

## The Perfins of Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance – LLG

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### Introduction:

The LLG pattern group is a complex one and there are many similar patterns in similar formats that are produced by remotely located devices. In fact the first real study I did on perfins was on the LLG.2 and LLG.6 and this was published in South Pacific Perfin Bulletin (SPPB) #76 of January 2007. It focused on clarifying the 2 types of each of LLG.2 and .6 but I erred in the order that I had the 2 types of .2 most likely due to misreading a multiple strike. Notably there have been other articles about this pattern group including one by John Mathews in the preceding SPPB # 75 that was prompted by an item presented by Dave Elsmore that showed two strikes of a similar LL/G pattern on the one KGV issue. See image #1 below.

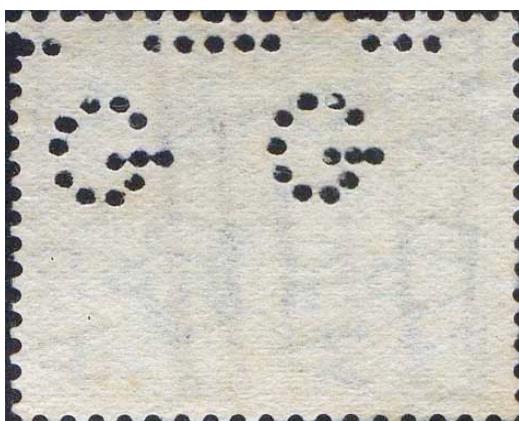


Image #1 Dave Elsmore pattern

Over time as I have been sorting LLG's into my collection I have been frustrated by the similarities between these patterns, in particular the patterns, LLG.3 (3 types), 4,5,7,8,9 and the newly listed 10 (previously a type of 3). I had sorted and resorted my collection and spares a number of times, making new tracings of patterns as I went, but I was not completely happy with the result. Unfortunately the Handbook of Australian Private Perfins (HAPP) images and indeed the ones from the earlier Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) were not completely accurate for all of the patterns in the group. What is more the listings of the various LLG patterns in CPA and HAPP reported usage from multiple States as follows:

LLG.3 Postage stamps of Australia as well as revenue stamps of both WA and TAS

LLG.5 Postage stamps of Australia as well as revenue stamps of both WA and NSW

To be fair these multi State listings were carried in from CPA when there was only LLG.1 – 6 reported, but they were not altered with the reports of LLG.7, 8 and 9 which were later listed in HAPP. This kind of miss reporting is difficult to avoid in a catalogue which is growing rapidly, as both CPA/HAPP were, and where information comes to hand and there is not the time to go back and review all current patterns in the context of the new report. The study of perfins is still a young one and new

information and new perspectives will come to light from time to time and they will effect what we know about a pattern, related patterns and sometimes even a whole pattern group.

In fact it was not until I started work on the on line catalogue "Private Revenue Perfins of Australia" with Dave Elsmore, that these patterns became clear to me. The reason for this is that for the first time I viewed the patterns from a State by State perspective, as this is the way Dave and I are cataloguing the revenues. For instance I found that all the LLG's that I had on Western Australian revenues were exactly the same pattern, one very close to LLG.9.

I made more tracings of the patterns from each State and then re sorted my postage stamp collection looking for exact pattern matches against my tracings and for these to be supported by postmarks from the appropriate State. Having done this I arrived at the following results. Note reference numbers from "Private Revenue Perfins of Australia" have been added next to the HAPP numbers as EC # (Elsmore/Coath) and the appropriate State.

#### LLG.1 (EC LLG.a Queensland)

The LLG.1 device was located in Brisbane and the pattern forms a single line pattern with quite thin pins. It came into service in around 1920. Later use from the mid 1920's is characterised by a missing pin in the top right hand corner of the G. It is a consistent missing pin so I have called it a second type of the pattern.

In the 1940's this LLG device appears to have been altered or repaired and the new 3rd type once again produces a pattern with a full G, however the L's are distinctly different in particular the base of each L. This variation to the pattern has not been previously reported but as the pattern is similar to the earlier types collectors may not have noticed it yet. So check what you have.

