

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN BULLETIN

NO. 99 OCTOBER 2012

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EDITORS COMMENT

Many collectors of New Zealand perfins also collect patterns used by New Zealand companies outside of New Zealand. This puts them in a good position to tell the story of perfin use by these companies. Frequently these patterns such as B.N.Z or NZL fetch higher prices than similar perfins from those countries, despite most being fairly common, these companies being prolific perfin users. As there are not all that many New Zealand patterns these additional items increase the scope of a New Zealand perfin collection.

While many collectors of Australian perfins collect the COFA and C/OF/A patterns found on British stamps there does not seem to be all that much interest in patterns used by Australian companies overseas. Possibly this is due in part to the larger number of Australian perfins. However the other likely reason is that nobody has made a list of the patterns or the issues available.

Examples that come to mind include, A.M.P, QI and QI Co LD on British stamps, though there are no doubt many others. Creating a listing might be an interesting project that someone may wish to tackle.

David Andersen

NEW MEMBERS

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

- #276 - Manfred Granig, Ashwood, Vic
- #277 - John Hoenen, Benalla, Vic
- #278 - Jerry Austen, Sydney, NSW
- #279 - Sam Chizik, Toorak, Vic

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

(Lindsay Parker)

Thanks to all the members who have sent in their membership fees. If you have not got around to it yet I would love to hear from you. For overseas members (other than new Zealanders who can pay to Richard Smolnicki) please be aware that converting foreign currency or foreign cheques at an Australian bank incurs a fee of \$15 AUD now.

We are planning to set up a paypal account before next year's memberships are due to make things easier. For this year if you would like to pay via paypal please contact me via my email and I can give you details to pay via a private account.

In regard to incorporation of the club, I have investigated various state laws (unfortunately incorporation in Australia is a state matter and not a federal matter). At the moment I feel the Victorian legislation offers the best option. They are changing the laws regarding incorporation to allow clubs to avail modern technology such as on line meetings. However this legislation has not been released to the public (there is some details on the website - www.consumer.vic.gov.au/.../clubs.../incorporated-associations if anyone wishes to check it out.) and I am waiting until the legislation is made public in November before I take any further action. It will almost certainly mean adopting a new constitution to meet their guidelines as well as a few other changes which we will advise you once the committee are satisfied that it will be suitable and workable for our club.

At that point it will be necessary to seek the approval of the members to a) adopt a new (or changed constitution) and b) agree to incorporate the club.

 CLUB PERFORATOR

Long-time member Arthur Taylor has taken over custody of the Club perforator and will be offering a service to members who want stamps perforated.

Stamps need to be Australian or New Zealand stamps from the period after the date the device came into service, February 1998. They need to be in multiples (no single stamps) as these are easiest to accurately fit under the punch head. No peel and stick stamps please as these tend to gum up the mechanism

Send your stamps to Arthur Taylor, 19 Sundowner Ave, BERRARA, NSW 2540

 AUSTRALIA 2013 FIP WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION

This event will be held on 10 - 15 May 2013 to celebrate the Centenary of the issue of the first Australian Stamp the Kangaroo and Map series in 1913. The venue for the Exhibition will be the Exhibition Buildings in Carlton. For details see the web site <http://www.australia2013.com/>

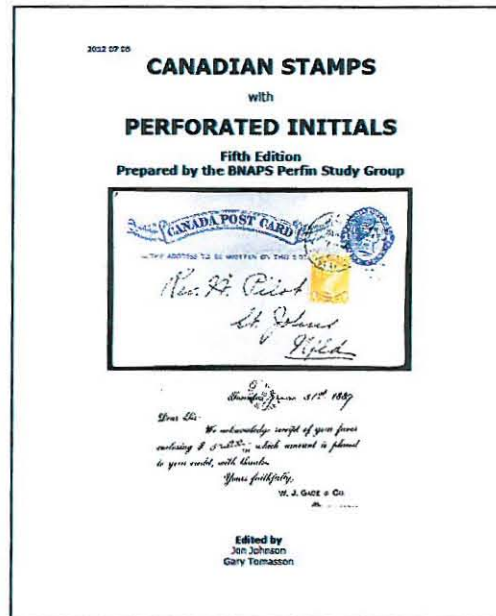
The Club has made a modest donation of \$100 and joined the Supporters Group for the event. We have also requested a room for a meeting on either Saturday (11th) or

Sunday (12th). These are yet to be finalised but we will have details for the January Bulletin. We will look forward to seeing you there.

