Issue: 10 - 2024

Philatelic Review Bulletin

Wyong & Districts Philatelic Society

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Dear members,
The content of this bulletin aims at informing hobby and calendar items relevant to our hobby and club.

It is hoped that errors and omissions are kept to a minimum.

All members are invited to submit articles that they like to share with others. Articles can be short or long and the editor will decide to publish those in one or more than one bulletin.
The editor

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Meetings and other information:
Philatelic Association of NSW (philas.org.au)
Evening Meeting:
The **third Wednesday** of the month at 7.00 pm
Canton Beach Sports Club
11 Hibbard Street
Toukley NSW 2263

Daytime Meeting:
The **first Wednesday** of the month at 1.00 pm

RFBI Lake Haven Masonic Retirement Village
12 - 16 Christopher Crescent
Lake Haven NSW 2263

George V Study Group
The **first Wednesday** of the month following the daytime meeting.

2024 Meeting Dates

Evening meetings at Toukley 7.00 pm

20 November
All Members: Fair preparation
18 December
All members; 5 page display

Daytime meetings 2024 at Lakehaven 1.00 pm

6 November
Exchange & KGV study group
1 December
Exchange & KGV study group

Philas Connection
Philatelic Association of NSW (philas.org.au)

Monthly Display
Peter Myers Stamp idnetification

Annual Stamp Fair
The next Central Coast Stamp, Coin And Collectables Fair will be held on 9 November 2024 at the Wyong And District Youth Community Hall, Wallarah Road, Kanwal. Doors, for the public open at 10.00 am.

1. Planning and Preparation

- **Set a Date and Venue**: done.
- **Budgeting**: Determine your budget for the event, including venue rental, marketing, security, and other expenses.
- **Permits and Insurance**: Check if you need any permits to host the event and consider getting insurance to cover any liabilities.

2. Attracting Exhibitors and Attendees

- **Contact Stamp Dealers and Collectors**: Reach out to local and regional stamp dealers, collectors, and clubs to invite them to participate.
- **Marketing and Promotion**: Use social media, local newspapers, and philatelic magazines to advertise your event. Create flyers and posters to distribute in hobby shops and community centers.
- **Pre-Registration**: Offer pre-registration for exhibitors and attendees to get an idea of the expected turnout.

3. Event Setup

- **Layout and Booths**: Plan the layout of the venue, including the placement of booths, tables, and any special exhibits. Ensure there is enough space for attendees to move around comfortably.
- **Signage and Information**: Provide clear signage for different sections of the fair and have an information booth to assist attendees.
- **Security and Safety**: Arrange for security personnel to ensure the safety of the exhibitors and attendees. Have first aid kits and emergency contacts readily available.

4. During the Event

- **Welcome and Registration**: Set up a registration desk at the entrance to welcome attendees and provide them with event programs and maps.
- **Workshops and Talks**: Organize workshops, talks, or panel discussions on topics related to stamp collecting to engage attendees.
- **Auctions**: Host stamp auctions to add excitement to the event.

5. Post-Event Activities

- **Feedback and Evaluation**: Collect feedback from exhibitors and attendees to understand what went well and what could be improved.
- **Thank You Notes**: Send thank you notes to all participants, volunteers, and sponsors to show your appreciation.
- **Planning for Next Year**: Start planning for the next fair based on the feedback and experiences from this event.

By following these steps, you'll be well on your way to organizing a successful stamp collectors fair! If you need more detailed guidance or specific tips, feel free to ask.

Australia – Phantasies
Hilarious group of perforated fakes & forgeries with Type 1 "essays" to £5 including 5/- block of 4 & £1 marginal pair, Type 3 "essays" to £2 including 2d *'JBC' Monogram* single!!, "issued stamps" to £2 x4 plus a block of 4 & *Ash Imprint* block of 4 plus unissued £5 brown & green x2 (one with Type D 'SPECIMEN' "overprint"), all the "essays" on "aged" brownish paper that just looks dirty. Some people clearly have too much time on their hands.