I have shown the 3 types in the Pattern Reference sheet.

#### LLG.2 (EC LLG.c and LLG.d NSW)

The LLG.2 device was located at the companies Sydney office. The pattern is very distinctive with large diameter pins, which make correspondingly large holes. It is very similar to LLG.6, which was also located in Sydney. Both .2 and .6 have related multi heads and I have confirmed from multiples in my own collection and that of Arthur Taylor that the strikes are consistently separated in a horizontal array. This is consistent with the HAPP listing for these patterns, which lists 2 types of each pattern.

In fact there is some evidence to suggest that collectively the 4 dies are part of a 4 head device that is most likely in a 2 x 2 layout. I have a single multiple that shows partial strikes of .6 (type 2) above a .2 (type 2) See image #2.



Image #2 Vertical Multiple of LLG.2 and .6

The strikes seem to be in a consistent relationship to each other but this would need to be confirmed by a second multiple showing the same spacing. The 4 head device in a 2 x 2 layout with this spacing would be most suitable for perforating the KGV and Kangaroo postage stamps and the Edward VII bi colour revenues of NSW in positions 1, 3, 5 and 7, and these are the positions that these patterns are always found in.

The image of LLG.2 in CPA shows rather thin pins, somewhat like LLG.1 but the image is a serviceable representation of what I refer to as type 1 of the pattern. The image is different in HAPP and the pin sizes are larger and more true to the character of the pattern, but the HAPP image is not an exact representation of either of the 2 types of LLG.2. It is closest to the pattern that I refer to as LLG.2 type 2. I have corrected this in my Pattern Reference sheet.

#### LLG.3 (EC LLG.b Tasmania)

The LLG.3 device was located in the Hobart office and it is listed in both CPA and HAPP as having 3 types with usage in both Tasmania and Western Australia. The address for the device was given as Sydney in CPA but this was changed to Launceston in HAPP. Such multi State usage is not unknown but in this case the description of 3 types and multiple locations is due to confusion with other similar patterns from 3 separate devices as follows:

LLG.3 Hobart  
LLG.9 Perth  
LLG.10 Launceston

The image in HAPP for LLG.3 is actually a good representation of the true pattern for the Hobart device.

#### LLG.4 (No EC #, not found on Revenues)

The LLG.4 device came into service at the Melbourne office no later than 1926 and postmark evidence indicates that it was there until at least the late 1930's. From the mid 1940's a few Adelaide postmarks appear and the patterns in these are an exact match for the LLG.4. It may have been that the device was transferred to Adelaide, but if this was the case it returned to Melbourne in the early 1960's as the Melbourne postmarks return and the Adelaide ones disappear.

It is difficult to be certain about the location of the device with this mix of postmark evidence. The late 1930's – 1950's is not a good period for gaining good evidence from postmark strikes, as the stamps are smaller than the previous KGV issues. What is more the period saw the introduction of more automatic cancelling devices in large mail centres, such as Melbourne, which position date and location information well to the left of a single stamp positioned in the top right hand corner of an envelope.

There are a number of possible scenarios as follows:

- 1 Given that the Adelaide postmarks are uncommon the Adelaide usage is from stamps sent, already perforated with LLG.4, to the Adelaide office from Melbourne.
- 2 The device was transferred to Adelaide and later returned to Melbourne.
- 3 The Adelaide pattern is produced by a device, which is exactly the same as the Melbourne one.

It is speculation but I would favour scenario 1, as it seems most likely given the somewhat conflicting evidence. This process of sending out stamps already perforated to remote offices served well for Government Departments but if this was a workable solution it seems odd that the company purchased separate devices for all other remote offices. Scenario 2 fails to explain what the Melbourne office used during the period that the device was in Adelaide. Scenario 3 seems unlikely given that all the other similar LLG devices produce discernable patterns.

In any case more information will be valuable and I would be keen to hear if any collectors have more of these Adelaide or Melbourne postmarks. There is little possibility of confusion with other LLG patterns as this is the only device that was located in either Melbourne or Adelaide.