CANADIAN STAMPS WITH PERFORATED INITIALS 5th EDITION

The 5th Edition of Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials is now available free online from the BNAPS web site www.bnaps.org. The URL for the book itself is <http://www.bnaps.org/PerfinHandbook/PerfinHandbook.htm>. Canadian Stamps with Perforated Initials by Gary Tomasson and Jon Johnson is the standard catalogue of Canadian Perfins and earlier editions have been most informative and useful for those collecting Canadian Perfins. Now at around 170 pages sections can be downloaded and printed for private use if needed.

The new edition is even more useful than the previous print edition published in 1985. In addition to a large amount of new information there are a number of differences between the online version and the previous print edition. One of the big developments is the addition of the checklist of stamps that have been reported perforated by each perforating machine. Another major change is that many colour illustrations have been included many more than would have been possible with a traditional print publication. The catalogue will be updated as more information comes to hand which will no doubt be frequent as so many collectors now have access to it and can contribute.



By providing free access to this catalogue BNAPS and the Editors have increased greatly the number of collectors with access to this work and it will no doubt increase participation in this aspect of Canadian collecting. Hopefully this format of publication including the free access will be emulated for many other countries as this will encourage people to collect perfins and more importantly to contribute to the study.

MEET A MEMBER - JEN PROSSER

Jen has been a member of the PCNZA since the early 1990's and has a most interesting way of collecting Australian Private Perfins.

Jen was born in Renmark (SA), her father was a "blockie" struggling to make a living from the newly irrigated area, but her father was not well so they moved to Victor Harbor and then to a cattle station near Broken Hill. She enjoyed the wild side of station life with no need to go to school and plenty of time to experience nature along with her indigenous friend Jimmy Akbar.

In search of more mental stimulation she took up pen friends and by the time she was 15 she was writing to people all over the world, something that meant that she got lots of stamps.

Moving to Oakbank (about 25 kms from Adelaide) at aged 16 the stamps took a back seat to the exigencies of life such as boys, University, marriage, children and a career in teaching and later time as a Librarian.

The penfriends grew in number, including a charming Russian who collected vinyl 12" LP's. Jen got stamps in exchange for records.

Sometime in Whyalla and a few moves later Jen was in Clare when her 13 year old son James caught the stamp collecting bug and this rekindled her interests in her own stamps. Jen and James collected together in a very organised way with catalogue references and a card index that soon found its way onto a computer database.

James started to trade in stamps and this soon absorbed Jen's world collection to be replaced with a classic Australian collection including imprint blocks and State perfins.

Success at Auctions in Adelaide and taking a few risks buying the larger bulk lots exposed Jen to private perfins and she put these away with her State examples. The "Perfin Bug" had bitten and although Jen found few fellow perfin collectors she joined The Philatelic Society of South Australia in order to stay abreast and access their excellent library.

The perfin collecting grew and to the patterns was added the fun of researching and collecting memorabilia, including covers, pictures of buildings and even posters from some user companies. It is all housed in a series of filing cabinets but Jen reports that a narrow interest such as private perfins can be a lonely road as there is no other collector in her area.

Jen finds the best source of material is the Club Circuit books and Auctions but that this is supplemented by eBay and continued buys from mainstream Auctions.

The collection is growing like Topsy and cannot ever be complete as Jen has decided to collect all Australian Commonwealth private patterns but in all positions. To help in recording this she uses Dbase system that is based on catalogue numbers, but includes details for perfins such as position, pattern type and even the price paid.

Jen has limited her collection to the Commonwealth period as she admits that to extend the coverage to State private perfins would defeat even her advanced organisational skills, not to mention space as the collection has moved past springback folders to be measured in filing cabinets.