AUSTRALIA
THREE HALFPENNY
AUSTRALIA
TWO PENCE

AUSTRALIA
NINE PENCE
AUSTRALIA
TWO SHILLINGS
AUSTRALIA
FIVE POUNDS
AUSTRALIA
SIX PENCE

AUSTRALIA
POSTAGE
£1
ONE POUND

AUSTRALIA
POSTAGE
SPECIMEN
£5
FIVE POUNDS

AUSTRALIA
TWO SHILLINGS

AUSTRALIA
FIVE POUNDS
AUSTRALIA
TWENTY

AUSTRALIA
HALF PENNY
AUSTRALIA
ONE PENNY
AUSTRALIA
TWO PENCE
AUSTRALIA
ONE SHILLING

AUSTRALIA
POSTAGE
£5
FIVE POUNDS
1622
AUSTRALIA

The reserve price was $0 at auction. It appears it was withdrawn and hopefully we have seen the last of it.

Technical details – Perforation

The main types of separating stamps from each other can be distinguished:

- Cutting by instrument (scissors, penknife, etc)
- Punching holes through the printing sheets
- Rouletting
- die cut

Cutting by instrument
With the introduction of adhesive stamps the problem was the separation of the stamps from each other. Various methods were applied and the preferred one was using scissors or a penknife. However, this was labour intensive and time consuming particularly with bulk mailing. Using scissors may result in stamp images with or without margins, depending on the skill of the operator. Another factor in the appearance of the stamp is the distance between the stamp images, with small distances damage to the image is common.

Small distance between stamp images (Thurn and Taxis):

Guide lines to aid separation (Estonia):

The faster method of separating stamps was the introduction of using a perforation machine.

Separation
Method of punching minute discs from paper. Perforation is used for both separating and branding stamps. Stamps separated from a perforated sheet, are referred to as 'perforated' while those with perforated initials and devices are described as 'Perfins', `punch-perforated', 'punctured' and 'Spifs' (an acronym from `Stamps Perforated with Initials of Firms').

The stroke perforation process, was patented by Henry Archer in 1848, produces the result by a vertical movement with a plate holding the pins descending on to another with the holes with the paper to e perforated between. In the rotary process, which was patented by W. Bemrose and Son in 1854, the pins are placed around the circumference of a wheel while the holes are in another rotating wheel, so that the paper is perforated as it passes between the two.
Four main standards for classifying perforations have been established. The first, based on the form of application, has three classes. When the holes are applied to one side, or to opposite sides, of the stamps at a time, it is called line perforation. When they are applied to three sides of at least one row of stamps at a time, it is called comb perforation. This class is again sub-divided into vertical and horizontal comb, depending on the way in which the sheet was fed into the machine. If only one row is perforated at a time it is known as a 'single' comb while double comb perforation provides holes completely around the stamps in one row and between the stamps of the next. Combs which perforate several rows at once are called multiple comb perforations.

For triangular stamps, such as Malaya's National Language Month issue of 1962, special pin arrangements have been made to create triangular comb perforation.

Combination perforations occur when more than one head is used on the same sheet of stamps. Good examples are found on Hungarian stamps released in 1908 which were comb perforated on three sides and line perforated at the foot, and in New Zealand's 1915-1916 3d, 5d, 6d and 8d stamps, where vertical pairs from the same sheet

are found with comb perforations made by different heads.

When all the stamps in a sheet or pane are perforated at one operation, it is known as harrow perforation.

The second standard for classifying perforation is based on the comparative sizes of the discs removed, and the terms used are large and small holes or pins, or fine and coarse perforation.

A further standard is based on the shape of the paper removed, such as round, oval, square and lozenge shaped. Lozenge perforation which has diamond-shaped holes, is found on the Bulgarian postage due issue of 1884 and exists in combination with round holes on the 1892 issue.

diamond-shaped holes 1884

Round holes 1892

The fourth standard is based on the finish or appearance of the holes, and terms such as clean cut and rough are used. The holes in line perforated sheets generally overlap at the intersections of the lines, and the stamp corners are uneven and often ragged. A stamp with even and regular corners is usually from a sheet that would have been comb or harrow perforated.

