

## SEEN IN AUCTION

LES REVELL in Australia sent this news to our Secretary. The perforating machine illustrated on the next page was seen in an auction in Australia. Although probably not for stamps it went for over £200. The name of the maker was Turner, Atherton & Co of Manchester and it does not look like a Sloper machine. Bill Cokayne, former director of Slopers', says they were makers of perforating machines, not just factors, and Slopers even bought from them on occasions. Is there anyone in the Manchester area who knows of this firm; do they still exist; do they have records?

There was a write up with the machine in the auction which appears not to have been published in any of our previous writings. I assume it was an advertising leaflet produced at the time of the manufacture of the machine and I quote it in its entirety.

## PERFORATING MACHINES

### Use in Offices and Banks

In the office there are such records as incoming letters, invoices, vouchers and the like, that require dating in an unalterable manner. Again, postage stamps should be perforated with the firm's initials to prevent their misuse. These are a few examples where this inexpensive machine might be used.

Perforating machines are largely used in Banks for cancelling cheques, dating internal documents, marking the amounts on cheques, drafts, etc. Coupons or securities can also be marked with the word "PAID" or "CANCELLED".

### Other Uses

One of the biggest users of perforating machines is the manufacturer and exporter of perishable goods. A simple code will give the date, packer's number and contents and so ensure the goods being sold in proper rotation - viz. the oldest first.

Dyers and cleaners make use of perforating machines for marking tags which are attached to the garments and give details of the branch, job number, colour, shade, and number of garments to be dyed or cleaned.

Again cinema and photo films are perforated as a means of identification.

In shops doing a ready money trade the perforating machine has been installed in many cash desks. Cash vouchers are perforated with the name of the firm, number of the cash desk and the date. This method in ready cash transactions saves the 2d receipt stamp for amounts over £2.

The perforating machine has also invaded the hat trade. The leather band inside gentlemen's hats can be perforated with initials. These initials never come off, are always at hand, and are never out of stock when wanted.

\* \*

In the same auction, Les reports that an "award winning" collection of Australian Official Perfins had an estimate of £9,000 and 5 other smaller accumulations are listed, the cheapest at £70. It would be interesting to hear of the winning bid.