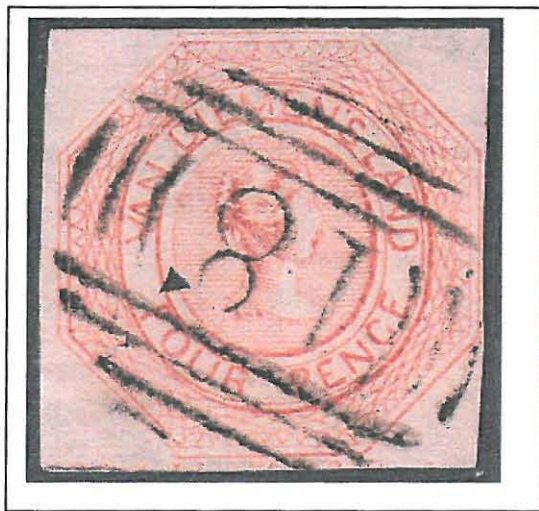
Collecting private perfins from the ASC catalogue perspective is an interesting approach with each issue being a micro collection of Commonwealth patterns. Add to this space for all 8 positions, pairs, covers, as well as the ephemera, advertising, postcards, pictures of buildings etc, it all becomes very bulky.

In this way of collecting Jen makes the perfin just the starting point in a bigger and more complex story about the user, their offices and ultimately the history of Australia.

TASMANIAN TRIANGLES

A recent interesting discussion about these items appeared on the Tasmanian Philatelic Society Online Forum website at <http://tps.org.au/bb> . This forum has a perfin category that is excellent for contributing information on and reading about Tasmanian perfins

Ross Ewington provided illustrations of a couple of copies that were for sale in one of his postal auctions and these are illustrated below.



The 4d pale orange Plate 1 (2nd state) SG 9 and 4d deep blue (star wmk) SG17 with the triangular puncture both have a barred numeral "18" cancel indicating they were used at Campbelltown. Both very nice copies.

David McNamee provided useful information about the number of copies known to exist as a comment on the TPS website as follows:

"No formal census taken that I am aware of, but I do have recorded a number of auction lots describing perhaps 6 different Courier 4d singles. I have 2, neither of which acquired at auction. Estimates have been made that 10-15 examples may exist on Courier 4d. A couple of Chalon 4d and one or two Courier 1d have been seen or described in the literature. The Tinsley collection had a Chalon 4d Large Star on cover 11 OCT 1855 Campbell Town to Hobart. A Courier 1d on 11 JUL 1855 Campbell Town drop letter was sold at auction, and Courier 4d on piece dated 18 MAY 1855 sold by Millennium in 2006, but perhaps the top item is a vertical strip of 4 Courier 4d on cover 20 JUN 1855 Campbell Town to Hobart. HL White collection contains a folded entire from Launceston to Campbell Town received 30 MAY 1854 with Courier 4d cancelled BN59 and then forwarded to Hobart 31 MAY 1854 with an added Courier 4d cut to shape and with triangular punch cancelled BN18.

No one really knows anything about these triangular punches except that nearly all are cancelled BN18 (Campbell Town). Tinsley had a Courier 4d cancelled BN59 (Launceston) as a loose stamp, but that is the only exception to BN18 reported. References in the literature include articles in *PJGB* April 1939, *The Philatelist* March 1961, *Sydney Views* May 2003 and November 2007, and the *South Pacific Perfins Bulletin* January 2007".

HOBART STAMP SHOW 2012

While we are talking about Tasmanian stamps members may be interested in attending Hobart Stamp Show to be held Friday 16th to Sunday 18th November 2012 a National One Frame Exhibition

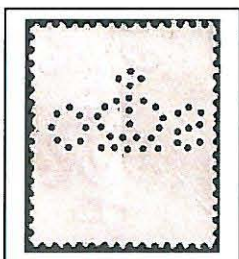
The exhibition will be held at the Hobart Town Hall