The perforations round a stamp are measured, or gauged, by the number of holes in a length of two centimetres. Compound perforation means that the gauge varies on different edges of the stamp.

Concurrent perforation means that stamps otherwise identical are on issue at the same time with different perforations. Double perforation means that a sheet or part of a sheet has been subjected to two perforating operations when only one should have been applied. The effects of double perforation vary greatly, from holes that are merely ovoid because the paper moved only slightly between the two operations, to two distinct sets of perforation holes widely separated from one another. The appearances of the sheet and the stamps will depend also on the method of perforation applied. A sheet with double perforation from a guillotine machine will show only one row of doubling, but double perforation from a multiple comb head will result in several rows of stamps showing the effect.

`Freak' and 'wild' are terms used for badly misplaced perforations and, particularly, to the effects of perforating a sheet with a corner folded over which causes the perforations to cut across the designs.

Hyphen-hole perforations are small, oblong, rectangular slots. These are found on the 1923 1, 1 ½ and 2 cents and other stamps of the United States of America, released for the Schermack Company's automatic affixing machines.

Irregular perforation means that the gauge varies along the same row, or that the holes along the row are out of alignment. Outstanding examples are Montenegro's 1874 - 1881 stamps, irregularly perforated 12.

Perforated between stamps means that the stamps in a sheet or roll have imperforate edges except where they adjoined other stamps when they were printed.

Pin perforation is a misnomer for percé en points, that is, round holes pricked by sharp-pointed pins as opposed to punched by flat-ended pins. The term pseudo-perforation is used when printing effects are produced to resemble

perforation. Good examples are found on the 4 and 8 annas stamps of Jammu and Kashmir, released between 1883 and 1894, which had uncoloured circles round the edge of the stamp to represent perforation. Similarly, the Dominican Republic's souvenir sheet of 1953, showing the Columbus Lighthouse, had circular blue dots round each stamp.

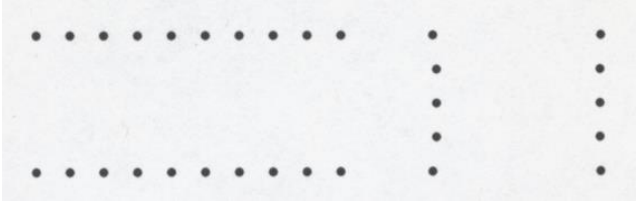
The term reperforated is used when a damaged stamp has had paper added at the margins and been perforated again to deceive collectors into thinking that the stamp is in good condition. Sometimes perforation has been applied by a sewing machine with a needle with the point broken off. Examples are Persia's 1, 3 and 6 chahis PROVISOIRE stamps of 1906.

Staggered perforation occurs when the paper is moved accidentally between successive descents of the perforating pins, so that the two sets of perforation holes are out of alignment or staggered. Examples are found on the New South Wales 1890 22d stamp, showing the allegorical figure of Australia, and on various Siamese issues, including the 1 att of December 1905.

Perçé en points (Pin perforation)

Pin perforation (Estonia)

