

Member Dan Baugher has sent me an envelope of VG's to offer to other members free of charge. I would estimate that there are about 1500 of them. The VG's are mainly 2nd head ones and they are mainly on KGVI definitive including the Zoological issues. Dan has bundled them all neatly and they are ready to sort for positions and dies.

If you are keen on these then drop me an email or letter and I will send them off to you, post free in Australia.

Thanks Dan for your generosity and if anyone else has some patterns of any kind that they wish to offer to other members then please contact me.

MEMBERS WANTS

From my correspondence with members I am aware of some peoples collecting interests. Accordingly I have a small pile of envelopes on my desk that I put patterns into as I find them and then mail them off.

If you have a particular perfin interest and want help then please share it. The Editor David Andersen will be starting a "Members Wants" section.

Just tell David what your interest and what you are particularly looking for and he will run a small advert in an upcoming Bulletin.

PERFIN AUCTIONS RUN BY BOB SZYMANSKI

Bob Szymanski is a member of the US Perfin Club (President 2000-2005 and 2009-2011) as well as a member of our sister group the BNAPS Perfin Study group in North America.

Bob conducts private auctions of perfin material on a regular basis. He conducted his first auction in 2001 which was to assist the widow of the late Floyd Walker sort and dispose of Floyd's perfin collection. Now 11 years on and 36 auctions later an enormous amount of material has passed through his hands mainly from the estates of US collectors.

The Auctions provide a service to retiring collectors and allow the sharing of material within the Perfin community and in addition Bob sends 5% of sales as a donation to the Club of the vendor.

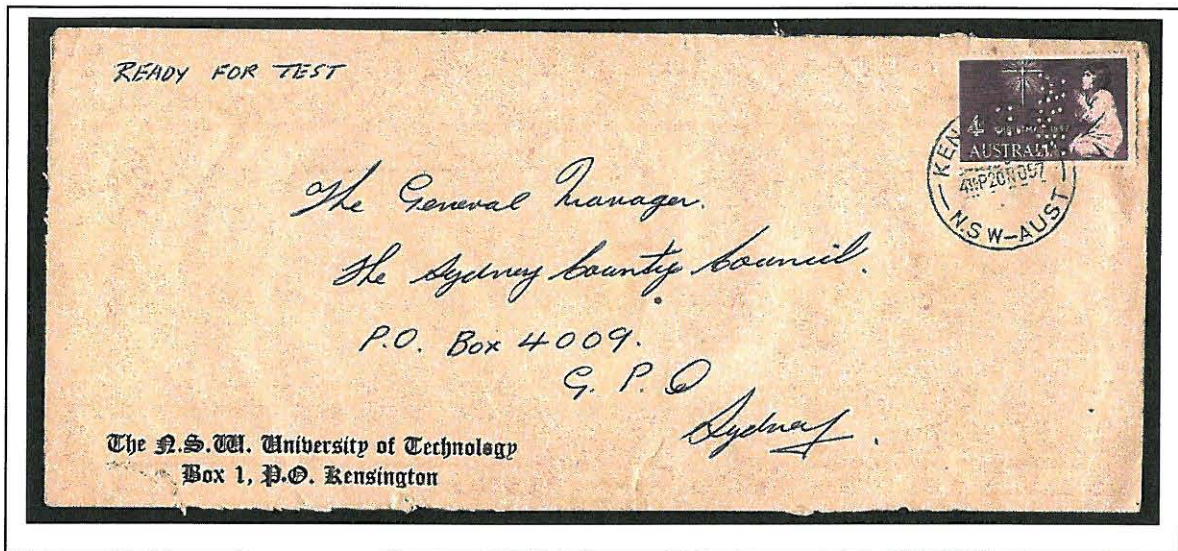
Anyone who belongs to any recognized perfin club is welcome as a bidder

If you wish to participate in these Auctions the easiest way is to get in touch with Bob directly. He can be contacted via email at [perfinman@comcast.net](mailto:perfinman@comcast.net).

## UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The University of New South Wales was established by the New South Wales State Government in 1949 by an Act of Parliament as the New South Wales University of Technology. In 1958 the University was renamed the University of New South Wales.