Website <http://hobartstampshow2012.com>

BOARD OF TRADE

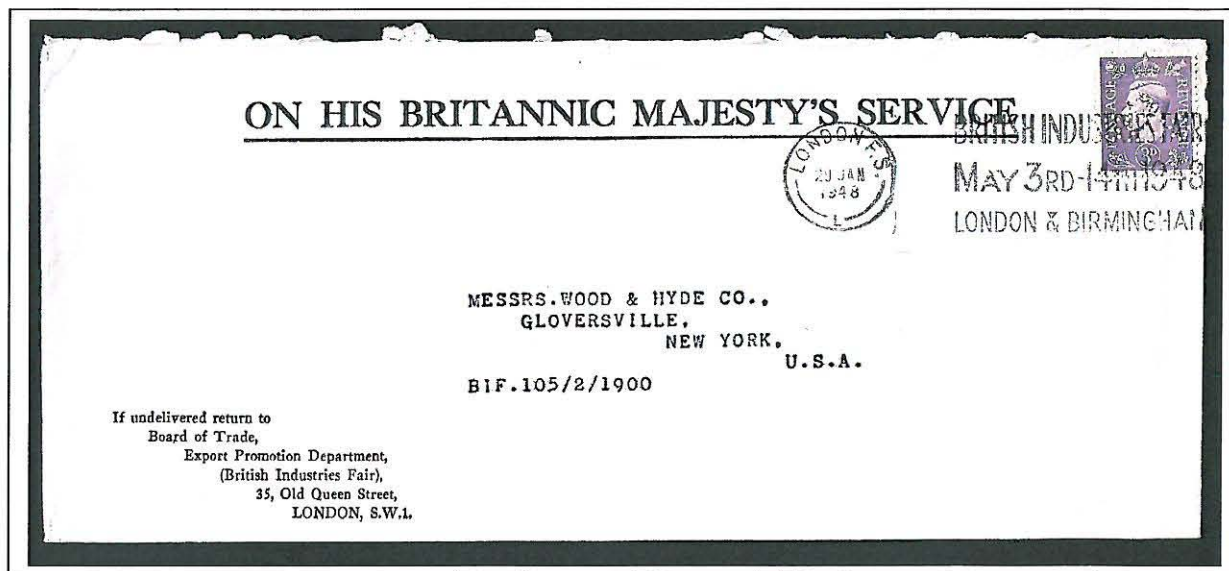
(David Andersen)

The British Board of Trade is a well known user of perfins. An ornate (crown)/B.T pattern was introduced on 27th January 1881 and used until 14th May 1904, there being two different patterns used. The second pattern has smaller holes than the first and was introduced around 1900. It has been claimed that there are a large number of forgeries of these patterns, though more recently this suggestion has been challenged.



Recently on eBay I noticed a cover with a perfin used by the Board of Trade. However the perfin used was the common S(crown)O perfin usually associated with His(Her) Majesty's Stationary Office. The user on the cover is the Board of Trade, Export Promotion Department, British Industries Fair. This usage of the S(crown)O pattern seemed to be quite unusual.

To my surprise a similar cover was illustrated in the October 2012 issue of the G.B. Perfin Society Bulletin as part of an article on the HMSO perfins by Michael Millar. Both covers were used by the same organisation, one dated 7 January 1948 and the other 28th January 1948. This probably indicates some special arrangement between the Board of Trade and the Stationary Office for a brief period.



I would be interested to hear about any similar covers or usage of the S(crown)O pattern by other British Government organisations apart from HMSO.

THE GOLDSBROUGH MORT PERFIN

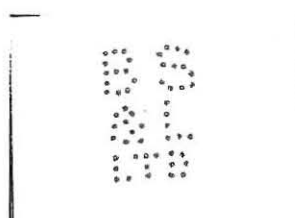
(David Coath)

Goldsbrough Mort were a very large stock and station and wool trading company that had their roots in Melbourne (Richard Goldsbrough) and Sydney (Thomas Mort) but in time the company grew to have State capital offices, wool stores and regional offices all across Australia. Interestingly they only chose to use perfins in their South Australian operation. This was most likely linked to the Goldsbrough Mort take over of the stock and station agents Bagot, Shakes and Lewis in 1924.

Bagot, Shakes and Lewis were perfin users (BS&LLTD.1) and the company had existed since 1888. HAPP lists BS&LLTD.1 as being used from 1899 until 1925. The 1925 end date is after the take over by Goldsbrough Mort (1924) but it is likely to be correct as the stock of perfined stamps would have been used by Goldsbrough Mort. The 1899 start date is not supported by the postmark evidence I have seen. 1912 would be a more likely date as use of the pattern on South Australian stamps is scarce. I would welcome any evidence to support an earlier date than 1912 so if you have earlier postmarks then please share them with me. As an aside there were actually two BS&LLTD patterns as follows:



BS&LLTD. New
used 1912 - 1917



BS&LLTD.1
used 1918 – 1924(5)

The patterns are very similar and the differences are mainly limited to the ampersand and the shape of the B, so it is possible that it was an alteration or repair to a single device that led to the creation of a different pattern. These BS&LLTD patterns are often found with postmarks from remote towns around South Australia just as the other Goldsbrough Mort patterns are.