Line perforations

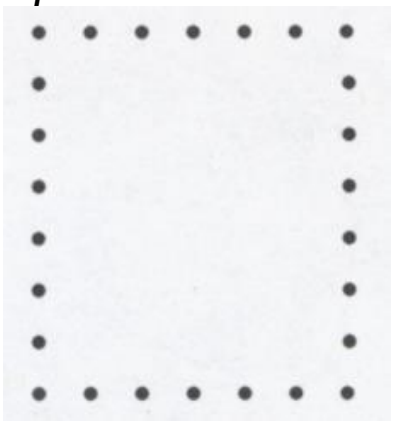


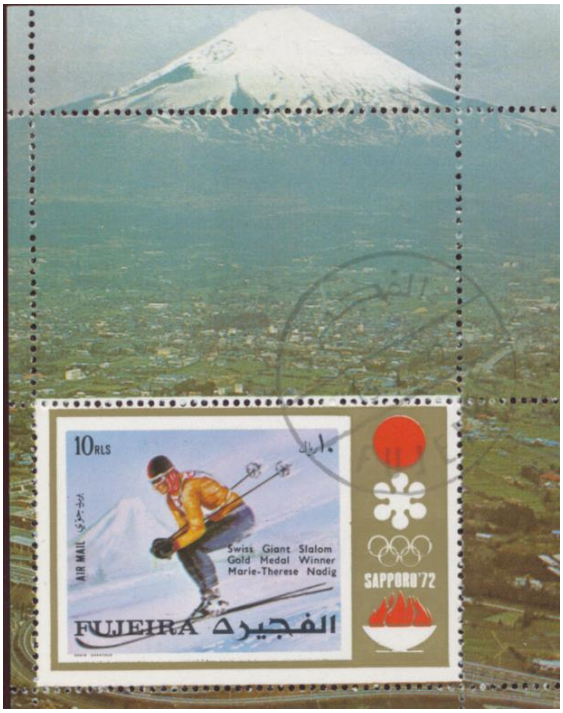
Line perforation (U.S.A.)

Comb perforation:

Misaligned comb (Queensland, Australia)

Harrow perforation





Harrow Perforation (Fujeira)

Measuring Perforations

Confusion has existed for generations as to correct statement of the gauges used. The main source of this confusion is the fact that perforation gauges (which measure the number of perforations in 2 centimetres) are not calibrated to distinguish variations of less ½ perforation in the two centimetre distance. By convention, stamps having intermediate perforations are listed as though they gauged the half (or whole) measurement next above, e.g. 11 ¾ is generally catalogued as 12.

Another headache is the diameter of the pins which may vary from perforations machine to machine.

Private Perforations

Private perforations have been applied to stamps mostly during the period from not perforated stamps issues towards the introduction to perforated stamps

Central perfin F 6 in middle stamp (U.S.A.)

Rouletting

This may originally have been effected (as the name seems to imply) by a sort of spur-wheel, but it is now done invariably by what is called "perforative rule." "Rule" is the printers' name for thin pieces of brass, type-high, plain or dotted at the edge. "perforative rule" has the edge very sharp, and notched at regular intervals.

Rouletting Mecklenburg Strelitz, Gemany):

Rouletted separation(Mecklenburg Strelitz, Germany)

The perforative rule is rather more than type-high; so that, when the platen of the press comes down, the sharp notches pierce a line of short cuts, right through the paper. Stamps may be either plain roulette, or rouletted on coloured lines.

Plain roulette

In this the perforative rule is set up separately, so that two operations are required. The stamps are first printed in the ordinary manner, and then the sheet is laid on the uninked rule, and the press worked, so that the cuts are made dry, i.e., not coloured. The first rouletted issue of Thurn and Taxis and the first rouletted issue of Luxemburg are examples of plain roulette.

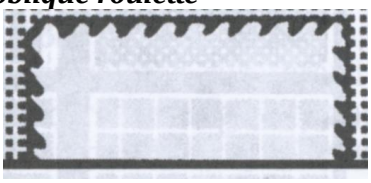
The usual rouletting is around a single stamp image. However, it can also be around a block of four images. The final separation done by hand using scissors or a penknife (Mecklenburg, German):

Rouletting on coloured lines

In this style, the perforative rule is set up round the dies, or *cliches.* When the ink-roller is passed over the plate, the rule, of course, gets inked, at the same time as the dies, so that, when the press is worked, the rule prints a series of short hyphens round each stamp, with a cut along the centre of each hyphen. Examples of this are to be found in the second rouletted issues of Thurn and Taxis and Luxemburg.