The Postmaster Generals Department gave permission for stamps to be punctured U/NSW for usage by the University of New South Wales on 17<sup>th</sup> June 1962. Prior to this the University used stamps punctured G/NSW as the 1957 cover below indicates

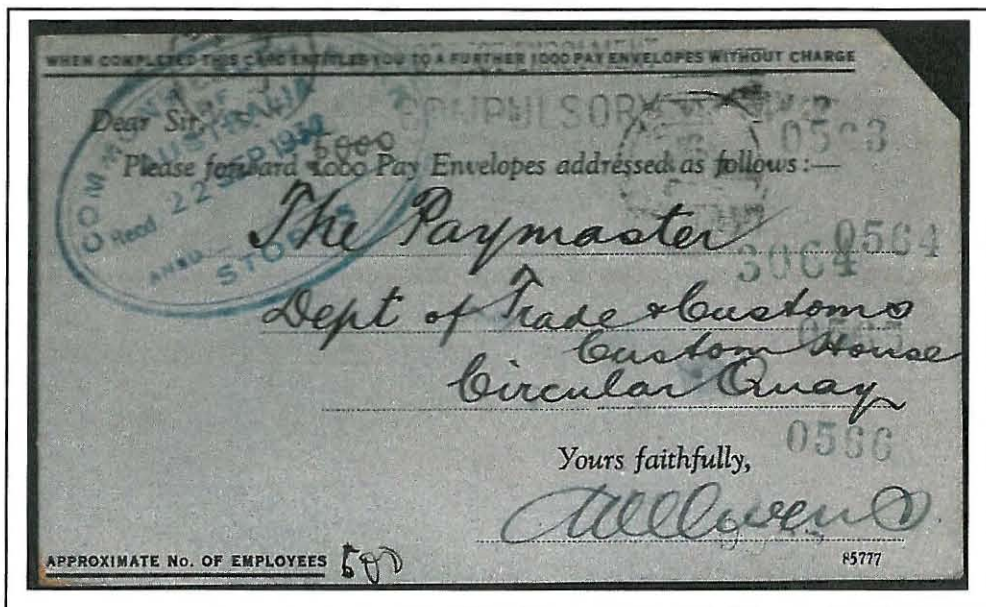


On occasion when U/NSW perfins were not available G/NSW perfins were used instead. The piece below from 1978 has a couple of blocks of the 1c crab with the U/NSW pattern but also bears a 20c Performing Arts with a G/NSW pattern and is a late usage of the U/NSW pattern.



### COMMONWEALTH BANK PAY ENVELOPE ORDERS

Recently a number of cards addressed to the Manager, Stores Department, Commonwealth Bank of Australia have appeared on eBay one of which has been illustrated in a previous Bulletin. Some of these bear stamps with perfin, either official or commercial and these have been selling quite well. All are requests from an organisation to provide a batch of pay envelopes for them to use when distributing pay to their staff. The user of the perfin is found on the reverse of the card. The example below bears OS perfins the envelopes being requested by the Department of Trade and Customs a Commonwealth Department based in Sydney.

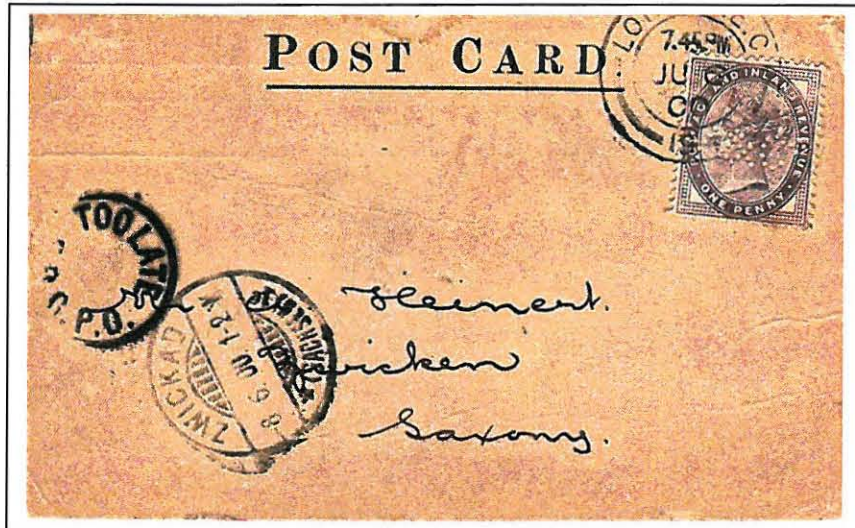


## YENCKEN DEVICE USED IN LONDON

(Ron Whyte and David Coath)

Ron Whyte contacted me in January regarding an interesting post card he had found in a group of Victorian GB covers and postcards that he had purchased at Auction. (see pictures below) Ron is not a member of the PCNZA but he is a member of the BNAPS Perfin Study Group and the Perfin Club (US). He was quick to see the significance of the cover and the information that it contained.