Overview of the Goldsbrough Mort family of Patterns

The Goldsbrough Mort family of devices and patterns includes at least 3 devices giving at least 7 different patterns. All of these patterns (with the exception of GM.6) are confirmed to be from Goldsbrough Mort and used at its Adelaide office at 172 North Terrace. Take a note of the address as it is not listed in HAPP or its updates. The company also had a large wool store at Port Adelaide and as with the BS&LLTD patterns the various Goldsbrough Mort patterns are found on stamps with a range of remote postmarks from Cowell, Port Lincoln, Hawker, Mount Pleasant, Loxton,

Murray Bridge, Jamestown, Riverton, Kongolia, as well as many others. These remote usages are consistent with the network of small buying offices and agents that the company was known to have around South Australia.

I will discuss these devices/patterns chronologically.

GM&COLTD.1 (1924 – 1928)

This is a single die device and I have examples of multiple strikes on joined pairs etc. and none show any consistent relationship between strikes. The HAPP date range of 1925 – 1935 is not supported by the postmark evidence I have seen.



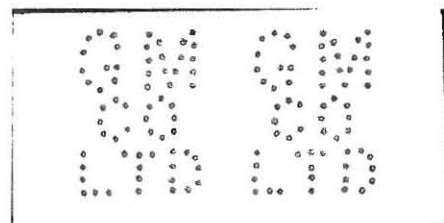
The CPA and HAPP images are the same and although they capture the scale and layout of the pattern they are slightly off in some of the pin locations. For instance they both show the cross bar of the T of LTD to be curving upwards but it is actually straight for the entire life of the device.

GMCOLTD.1 (1929-1931)

This is the first 2 die device used by the Company and it was rather short lived having a usage of only 3 years. The 2 dies of the device are in a horizontal array and are rather similar. CPA reports a single type but this is corrected in HAPP to 2 types to reflect the 2 dies of the device and the multi die layout is noted in HAPP Appendix 4 (page 37). Again the HAPP usage end date is 1935 and this is not supported by the postmark evidence.

It is quite a large pattern considering the size of the contemporary postage stamp issues (KGV sideface) and it appears that it would have been difficult to get a central strike on these issues. The separation of the dies suggests that the device was designed to make an upright strike, position 1 (and depending on folding positions 3,5 and 7) on a KGV sideface but most of the examples I have seen show sideways strikes in positions 2,4,6 and 8. What is more the dies each have 64 rather thick pins and these would have removed a fair amount of paper which would have weakened the stamp and made separation of stamps from multiples a challenge.

CPA and HAPP both show a very good representation of the right hand die. The 2 dies can be easily distinguished by the shape of the cross bar of the T in LTD. In the left hand die (type 1, if you like) the cross bar bends upwards and in the right hand die (type 2) the cross bar bends downwards.



An example of the strike with late usage (Nov 1931) shows many blind pins in the G, C and LT of the left hand die and this could have indicated wear or breakages, but such strikes are rare and in the main the strikes from the device are clear and there seems to be little reason for the device to be discontinued.

GMCOLTD.2 (1932-1935)

This is another 2 die device and it appears to have replaced the short lived GMCOLTD.1 device. It has just 55 pins and these are laid out into a tighter pattern which would have made it easier for the operator to get good central strikes onto contemporary postage stamps.

It is interesting that the 2 dies are in a vertical array in lieu of the horizontal array of the earlier GMCOLTD.1 device.

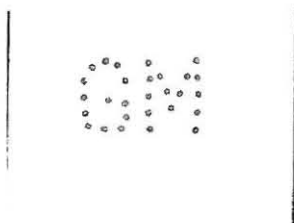
Again CPA listed a single type but HAPP corrected this and recognised the multi die format and listed 2 types. The HAPP image is a bit grainy but it is a good representation of the bottom die (type 2). Again it is easy to tell the dies apart. The upper die (type 1) has a G with a straight cross bar. The lower die (type 2) has a cross bar which is angled downwards.

1935 usage does show some blind pins but otherwise the device seemed to be sound at the end of its usage.