Rouletting along coloured lines (Thurn and Taxis):

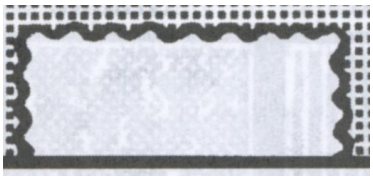
Perçé en oblique roulette



Similar to above but part is tilted at an angle

Spanish Civil War

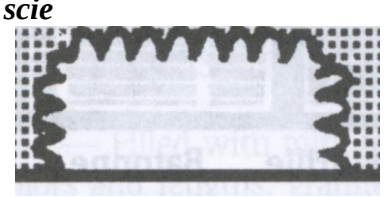
Perçé en arc



In this the cuts are curved, instead of being straight. They are, in fact, semicircular. Thus, when torn apart, one edge looks as though it was perforated in the usual manner, while the other has a row of little scallops. Some of the Hanoverian and other German stamps show this very, well.

Arc piercing (Hannover):

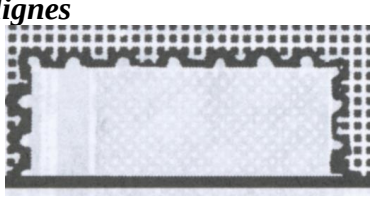
Perçé en scie



The edge of the rule is zig-zagged. Thus, the edges of the stamp, when separated from its neighbour, appear like the teeth of a fine saw.

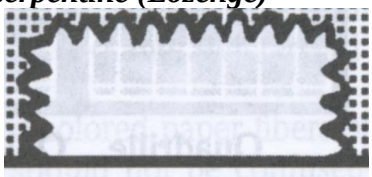
Zig-Zag piercing (Berlin, Germany):

Perçé en lignes



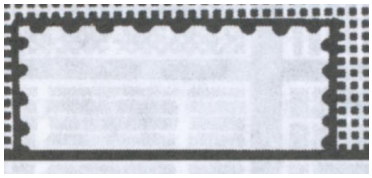
The result of the piercing appears as half-squares. Not so popular with collectors as the corners can easily be lost

Perçé en serpentine (Lozenge)



The edge of the rule is waved; thus making the perforation like the teeth of a moderately coarse saw, but rounded, instead of sharp. Finland is a good example:

Perçé en Pointe



This is very like the last, only the teeth are pretty sharp. It is much coarser than the *Perçé en scie*. La Guaira is an example.

Die cut

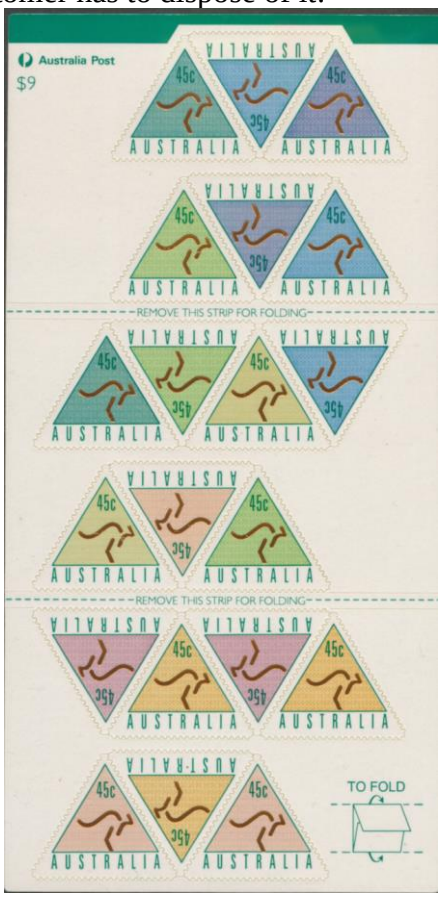
This is the preferred method for self adhesive stamps (peel & stick). The pattern of separation is created by a die either rolled or punched to a pre-determined depth thus leaving the carrier paper undisturbed.

Die cutting can appear in straight lines (US Scott 1551) or imitating the appearance of perforation. Australia Post removed the surplus paper around the stamp before sale.

Permara: Letterpress

Printset ambec P/L: Photolithography

A later printing maintains the backing paper (and the customer has to dispose of it:



The shape of the die cut is similar to Perçé en arc:

The die used to cut out “stamps” can have any shape. Many of the physically “smaller” countries took advantage of this fact to attract stamp collectors.