The images in both CPA and HAPP for LLG.4 are not quite correct. The size is about right but the images have a cross bar shorter than the true pattern. See Pattern Reference sheet for the true pattern.

#### LLG.5 (EC LLG.h NSW)

LLG.5 device replaced the LLG.2/6 device at the companies Sydney office. It would have been sourced as the format of revenue stamps was changing with the advent of the NSW numeral series, which were much smaller than the bi colour, Edward VII issues. The usage of the devices overlaps in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

LLG.5 was a single head of what was most likely a 4 head device in a 2 x 2 format, interestingly replacing another apparently 4 head 2 x 2 device. The 4 heads of the device are LLG.5, .7, .8 and an unlisted LLG pattern, which I will call LLG.11. These patterns are very similar but each has subtle pin position variations particularly in the cross bar of the G that makes it distinctive. (See John Mathews article in SPPB #75, and my comments below).

In the late 1930's all the heads were modified and fitted with thicker pins and from this time the patterns are characterised by wider holes. So in all there are 4 patterns (.5/.7/.8/.11) with 2 types of each.

The difference in each pattern can be determined from the 3 pins in the cross bar of the G as follows:

- LLG.5 Inside pin is lower others parallel
- LLG.7 Outside pin is higher and closer to centre pin
- LLG.8 Inside and outside pins slightly higher than centre pin
- LLG.11 Cross bar has 3 pins straight

These patterns had always represented a hurdle to me as they are so close in appearance and I felt that given that the .5/.7 and .8 patterns all came from the same location that they were most likely related. This was confirmed when I started to find examples with multiple strikes of the patterns. The first multiple I found was of 2 heads and showed .7 over .5 in what appeared to be a consistent spacing. I confirmed this with a second, multiple which showed the same spacing. Both of these multiples were on the 1936 South Australian Centenary issue, (see image #3).

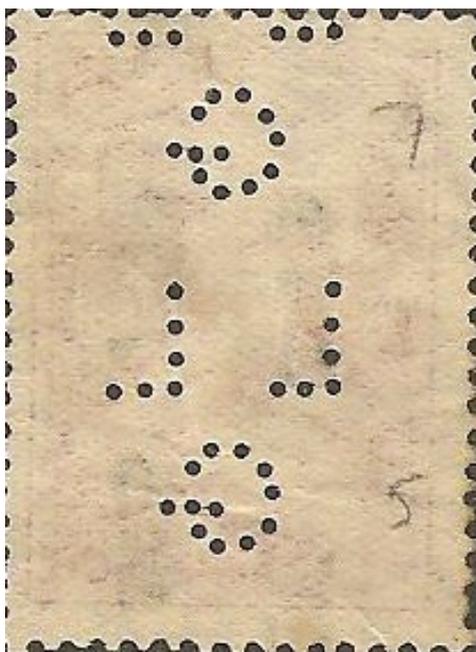


Image #3 Multiple of LLG.5 and .7

What is more in single strikes of .5 I could find no evidence of a pattern below the .5 pattern even when the strike was high on the stamp. This indicated that the .5 was most likely at the bottom of the array of heads. To my mind at the time this left only .8 to be positioned.

At this stage I was still looking for a 3 head device to match the patterns .5, .7 and .8, so logically, given the nature of .5 (being at the bottom of the array), the .8 would be above the .7 to give a 3 head device in a vertical array. What is more in my NSW revenues I found two examples of a strike of an .8 which were high on the stamp and showed evidence of the top of another pattern, and this matched the top of .7. That

does not say much as the patterns are so close it would have matched the top of any of the patterns of the heads of this device. But importantly it positioned .8 as being above another die.

When taking fresh tracings and confirming the characteristics of each pattern I could not help but notice that there was a pattern that I had put with my .5's that did not have the characteristic lower inside pin on the cross bar of the G. This pattern had a straighter, more horizontal cross bar and what is more it shared the characteristic of .5 in that it showed no evidence of a pattern below it, even when the strike was high on the stamp. This indicated that this "new" (.11) pattern was also from a head at the bottom of the device. Once again this pattern matched the pattern under my .8's.