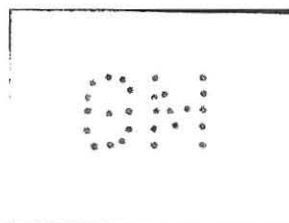


GM.1 (1936-1937) and GM.2 (1936-1937)

CPA only lists GM.1 but HAPP lists both GM.1 and GM.2 and notes in Appendix 4 and page G-18 that the patterns (as well as G.2 and G.8) were part of a multi die device, although it provides no other detail. Again the HAPP usage date ranges are in my view incorrect. The start date of 1919 for GM.1 and 1932 for GM.2 are at odds with the postmark evidence, the logical chronology of these devices and the company history. This is most odd when you consider that HAPP reports them to be 2 dies of the one device.



GM.1



GM.2

I would agree that GM.1 and GM.2 are most likely the dies of a 2 die device, but I cannot find any conclusive evidence of this. In fact the best evidence I can find comes from the G.2 and G.8 patterns (see below) as these patterns are produced from the same device that made GM.1 and .2 but with the M's removed.

The HAPP image of GM.1 is very good but the image of GM.2 is slightly narrower than the true pattern. The patterns are easily distinguished as the G of GM.1 has a flat base and the G of GM.2 has a very weak rounded "chin" in its bottom right hand corner of the G. I have reproduced the images here but please note that the separation between the 2 patterns is not confirmed.

If anyone has a multiple of a GM.1 or GM.2 patterns then I would be keen to see it and I will update this article with the information provided and credit the provider of the information.

G.2 (1937-1940) and G.8 (1937-1940)

The GM device had been created to make central strikes in the KGV issues of the early to mid 1930's but in May 1937 Australia issued a series of smaller format stamps in the first of the KGV definitive issues. The company responded by altering their GM device by removing the M's to create (most likely) a two die device with 2 G's which are listed in HAPP as G.2 and G.8.



G.2 is listed in CPA but HAPP contains both the G.2 and G.8 patterns as well as a note (page G-18) that they are a modification of the device that created GM.1 and GM.2 respectively. Oddly, given this statement, the usage ranges in HAPP are different for the 2 patterns and G.8 is not specified until the October 2005 update.

I have examples of stamps with strikes of both G.2 and G.8 on the same stamp. The problem is that they do not show a regular spacing so I cannot confirm the structure of the device. The fact that the stamps carry both strikes is strong evidence for a multi die device, as these multiple strikes could easily occur when an operator is using a multi die device to make strikes in a large block of stamps. The alternative is to accept that a strike was made first with one single die device and then another strike was made with another single die device. This seems most unlikely.

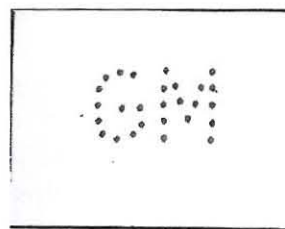
As with GM.1 and GM.2 if anyone has a multiple of a G.2 or G.8 then I would be keen to see it and I will update this article with the information provided and credit the provider of the information.

The device was not used after 1940 and at this point the company ceased perforating their stamps.

The HAPP image of G.2 is very good but the image of G.8 is slightly distorted. Again the patterns are easily distinguished as the G of GM.2 retains the flat base. The G of G.8 also has the same weak "chin" in its bottom right hand corner of the G. as in GM.2, but this is not as obvious because of the consistent missing pins in the bottom left hand corner of the G. I have reproduced these patterns here but please note that the separation between the 2 patterns is not confirmed.

GM.6 (1938)

I include the GM.6 pattern here as it is possible that it is part of the Goldsbrough Mort family of devices. The pattern is very rare and I have only a single example. It is very much in the style and scale of GM.1 and .2 but it is not a modification of either of these dies as its existence in 1938 is in the middle of the period of use of the GM.1/.2 device.



GM.6 was first listed in HAPP and the image in HAPP is a good representation of the letters but the separation is slightly out.

References:

“Wool and the Nation – A sketch of the Wool Industry in Australia” published by Goldsbrough Mort and Co. Ltd in 1947 (with later editions in 1955 and 1960)

