EDITORIAL

We are pleased to report that Frank Tully has agreed to join the production team as Assistant Bulletin Editor. For the time being Tony Edwards will deal with the reception and editoring of articles while Frank will deal with the organisation and publication of the actual Bulletin pages. So for the present send articles to Tony (we still need them) and complaints to Frank !

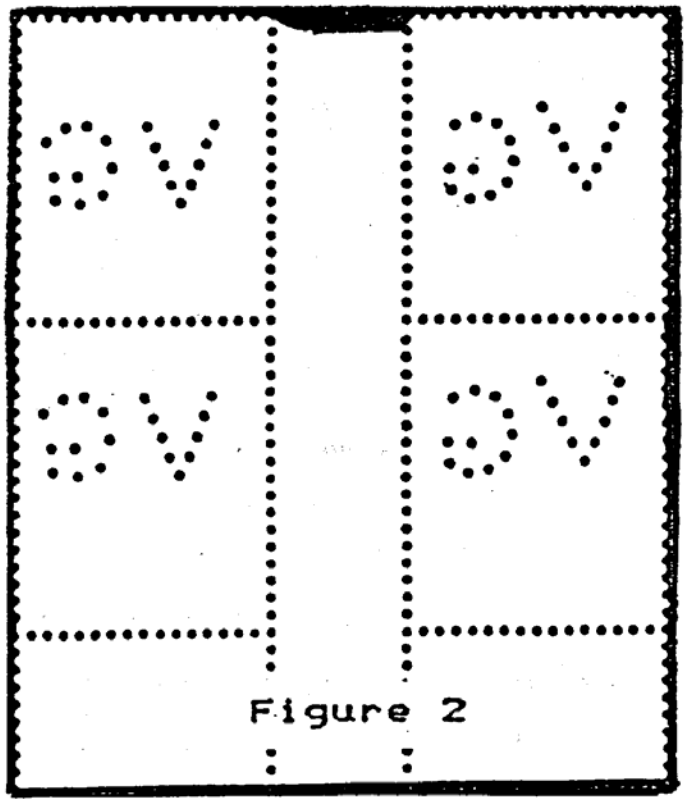

Figure 2

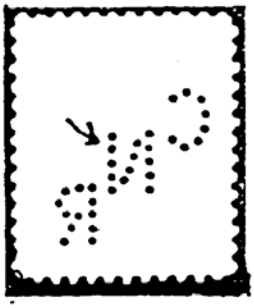

Figure 3

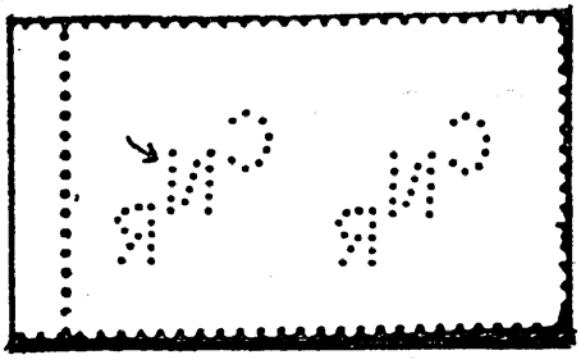

Figure 4

LOOKING FOR NEW PERFIN TYPES by Jon Johnson

I have noted over the past few years an increase in the search for new perfin types (patterns) which appear to be quite similar. I heartily support this work as I think that it is an area that has been sadly overlooked in the past.

I suspect that some collectors do not really understand what they are looking for when they are reviewing piles of similar perfins. In Canada all of the perforations from a single machine are given one number. If there are differences between the perforations from a machine they are "varieties" of the same perfin pattern. For a dramatic example, see Figure 1. This is a strip of three of the common Australian State Official — VG. The varieties (dies) are numbered 4 through 6. The G in dies 4 and 5 each have 10 holes; die 6 has 11. Although die 6 is very different — it is only considered to be a die variety. Figure 2 shows a gutter block of the same pattern showing both types of G. As single stamps, these would appear to be different patterns, but using multiples they are seen to be from the same perforator.

In Canada, the C20 perfin is very common. However, it was only a few years ago that through die plating it was discovered that there were two equally common perfins. Figure 3 is the old listing for C20. An example of the new C20a is shown as Figure 4. The most notable difference is the height of the last hole in the N — with C20a showing a greater separation between the last two holes. Later searching turned up the actual C20a machine, verifying the conclusion derived from die plating.

So, when trying to determine if a perfin is a new type or simply a variety, you have to be careful and think about what you are doing. The easiest way to proceed is to gather as many pairs or multiples of the perfin as you can. Then by careful observation for EXACT match-up, you can plate the dies. Even without completing the plating, you may realize that all you have is a die variety of the perfin. Even though you are not interested in die plating -- PLEASE DO NOT SPLIT MULTIPLES since they may be very useful research tools in the future.

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