At this stage I was considering that the device might be a pair of 2 head devices in vertical arrays, .7 above .5 and .8 above .11, but it is not supported by the close relationship between all the dies, which share early and late usage and all seem to have been repaired and/or altered at the same time.

What is more on the single multiple that I had (see Image #4) it showed an inconsistent relationship with other dies in a horizontal perspective. Also the Dave Elsmore multiple (see Image #1) showed inconsistent relationships of horizontal strikes but interestingly they were of 2 patterns known to be at the bottom of the device(s).



Image #4 Multiple strikes horizontal

It seems likely that such multiple strikes would be created by a user attempting to puncture large blocks of or part sheets of stamps with a 4 head device. In fact the incidence of these multi strikes from a separate strike of a 4 head die would be more likely than the discovery of strikes of the related die heads. Also to accept that there were 2 devices we can only explain the horizontal multiples by saying that the stamps were punctured first with one device and then with another. This seems an unlikely process.

At this point Dave Elsmore showed me a selection of LLG's that he had on NSW numeral revenues and this group included a single example with what appeared to be a consistent horizontal relationship. (see Image #5)

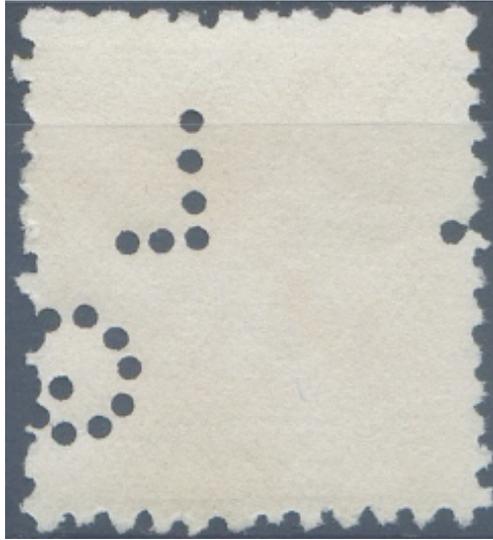


Image #5 Consistent Multiple strike horizontal

This was very close to what I had estimated the separation would have been if the device was 4 headed and built to punch the smaller NSW numeral revenues.

So on the balance of probability and given that it replaced a 4 head device I would consider LLG.5, .7, .8 and .11 to be a 4 head device. All I need to prove this is a second multiple with horizontal pairs or a single strike of the 4 heads. So if you have one please share it.

The images of .5/.7/.8 in HAPP are not exactly correct (.8 is very close) but they capture the essential characteristics of the variance in the cross bar of the G. The 4 heads are shown in their 2x2 array on the Pattern Reference sheet.

The device was used from 1929 until at least 1951 on postage stamps but the usage extended until at least 1960 on revenues.

LLG.6 (EC LLG.a and LLG.b NSW)

Located in the Sydney office and most likely part of a 4 head device with LLG.2, see LLG.2 above.

The images of LLG.6 in both CPA and HAPP are not exactly correct. In both references they are closest to what I refer to as the type 1. I have shown correct pattern images in my Pattern Reference Sheet.

LLG.7 (EC LLG.f NSW)

Located in the Sydney office and most likely part of a 4 head device with LLG.5, .8 and .11, see LLG.5 above.

The pattern image is included it in my Pattern Reference Sheet.

#### LLG.8 (EC LLG.e NSW)

Located in the Sydney office and most likely part of a 4 head device with LLG.5, .7 and .11, see LLG.5 above.

The pattern image is included it in my Pattern Reference Sheet.

#### LLG.9 (EC LLG.a WA)

LLG.9 was a Perth device and the HAPP image is a good one and it shows the characteristic thicker pins. In the October 2005 update to HAPP the id of the company and its address are confirmed. But in the same update the usage date is extended from 1934 to 1960. I suspect that this is not correct, as I have found no usage past 1942.