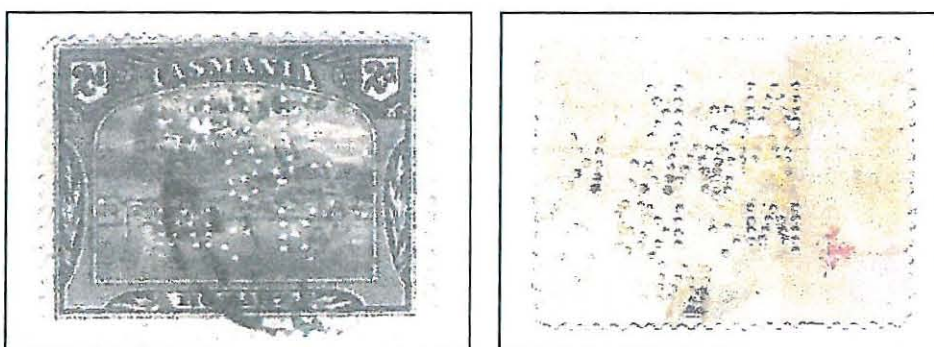
Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) - Grant/Mathews 1992

Handbook of Australian Private Perfins (HAPP) - John Mathews 2003

Revenue Perfins of Australia - Elsmore/Coath 2011

MCKAY, SAMPSON AND MCKINLAY: AN UPDATE

John Tyson provided an update to his article in the October 2005 issue of the Bulletin on McKay, Sampson and McKinlay. An interesting example on a 2d Tasmanian pictorial has turned with the McK S Mck perfin illustrated below.



The Mck S Mck perfin used in Tasmania is usually found upright or sideways. However the new item has the perfin McK S McK inverted, reversed and doubled (one partly blind). As John says “Someone must have been very bored and produced a nice rare item for philatelists!”

COMMENT ON NEW PERFIN “AE” REPORTED (John Mathews)

It is always fortunate when the discovery of a new perfin pattern is in the form of a proving cover. This is the case reported by David Coath (SPPB # 98 of July 2012) of a new perfin pattern on a cover of Alfred Edments, of Bourke Street, Melbourne.

But, as David points out, this cover provides more information than just about this pattern. This new pattern obviously represents the initials of Alfred Edments, "AE", whereas if the stamp had been found loose, the observer may have been more likely to think the letters were "AK", as there are no holes across the middle of the top and bottom row to suggest that the second letter is an "E". The style of this pattern is very similar to that of the patterns in "Commercial Perfins of Australia" (CPA) and "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins" (HAPP) AK.1, AK.2 and AK.4, as distinct from the patterns AE.1 to AE.6.

In hindsight, as David says, AK.1, AK.2 and AK.4 are probably also "AE" patterns of this same user, and AE.1 to AE.6 may also be of the same user rather than the provisional user suggested in HAPP. When CPA and HAPP were compiled, there were several patterns whose letter combinations were not able to be uniquely determined, and these "AK" patterns are examples. Their entries in CPA and HAPP were based on what a collector most likely would interpret what he/she saw in the pattern, and no-one previously had questioned the interpretations of AK.1, AK.2 and AK.4. Of course, hindsight is 20/20 vision. Other examples of uncertain interpretation of letter combinations are those patterns consisting entirely of "symmetrical" letters, such as "HMA", "IH" and "SH", which could be "AMH", "HI" and "HS" respectively.

So, along with this new pattern, AK.1, AK.2 and AK.4 will be re-listed as "AE" patterns but with cross-references between the original and new reference numbers. Had David shown me this new pattern during the preparation of his article, I would have told him that the number for it would be AE.9, AE.7 and AE.8 having already been allocated to other "AE" patterns (of the same style as AE.1 to AE.6) previously reported.

I will also delete the provisional user identities for AE.1 to AE.4 in HAPP in the light of a confirmed user with these initials. David also points out, quite correctly, that there was no other potential user of the "AE" letter combination listed in Appendix 1 of HAPP. However, this Appendix was not intended to be an exhaustive list but simply some companies with matching initials as an aid to identifying patterns found on piece with a partial name or address of the user. This was stated at the top of Appendix 1. The possible users (in Sydney) of the letter combination "AK" given in this appendix obviously only refer to the pattern(s) with known New South Wales usage.

Lastly, David also pointed out in his article that the two updates to HAPP so far (October 2005 and February 2012) do not list new patterns. These updates are intended solely to promulgate new information about patterns already listed in HAPP for the benefit of those readers who have a copy of HAPP. Issuing regular sets of additions of new patterns would result in collectors having a disjointed total list of new patterns, and causing them to have to look through all the additional sets to see if a new pattern they were looking at had already been reported. The new patterns would more appropriately be issued eventually as a Supplement to HAPP, or perhaps a new edition (any volunteers??).