Freestyle die cut (Sierra Leone); peel & stick

Part stamp booklet pane with one stamp removed indicates a mixture of simulated perforation and a straight cut

Mixture die cut of simulated perforation and straight cut (Australia)

Counter Printed Stamps

Methods to reduce costs have always been appealing to postal authorities. Counter printing stamps was one of the methods to reduce stock at postal offices.

Australia tried the method of issuing pre-printed, peel & stick stamp images on a large roll of backing paper. Those rolls were fed through a machine, located on the postal clerks desk, which added the stamp value. The backing roll was semi-precut to make stamp separation easy.

Perforations

Not *all* the perforations are counted, but only those in a space of two centimetres. This is the "two-centimetre gauge," and is now universally adopted in all lands. By only counting the holes in a certain measured space, all stamps perforated by the same machine would show the same number of dents, quite irrespective of the size of the stamps, thus the British 5s, of the 1882 issue, and the small red ½ d, both give " perf, 14."

Perforation 14

The largest gauge is that of the French with "Susse" perforation (7), and the smallest are the early English perforations (16).

Coil stamp (U.S.A.)

Perforation 16

To help the stamp collector to determine the number of holes used, a perforation gauge can be used. This is not always the most convenient way as there is no standard rule about the diameter of the punches creating the holes. As any collector will attest the differences between 11 ¼ and 11 ½ or 11 ¾ are minute and often even experienced collectors fail to detect the differences. That is why, often after many years

after the stamp has been issued, an unrecorded perforation can be found for a very common stamp.
One way to detect differences is placing two stamps next to each other and compare if there is a difference. This still does not make sure that a different perforation has been used. Plate and cylinder printing, wet and dry printing, change of paper and other factors may change the stamp size and may result in minute differences between perforations. Differences in gauge can also occur when two businesses are commissioned to print a stamp and both also perforate the stamp. If the instructions to the printer are not clear a mix in perforation gauge can occur especially if the long side of a stamp is perforated differently to the short side of the stamp.
Stamp catalogues list perforation as the top of a stamp first followed by the vertical side, i.e 10 ½ x 11 means that the horizontal perforation will have 11 ½ holes per two centimetres and 11 holes per centimetre vertically. In very rare occasions three or even all four sides are perforated differently.
The quality of perforation is at times also important to the collector. Stamps consistently showing poor perforation would indicate that a stamp with superb perforation or rouletting could be a sought after item.

Perforation quality affected by paper quality:

In some cases, the location of the stamp picture in relation to the perforation can be of importance. In many early issues the stamp picture was not very well centred and can be located close to the perforation or in extreme cases the perforation cuts into the stamp picture itself particularly if the stamps were printed close together.

Perforati0onmisalignment (Hungary)

Failure of perforation machinery can cause imperfections in the process. This can be

- failure of one or more punches
- bend punch
- different length of punch
- to many sheets punched at the same time
- blind perforations.

Missing punch in bottom row (USA)

Bend punch in top and bottom row (Australia) resulting in uneven perforation

The bend punch can be distinguished as one or more holes are out of line from the rest.

If the manufacturer (printer) is punching too many sheets at the same time the lower sheets in the pile may still contain the paper that was supposed to fall out (blind punch).

Paper to be punched out still attached to the stamp. The reason could be short punch or soft paper or too many sheets punched at the same time or a combination of reasons given

Blind perforation could be also be the result of:

- bad machine adjustment
- blunt punches
- wet paper
- thick paper.

Other perforation failures that have surfaced are:

- sheet corner bend backwards
- comb misalignment
- one side of stamp imperf.

The stamp collector is also confronted with stamps which have been "punctured" not only around the outsides but the stamp itself. This has sometimes done for a very specific purpose such as:

- prepayment for telegrams (Spain)
- Official use (OS)
- to secure the stamp to an envelope (needle hole)
- to string stamps together (early collectors)
- to prevent theft.