As you can see the card is from 1900 and it carries a perfin pattern that would be familiar to both Australian as well as GB collectors.

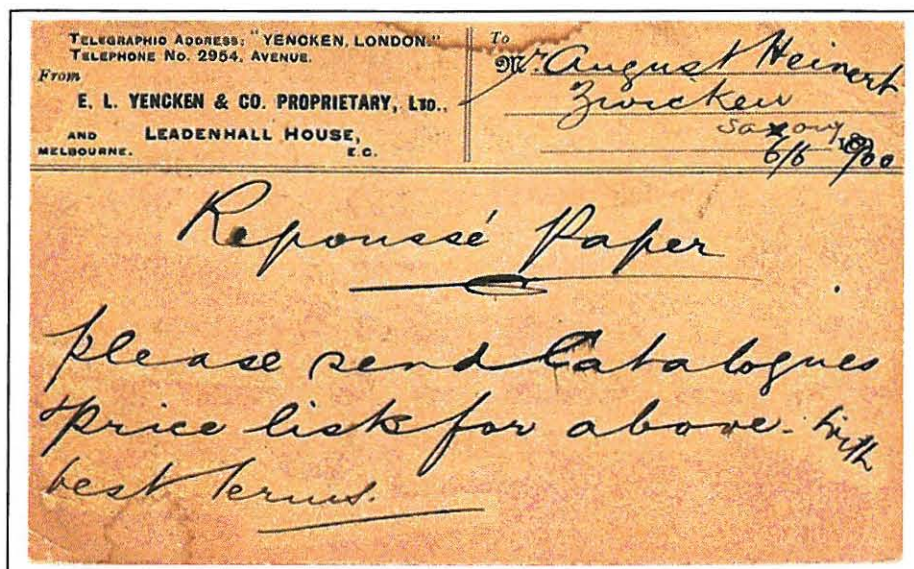


To Australian collectors it is Y&CO.6 and to GB collectors it is Y0200.02



I have overlaid an example of the GB pattern (Y0200.02) on the HAPP image of Y&CO.6 and vice versa and I find them a near to exact match. The HAPP image is a little "woolly" but it is a better match than the earlier image from Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) which although sharper, it is slightly more elongated than the true pattern. I believe from the pattern evidence that the strikes of patterns Y0200.02 (GB) and Y&CO.6 (Australia) are made from the same device.





This cover is a proving cover for Y0200.02 and gives the user as - "E.L. YENCKEN & Company Proprietary, Ltd., of Leadenhall House, E.C." What is most interesting to Australian collectors is that on the reverse of the card it gives the Yencken address in London, but adds "and Melbourne" so as to confirm that it is the same company as the known user of Y&CO.6.

Many companies operating in Australia in the late 1800's established buying, trading or shipping offices in the UK and it seems that Yenckens were no different. (see related article on the History of Yenckens in this Bulletin) Yenckens in fact established a London office in 1882 before launching E L Yencken & Co in Melbourne in 1883. Yenckens were large perfin users in Australia and all of the Y's, Y&C's, Y&CL's and Y&CO's (about 100 patterns in all) can reasonably be assigned to them. The reason that there are so many patterns for this user is that they almost always used service punctures. These were temporary dies created for a batch of stamps purchased from a stamp vendor. The Y&CO.6 device is different as it is a customised device and would have produced a reasonably consistent strike throughout its life. This Y0200.02/Y&CO.6 device was most likely the company's first device.

So the question is, was this Y&CO pattern a GB or Australian one? The answer is, it was most likely both.

Ron's proving cover for Yencken's in the UK is at odds with the Tomkins Catalogue of Identified GB Perfins (10th edition) which attributes number Y0200.02 to "Charles L. Young & Co Ltd, Sewing Machine Dealers, 21 High St Kingsland, Hackney, London. With the note that it was "Sloper's m/c No. 6964 made c1889" & used by the Company 1889 to 1936). Interestingly in HAPP, John Mathews also lists Y&CO.6 as being a Sloper device (see Appendix 3 – Stamp Perforators known to have been made by Joseph Sloper and Company Limited of London for Australian Companies", page 33) and further he records the same device number, 6964 and states the same manufactured date of 1889.

