

SUPPLIERS OF PERFORATORS By John Mathews.

Recently I had the opportunity to sight photocopies of many of the original applications to perforate stamps which had been made in the Australian State of Queensland in accordance with Postal Regulations.

One of the applicants in 1897 also asked the Deputy Postmaster General in Brisbane for any information he might have regarding manufacturers of perforating machines. Fortunately, this letter appears to have been typed on lightweight paper, for the photocopier has clearly reproduced reversed handwriting annotations showing through from the other side of the sheet.

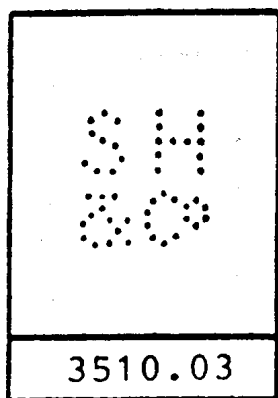
Recalling a reference in my volume of Sherlock Holmes (The Return of Sherlock Holmes, Part XI - The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter), I held the page in front of the mirror and was able to read:

"Hoffnung and Co. received their perforating machine from their Sydney office but (could) not (provide where) it was (made) it bears the name of Sloper's Patent.

The New Zealand Ins. Coy's was supplied by their head office in New Zealand. It is made by Mordanne (sic) and Co., London."

(Words in brackets are my "best guesses").

The ledgers of J. Sloper and Co. Ltd. include a sample strike of the Hoffnung machine (SH/& CO) made early in 1891.



The New Zealand Insurance Company machine was undoubtedly made by Sampson Mordan and Co., 41 and 43 City Road, London E.C.

See earlier reference to this company in Bulletin 270 Page 23.