Spanish collectors will find stamps mutilated by a hole:

Stamp used on telegram (Spain)

The question arises if this type of punching is the result of punching the envelope and file it or has this been done to indicate usage as prepayment for telegrams. It can be assumed that many stamps were tossed in the garbage bin because the "collector" may not have been aware of the usage. However, punching a hole into a stamp has been used by forgers.

Official Stamp (OS) puncture (Australia)

If the OS punctured stamp value is significantly different to a normal stamp, certification should be a requirement before purchase.

Other perforations as official do exist. Please refer to References (below) for additional information.

Perforations unlimited

The usual stamp issue was in sheets at the pots office counter.

To reduce costs postal authorities adopted the concept of booklets and stamp dispensers.

Usually, stamps printed in sheets were separated to make up booklets. Later, stamps booklet panes were printed separately and the outside of the stamp panes were not perforated.

Booklet pane (Australia) with advertising

Booklets introduced a new variety to the perforation of stamps, the partially perforated stamp. Perforation possibilities are:

- perforated on top
- perforated on top & bottom perforated and on two or three sides.

Left side **not** perforated

Right side **not** perforated

Right & bottom **not** perforated

Stamp Vending Machines require rolls of stamps to be inserted and the stamps had to be forwarded. Rubber wheels were tried but some of the Australian Vending Machines had wheels with spikes. However, the spikes were slightly larger as the holes made by the perforation machine creating larger holes between the stamps.

Coil arrangement with larger holes between stamps

Coil stamps, once perforated on all four sides were also issued with the following perforations:

- vertical perforated (top & bottom straight)
- horizontal perforated (left & right not perforated.

New Zealand[1] issued 1907 the following stamps:

The strip of two shows clearly the holes used by the “Dickie” machine without additional perforation.
Another variant is

[1] Classicstamps.co.nz

1d Universal ('Dot' plate). Mint single with roulette 9½ and large holes each side. ("Dickie" machine perforation). Scarce with both roulettes. CP GS1a, SG 361(i).

To make stamps more attractive to collectors, stamps issuing authorities became innovative issuing stamps with images not square or oblong (portrait or landscape). Shapes adopted were:

- Triangular,
- Rhomboid, or
- Circular

Triangular shape (Austria)

Triangular tete beche (Estonia)

Rhomboid shaped stamp(Touva)

Circular shaped stamp (New Zealand

Interrupted perforations

The Netherlands' also used an arrangement where some punches were deliberately were omitted producing stamps difficult to separate.

Alternating perforations (Netherland)

Same stamp as above with all four sides perforated

Great Britain very rarely changed the type of perforation but now has introduced a new variety, normal perforation plus one oval shaped hole in line with the normal perforation.

Mixed perforation (Great Britain)

Perforation imitations

One issue not covered by the above could be described as `having perforations but having none'. Usually this would be covered under the banner of imperforate stamps but this area is different to imperforated stamps. Imperforated stamps are commonly understood as stamps printed in sheet form and separated. The topic referred to here are perforations printed but not executed. They include:

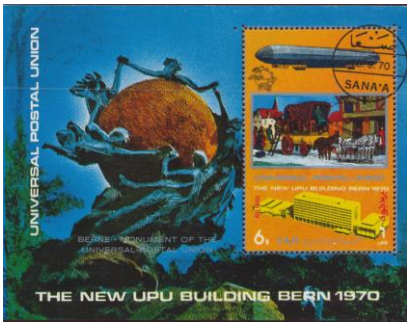
- a line shaped in the form of perforation
- printed transverse rows (as in Harrow)
- white outline against coloured background

- coloured borders around a stamps and perforated.

Those arrangements can be found mostly on miniature sheets.