However from discussions with Steve Steere (GB Perfin Society Secretary) and his own investigations and discussions with the GB catalogue editor Roy Gault, has indicated that the identity of E L Yencken was reported as a new identity in Bulletin 358 (February 2009) by GB Perfin Society member Gerry Soutar. This led to the reference to Charles L Young as the user of Y0200.02 being deleted. Steve went onto say that the last Edition of Tomkins was in 2004 and since then several hundred new

identities have been reported. It needs to be remembered that the scale of GB perfin collecting is huge with over 25,000 known patterns.

This gives us a confirmation of the existence of the pattern in both countries and both proved to Yencken. But as Roy Gault says “This still leaves the question to be resolved – did the perforating machine go across to Australia initially, and then returned to England before 1900? Now we may never know the answer Roy’s question but we can look at the evidence and see what it tells us.

Steve reports that the earliest GB stamps found perforated with Y0200.02 are KEVII issues and the earliest date in the Catalogue was 28<sup>th</sup> October 1901, it is now 6 June 1900 courtesy of Ron’s post card. This shows that usage on QV issues is rare. Given that I cannot find usage of the Y&CO.6 pattern in Melbourne past 1899, it seems most likely that the device was made in England in 1889, as reported, travelled to Melbourne and was used up until 1899 and then returned to England in late 1899 or early 1900 and was used there until 1936.

If you have anything to add to this story then please feel free to contact me and let me know what you have found. GB use of Y0200.02 pre 1899 or Melbourne use of Y&CO.6 post 1900 would clearly disprove the theory that I have offered.

References:

*Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) - John Grant and John Mathews (1998)*  
*Handbook of Australian Private Perfins (HAPP) – John Mathews (2003)*  
*The Tomkins Catalogue of Identified GB Perfins – Edited by Roy Gault (Editions 7 and 10)*  
*A Catalogue of Great Britain Perfins – T A Edwards and B C Lucas*

[Notes by John Mathews:

1. HAPP (2003) records this user and a latest usage date of 1900 for Y&CO.6.
2. I found only one serial number for this pattern in the Sloper Workshop Impression Books in 1993, so the strikes on GB and Australian stamps no doubt were made by the same device.
3. Patterns Y, Y&C, Y&CL and Y&CO, whose users have not yet been proven, could have been used by Younghusband & Co (Ltd), as noted in HAPP in the notes for section “Y”.]

## HISTORY OF EDWARD L YENCKEN AND E L YENCKEN & CO(LATER LTD)

Edward Lowenstern Yencken (1854-1932), merchant, was born on 13 February 1854 at Brixton, Surrey, England, son of Edward Ferdinand Yencken, merchant, and his wife Ellen. Edward attended school at Shrewsbury but his family moved to Victoria in the 1860’s and he completed his education at Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. His father Edward, senior, held positions in various banking and insurance companies in Melbourne.

In 1871 Edward, junior, joined the Melbourne branch of the Bank of New South Wales, but the following year he moved to Brooks, Robinson & Co., wholesale oil, colour and glass merchants and importers of painters' and decorators' supplies, thus entering the trade he would eventually dominate.

On 24 January 1882 he married English-born Florence Orr and later that year, after reaching managerial level at Brooks, Robinson & Co, he decided to start his own business. He returned to England for ten months to establish connexions with British and European manufacturers, and to establish a buying office at 9 New Broad Street, London.

In January 1883 E. L. Yencken & Co., wholesale importers and general indent merchants, opened for business at 3 (some sources say 5) Flinders Street, Melbourne, sharing a large building with cellars and three floors above with the tea merchants, Griffiths Bros. Yencken was reputed to have begun with substantial capital and this is supported by the fact that his business expanded rapidly, despite the loss in May 1885 of goods worth £70,000 in a sensational fire. By 1888 the firm had two adjoining city warehouses (perhaps 3-5 Flinders St) and a large store by the Yarra River. Its warehouses were equipped with modern labour-saving devices including hydraulic lifts and an internal iron tramway which delivered goods to their entrances.

In 1889 he sought tenders for the building of new premises and he moved to these at 304 Flinders St as early as 1894, possibly sooner. This was not Edward's first building project as in 1887-88 he had built the mansion "Redcourt" on 5 acres on Orrong Road, in the inner Melbourne suburb of Armidale.

