

"AUSTRALIAN OFFICIAL PERFINS"

by DAVID ANDERSEN - A LITERATURE REVIEW

(Door John Mathews; uit: Perfinpost nr.84, februari 2008)

It is 20 years since David Andersen produced the first edition of "Australian Official Perfins". Much new information has been gathered since then, both in terms of issues known with the various patterns, and of information about the production and usage of the patterns.

This second edition, which has 236 A4-size pages, includes the Commonwealth Official Perfins on issues of each of the States and the Commonwealth period, plus those found on the stamps of North-West Pacific Islands and Papua, and the "CofA" and "C/of/A" perfins used by the Australian Government in UK.

State Government Official Perfins for each State include not only the stamp issues, but also various items of postal stationery such as postal cards, aerograms, wrappers, etc. A new discovery was made on an aerogram as the final draft was being proof-read! A detailed listing of the "VG" punctures of the Victorian State Government is not included in "Australian Official Perfins", as these have been thoroughly written up in a monograph by Neale Scott and Bryan Toop.

However, David has included a detailed description of the history of the "VG" patterns and some interesting examples of their use. The other Victorian Government patterns and those of the Victorian Government Instrumentalities are included in "Australian Official Perfins".

The section on Local Government Perfins covers Councils and other Government instrumentalities, including a couple which were not known at the time of the first edition.

The introductory pages include images of each of the pattern positions referred to in the tables of data, and identities of the users of each pattern to enable collectors easily to find the relevant section in the book where the issues are listed. For each pattern, the list of issues extends to the different watermarks and edge perforation varieties, but does not include paper and colour varieties. All known pattern positions are listed for these issues.

The thoroughness of David's work is reflected in the very extensive Bibliography (over 4 pages). There are many illustrations of different examples of the usage of the various patterns.

This book is Perfect Bound, and has a similar cover style and colour to the companion volume "Handbook of Australian Private Perfins". It has been published by the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia, and is available through the Secretary (John Mathews, 21 McConnel Cres., KAMBAH A.C.T. 2902, AUSTRALIA or by email: John.Mathews@camberra.edu.au). Cost is A\$30, plus postage (postage to UK/Europe by air mail is A\$30). Payments can be made by credit card.