Imitated perforation against white backdrop

White “stamp” against coloured backdrop



Coloured “stamp” (Harrow perforation) against coloured backdrop

References

Bulletin No 9 – 2023 British Corner – additional safety perforations

Scott Catalogue, Volume 1 – 2002, page 24A
John Mathews; Handbook of Australian Private Perfins

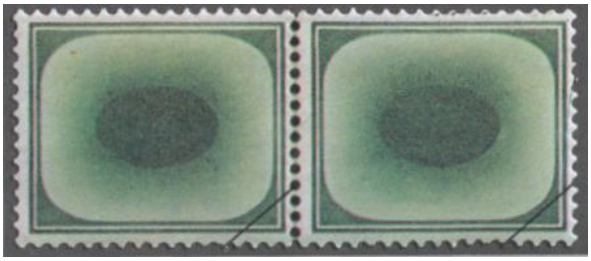
G & R Albums; Australian States Official Perfins

International Encyclopedia of Stamps; page 1479 & 1480

Poached Eggs[2]

Poached Eggs is a nickname for certain labels used officially for testing British automatic stamp vending machines in 1936 and 1937. The central design feature looked rather like a poached egg. The labels were printed on watermarked paper and were perforated. The amount of ink on each label was carefully calculated so that it was exactly the same as that used for the stamp which the vending machine delivered.

The first of the poached eggs was printed in green ink.



Examples were placed on envelopes and send through the post. A few were postmarked, and the letters passed through without surcharge. As a result, the colour of poached eggs was changed to grey, the vignetting was abolished, and each label was inscribed FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY, on a larger oval.

Poached eggs in carmine-red, imperforate between horizontal pairs, were used to test special stamp affixing machines established in the grounds of the World Scout Jamboree in Britain in August 1957.

In Issue 3-2009 I already reported about poached eggs:

[2] Reference: International Encyclopedia of Stamps1971

These stamps, without any franking value, were issued to the Post Office engineers in the UK who went out to repair or maintain coin-in-the-slot stamp vending machines. The labels were made in exactly the same way as real stamps, so that they would act in the same way within the machine, but with the different design. The engineers therefore did not have to worry about security or accounting, as they would have to with real stamps. Once they had finished fixing a machine, they would take out their test stamps, and put the real ones back in. However ..... there have been occasions (I think in the 1930s) when the "poached egg" stamps were left in the machines in error, and people bought them and used them in good faith. At times, because of this, the Post Office has allowed them to go through the post without surcharge.

VENDING MACHINE TEST COILS

[3]Since 1939 the Australian Post Office has produced rolls of "test" stamps for use by mechanics in testing the mechanism of coil vending machines. These "test" coils were not sold to the public but a number have inevitably leaked on to the philatelic market and occasionally puzzle collectors because of a superficial resemblance to postage stamps (in shape &watermarked). The longest possible strip is 16 ‘stamps’ long. The types known are as follows:

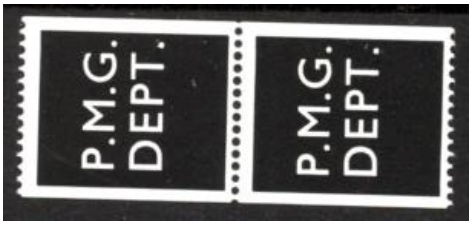
TYPE I. Printed in **Red** by John Ash in 20 horizontal rows on gummed paper watermarked C of A and perforated 14.7 x 14 by ordinary comb. The dummy stamps were issued to mechanics in rolls of 960. Only a small printing was made of this type and these test coils are extremely scarce.

TYPE II. Printed from the same plate as Type I but printed in **Green** ink and perforated by the coil comb with uniform large holes in top and bottom margins. The perforation size, paper and watermark were as for Type I. A very large print run was made of this type.

TYPE III. This test stamp was printed in the United Kingdom by the photogravure process. The design consists of an oval in black with white inscription in the centre reading - FOR TESTING PURPOSES ONLY. Perforated with small holes measuring 14.7 x 14 by continuous comb and printed on gummed paper watermarked E & R and G VI R.

TYPE IV. This test coil had the same design as Type III but was printed in Australia on plain white paper, gummed and un-watermarked and perforated with distinctive small and large holes with 20 units between coil joints.

Type V. The Postmaster General Department test coil stamps are printed on plain paper gummed and perforated with distinctive small and large holes. These labels superseded the red and green ‘blanks’ (first issued in 1939) and were issued around 1966.



[3] Penrith Bulletin Issue 1-2013