LLG.9 is really one of the 3 types of LLG.3 that had been listed in CPA and which was carried into HAPP. (See comments on LLG.3 above) The other pattern in this similar looking group became LLG.10 and this is found used up until 1962 so the late reported usage of LLG.9 may be just continued confusion between these similar patterns.

#### LLG.10 (EC LLG.a TAS)

As stated above LLG.10 is a Launceston device and was one of the 3 patterns initially described in CPA and later in HAPP as the 3 types of LLG.3. (See comments on LLG.3 above).

The pattern image has not been released as yet but I have included it in my Pattern Reference Sheet.

#### LLG.11 (EC LLG.g NSW)

Located in the Sydney office and most likely part of a 4 head device with LLG.5, .7 and .8, see LLG.5 above.

The pattern image has not been released as yet but I have included it in my Pattern Reference Sheet.

#### Summary

The LLG group is a confusing one with many similar patterns and this has been shown in the frequency of miss reports of usage and location. In addition the nature of the two 4 headed Sydney devices was not clear. Indeed what we know of these devices would be strengthened by viewing further multiples. So if you have any

multiple strikes of any LLG pattern then please share them and we will list them here on Perfins.com.au

The Summary of the details of the LLG group is as follows:

Pattern	HAPP	My findings
LLG.1	Brisbane 1 type 1937-1940	Brisbane 3 types 1920(?) - 1943
LLG.2	Sydney 2 types 1921-1928	Sydney 2 dies of 4 head device see LLG.6 1920-1932
LLG.3	Launceston + WA 3 types 1919-1953	Hobart 1 type 1927-1945
LLG.4	Adelaide 1 type 1931-1969	Melbourne also Adelaide (?) 1 type 1926-1967
LLG.5	Sydney + WA 1 type 1927-45 + 1959	Sydney A die of a 4 head device 2 types of each die See LLG.7, .8 and .11 1929-1951 postage To 1960 on revenues
LLG.6	Sydney 2 types 1921-1928	Sydney 2 dies of 4 head device see LLG.2 1920-1932(?)
LLG.7	Sydney 2 type s 1930-1951	Sydney A die of a 4 head device 2 types of each die See LLG.5, .8 and .11 1929-1951 postage To 1960 on revenues
LLG.8	Sydney 2 type s 1930-1951	Sydney A die of a 4 head device 2 types of each die See LLG.5, .7 and .11 1929-1951 postage To 1960 on revenues

LLG.9	Perth	Perth
	1 type 1927-1960	1 type 1929-1942
LLG.10	Not in HAPP None stated None stated	Launceston 1 type 1927-1962
LLG.11	Not in HAPP None stated  None stated	Sydney A die of a 4 head device 2 types of each die See LLG.5, .7 and .8 1929-1951 postage To 1960 on revenues

#### Pattern reference sheet

When sorting and studying these very similar patterns it is essential that you have accurate pattern images. I believe that the poor quality of some of the CPA and HAPP images of the patterns in the LLG group has lead too much of the miss reporting and confusion.

I offer this Pattern Reference sheet in a printable format but I am not able to confirm that the patterns will be depicted accurately when they are printed out on your printer.

I can confirm that they print out correctly on my printer so if you want a copy of the Reference Sheet just drop me an email and I will mail it to you, at my expense.

#### References:

Commercial Perfins of Australia (CPA) - Grant/Mathews (1992)  
Handbook of Australian Private Perfins (HAPP) – Mathews (2003)  
HAPP Update #1 October 2005 - Mathews  
South Pacific Perfin Bulletin various articles

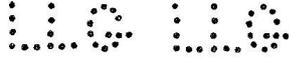
LLG
LLG.1 Type 1

LLG
LLG.1 Type 2

LLG
LLG.1 Type 3

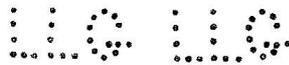

LLG.3

LLG.6  
type 1



LLG.6  
type 2

LLG.6  
type 1



LLG.2  
type 2


LLG.4

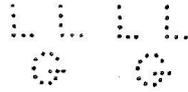

LLG.9

LLG.8



LLG.7

LLG.11



LLG.5


LLG.10