Yencken gradually absorbed the business of his main competitors, including that of Brooks, Robinson & Co. and in 1892 the firm became a limited liability company as E L Yencken & Co Ltd. It would appear (see related article on Yencken in this Bulletin) that the London office had moved to Leadenhall House, London by as early as 1900. The Melbourne head office moved to Yencken House at 384-396 Little Collins Street in 1904 and later shifted from the city to South Melbourne after World War II. Edward Yencken died on 7 September 1932 and was survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Sources:

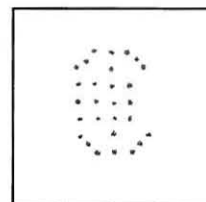
*Australian Dictionary of Biography* @ <http://adb.anu.edu.au/>  
*Trove Digitised Newspaper* @ <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/home>  
*Walking Melbourne* @ <http://www.walkingmelbourne.com/>

## ADDENDUM TO OCTOBER 2011 ARTICLES

In the October there were two article that carried pattern images however due to issues at the time of publication these images were not produced in the Bulletin in the correct scale. The articles were:

When is a Service Puncture not a Service Puncture  
 – IHC.3 (David Coath)

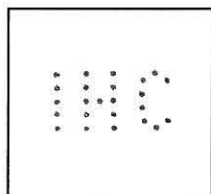
This article included details of the IHC.3 pattern and a corrected image. This corrected image for IHC.3 is reproduced here in 1:1 format for reference. Be careful checking your patterns against this corrected image as strikes in various positions show slightly different characteristics.



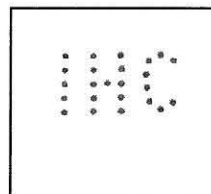
Corrected image of IHC.3

## Hidden in Plain View: a new customised IHC pattern (David Coath)

This article discussed the discovery of a new IHC pattern very similar to IHC.1 but found used in Melbourne. The true images of the two patterns are reproduced below. You are encouraged to check your IHC.1's as you may already have an example of the new IHC.



IHC Melbourne



IHC Perth

## AUCTION WATCH

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

			Est.
a.	10/- Kangaroo & Map 3 <sup>rd</sup> wmk perf "OS", CTO.	(eBay, Jan 12) sold for	\$ 87
b.	Sth Aust 2/6 "Long Tom" perf JM&CO.1.	(eBay, Jan 12) sold for	\$7.70
c.	New Zealand High Commissioner cover London to Switzerland 1943 with 3d pale violet perf "NZ".	(eBay, Jan 12) sold for	US \$ 23
d.	6d engraved Kooka perf RO.1.	(eBay, Jan 12) sold for	US \$ 21
e.	6d engraved Kooka perf BN.2.	(eBay, Jan 12) sold for	US \$ 16
f.	1935 "Blotter" postcard of Harris, Scarfe Ltd with KGV 1d green perf HS.4.	(eBay, Feb 12) sold for	US \$ 23
g.	1933 cover of Country Producers' Selling Co. with 2d red KGV perf CPSCO.2.	(eBay, Feb 12) sold for	US \$ 21
h.	New Zealand 7/- It blue Duty Stamp perf "N.Z/I.Co". 1889 Dunedin squared circle pmk.	(eBay, Feb 12) sold for	GBP 22
i.	6d engraved Kooka perf KLTD.1.	(eBay, Feb 12) sold for	\$ 46
j.	Victoria £1 KEVII perf "OS", CTO.	(eBay, Feb 12) sold for	US \$127
k.	5/- Kangaroo & Map 3 <sup>rd</sup> wmk perf HS.4.	(eBay, Feb 12) sold for	\$ 46
l.	10d Aerogramme of State Psychiatric Services, Dept of Public Health, Sydney. Stamp image perforated "G/NSW".	(eBay, Apr 12) sold for	US \$ 48
m.	NZ 2d yellow KGV perf "M&C/Ltd".	(Auckland City Stamps sale, Apr 12)	NZ \$ 40
n.	NZ 1935 6d Harvester reinforced block of 4 all perf "M/G/M".	(Auckland City Stamps sale, Apr 12)	NZ \$ 20
o.	NZ 1936 Health (Lifebuoy) perf "VOC".	(Auckland City Stamps sale, Apr 12)	NZ \$ 30
p.	NZ QV 2/6 brown Stamp Duty perf "M/G/M".	(Auckland City Stamps sale, Apr 12)	NZ \$ 50
q.	NZ 1931/40 5/- Arms perf "M/G/M".	(Auckland City Stamps sale, Apr 12)	NZ \$ 25
r.	Commonwealth Bank card with 1d green KGV perf 12-hole 'OS' used by the Office of Director General of Public Health, Sydney	(eBay, Apr 12) sold for	GBP 4.30

## WANTED ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN

Please contact the editor with reports of new items, interesting covers, auction realizations and anything else of interest. Contact details on Page 1